



**Minutes School Board Meeting**

**February 10, 2021**

**School Board Meeting/Public Hearing FY2022 Budget**

**6:30 p.m. Open Session, motion to move immediately into Closed Session William**

**Monroe High School Media Classroom**

**7:00 p.m.**

**William Monroe High School Performing Arts Center Agenda**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Leah Paladino, Chairperson; Mr. Todd Sansom, Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Jason Tooley, Member; Ms. Sharon Mack, Member; Mr. Jason Collier, Member; Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Ms. Rhonda Houchens, Clerk.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT BY TELEPHONE: N/A**

**MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISOR(S) PRESENT: Mr. Steve Bowman, Liaison**

**Closed session was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the William Monroe High School Media Lab.**

**Mr. Jason Collier made a motion to move into closed session; Mr. Todd Sansom seconded. All ayes, motion carried.**

**Ms. Leah Paladino moved to reconvene in an open session at 7:00 p.m. in the WMHS Performing Arts Center.**

**The Board certified by roll call vote that to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and identified in the motion to convene the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered. Ms. Mack, Mr. Tooley, Ms. Paladino, Mr. Jason Collier, and Mr. Sansom all certified.**

**Ms. Mack moved to accept the consent agenda as presented, Mr. Sansom seconded. All ayes from members, motion carried.**

**Ms. Paladino stated members of the audience were welcome to address the board through public comment on matters not listed on the agenda. There were no sign ups and no participants in public comment.**

**Ms. Paladino called for a motion to amend the agenda, due to inclement weather. She explained their desire was to adjust the order of the information items so information item 11-1004, FY2022 Budget Presentation, would be first, then the public hearing on the budget would follow that. The other items on the agenda would follow the same order. Mr. Jason Collier made a motion to amend the agenda, Ms. Mack seconded the motion. All ayes from the other board members, motion carried.**

**Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-1004, the FY2022 Budget Presentation. She explained that the budget proposal was created with the division's mission and vision as the top priority. She outlined various influencing factors, including enrollment projections, number of students with disabilities, number of English Learners, and number of economically disadvantaged. She also explained that there is a critical teacher shortage in the state and nationwide. She said one of the most important considerations throughout the budget planning process was students' needs in the midst of the ongoing pandemic. She explained the upcoming school year will look a lot different to ensure students are able to get back on track. She explained resources that will help students academically and emotionally are necessary to achieve that goal. She outlined the need for adding additional personnel, which includes behavior support positions, success coaches, and other staff that will help students in the 2021-2022 school year. She also outlined the projected revenues from the state and some highlights from Governor Northam's anticipated budget. In terms of federal support, she said most of that funding is application and reimbursement based. She explained that for the past two years local revenue has been flat, but there was not a lot of information on FY2022 projections. She said budget amendments are likely as CARES Act funding changes.**

**Mr. Collier asked for clarification on how the division receives federal funding. Mr. Sansom asked for clarification on how the state would contribute to employee pay increases. He also asked for clarification on the decrease of students with disabilities from last school year. Dr. Wendy Mitchem addressed this, explaining that students within that population have decided to homeschool or receive services from a separate regional facility. Mr. Tooley asked for clarification on how absences are being monitored and if this school year will impact accreditation.**

**Ms. Paladino opened the floor for attendees to participate in the public hearing for the FY2022 budget proposal. There were no sign ups and no attendees that wished to participate.**

**Ms. Kristie Spencer presented information/action item #11-1001, a Health Insurance Overview. She outlined results from a statewide survey on school divisions' health**

insurance plans. She then showed data from other school divisions nearby, focusing on comparing employee contribution rates. She outlined various considerations that the board could include in the budget that would ease a possible contribution rate increase, including adjusting deduction frequency to 12 months, rather than 10 months.

Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh presented Information item #11-1002, Substitute Bonus. She proposed a bonus of \$7.50 for all days worked through the end of the school year. She explained that the bonus is based on the daily rate equal to the majority daily rate of December bonus payments that was given to all staff. She explained that the bonus will cover substitutes in school based roles, transportation, and school nutrition. Her recommendation was to distribute one payment in June after all days worked throughout the entire school year. Mr. Collier made a motion to change this information item on the agenda to an action item, Mr. Tooley seconded the motion. All ayes from the board, motion carried. Mr. Tooley made a motion to accept the bonus proposal, Mr. Collier seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented information item #11-1003, the Superintendent's Update. She provided an update on COVID-19 cases within the division and stated the dashboard remains up to date. She said around 66% of the division elected to receive their first COVID vaccine. She said she is monitoring several bills that are being considered at the state level that could impact the division.

Mr. Collier gave a brief update on PREP. He said there are some changes that are being discussed among division leaders and that the organization will look different by Summer 2021. He thanked all the substitutes for their contributions this school year.

Mr. Sansom wanted to clarify that some budget-related questions are addressed individually by Dr. Whitmarsh and that the board is heavily involved in the process.

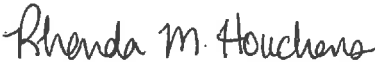
Ms. Mack thanked the substitutes in the division for their hard work. She also thanked Ms. Spencer for her work on the budget and the health insurance overview.

Mr. Tooley said he was excited about a lot of changes and progress that has been made since the beginning of the school year.

Ms. Paladino thanked her fellow school board members for their work.

Ms. Paladino adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

  
Chairman

  
Clerk