**Roanoke Valley Governor’s School Regional Board**

**Minutes of June 6, 2022 Meeting**

The Roanoke Valley Governor’s School Regional Board met on Monday, June 6, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Governor School’s Lecture Hall.

The following Board members were present:

Mr. Mark Cathey Chair, Roanoke City School Board

 Dr. Susan Mele Bedford County School Board

 Ms. Anna Weddle Botetourt County School Board

 Mr. Trace Bellassai Craig County School Board

 Mr. Mike Wray Roanoke County School Board

 Dr. Nancy Bradley Salem City School Board

Not Present: Ms. Julie Nix, Franklin County School Board

 Ms. Paula Buch, Deputy Clerk

Also present: Mrs. Verletta White, Superintendent, Roanoke City Public Schools representing the Committee of Superintendents; Mr. Mary Levy, Director, Roanoke Valley Governor’s School; Ms. Dawn Winter-Ware, Clerk; Dr. Jonathan Russ, Superintendent, Botetourt County Public Schools; Ms. Gerri VanDyke, Director of Student Services, Craig County Public Schools; Mr. Archie Freeman, Roanoke City Public Schools Representative; and Ms. Jennifer Dean, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Salem City Public Schools.

Call to Order

Mr. Cathey called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Mr. Wray and seconded by Mr. Bellassai, the agenda was approved as distributed.

Approval of April 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes

On motion by Mr. Cathey, the April 25, 2022, meeting minutes were approved as presented with one correction that Dr. Nancy Bradley was not in attendance.

2021-22 Budget Update

Mark Levy provided information to Board members with their packets and gave an update on the 2021-22 budget stating the items presented are usual items and nothing presents itself as out of the ordinary. Mr. Levy pointed to the last column all the way to the right as the most recent portion of the operating report and the highlighted column all the way to the left as the equivalent point in last year’s budget.

**State Budget Updates**

Mark Levy provided information on state budget updates. The state passed the budget and posted the calculation tool but there exists some uncertainty as how this might impact RVGS. Income and expenses updates will be provided once student enrollment and tuition numbers are received. Mr. Levy shared the budget the Board approved at the last meeting.

**Parent Survey Data and Preliminary Growth Objectives**

Mr. Levy indicated there was interest in working on a growth document or goals document which can be used to guide the next few years of progression as a school, especially with the mid-term of the six-year evaluation cycle with the state approaching. RVGS also needs to document progress made on the recommendations the state provided at the last evaluation. Mr. Levy detailed the progress and provided a look ahead toward the next evaluation visit in three years.

RVGS wants to do the best overall job possible and an important piece of that is gathering information from and listening to stakeholders. An anonymous Parent Input Survey was completed at the end of the school year. The survey was completed by current parents including those of graduating seniors. The survey remained anonymous, so stakeholders felt free to speak their mind on a range of different categories. Some survey questions were intentionally written to seed comments where parents might have concerns. If parent stakeholders are encouraged to provide a ranking in a response, then possibly Administration can receive some type of feedback in the form of comments to help guide areas of growth and receive specific input from parents for goals.

Mr. Levy provided an overview of the categories and ranking in the responses received from the Parent Input Survey. Mr. Levy encouraged Board members to

share with the liaison for each participating school division or the appropriate person in the division for review. He encouraged Board members to report back and let him know what is not represented in the survey or what should be represented or needs to be emphasized more

Mr. Levy shared the draft Priorities and Growth Objectives for 2022-25. Mr. Levy stated additional priorities can be discussed at the next scheduled meeting in October and reiterated the priorities need to be student-centered as much as possible. The major areas highlighted include providing exemplary instruction focusing on students’ well-being and making sure students have unique experiences and opportunities that make RVGS impactful for students. Priorities include input from RVGS administration, the parent survey and the VDOE recommendations from the last evaluation. Mr.Levy requested the board review the document so they can provide input regarding items that should be added or priorities tha should be edited or removed.

Categories include Focusing on Students, Focusing on the Academic Program and Focusing on the Community. Mr. Levy stated he tried to categorize the responses for simplicity’s sake by indicating if the priority came from parent input (P), from the State evaluation (DOE) or if it is on the Director’s priority list (D).

**Director’s Report**

At the last meeting it was reported interest was shown in trying to obtain coursework in gifted endorsement for RVGS teachers. It is an expectation from VDOE that a program like RVGS has a large proportion of staff members with gifted education endorsement. Mr. Levy stated Longwood University recently started a program in gifted and gifted endorsement and it is much less expensive than some existing programs. Several RVGS teachers have indicated interest in the program. Mr. Levy said if RVGS participated and funded as a direct payment to Longwood, the coursework could be provided over the course of a single year as eight-week courses, two per semester, and could be completed by Summer 2023. The cost would be approximately $25,000 for all coursework for the teachers participating. While some unknowns exist within the budget, Mr. Levy said there is a sizable carryover fund balance of about $200,000 excluding the reserve funds of $400,000. Mr. Levy reminded Board members professional learning is always a worthy investment and wise expenditure of funds.

Mr. Levy provided an update on recent science fair activities. Three students advanced to the International Science and Engineering Fair, and although they didn’t return with award placement, they represented RVGS very well and had a fabulous experience. RVGS had good showings at the Virginia Junior Academy of Science Symposium. which is a state level competition including two first place award

winners, a few second-place awards, a third place and several honorable mentions. Maggie Parker earned recognition for the Roscoe Hughes Genetic Award for her genetics project, and Eleanor Little received the Hancock Cellular Molecular Biology Award. Several additional students participated but did not receive rankings. Dhruvi Patel, a senior who recently graduated from Glenvar High School, was the State winner for the Stockholm Junior Water Prize. She moves on to the national competition in Colorado which includes a fully paid trip for the competition in Colorado.

Mr. Levy gave an update on Floyd County’s interest in the Governor’s School and stated additional information will be provided at the meeting in October. Mr. Levy also stated there are some end-of-the-year withdrawals for students who do not return for a variety of reasons such as moving out of the area or students who had borderline grades and they make the decision to return to their home school. For new incoming students there is an online summer math assignment to assist in sharpening math skills. Communication is ongoing throughout the summer with parents as to how students are progressing which helps in early identification of students who might not be diligent about keeping up with expectations or timelines. Identified students are provided additional interventions to assist with their coursework and time scheduling.

One teacher retirement this year, Ms. Laura Roark, who taught precalculus for 10 years. This position has been filled.

Ms. Joanne Villers, who teaches AP Chemistry and Environmental Research, was the RVGS Teacher of the Year. Mr. Levy expressed appreciation for the work of Ms. Villers and stated the Governor’s School is fortunate to have her on staff at the school.

The Senior Dinner was held at the Hotel Roanoke on May 9 and went well. Mr. Levy provided a list of graduating seniors, where they are headed after graduation as well as scholarship information.

**Board Discussion Items**

None

**Superintendents’ Discussion Items**

None

**Next Meeting Date**

October 3, 2022

**Adjournment**

Mr. Cathey adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM.

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Mark K. Cathey, Chairman

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Dawn Winter-Ware, Clerk