**Roanoke Valley Governor’s School Regional Board
Minutes of October 22, 2018 Meeting**

The Roanoke Valley Governor’s School Regional Board met on Monday, October 22, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Roanoke Valley Governor’s School Lecture Hall. The following Board members were present:

Mr. Mark Cathey Roanoke City Chairman
Mr. Jason Johnson Bedford County Vice Chairman
Mr. Patrick Myers Craig County

Absent: Dr. Michael Chiglinsky, Salem City; Mrs. Michelle Crook, Botetourt County; Mrs. Julie Nix, Franklin County; and Mr. Mike Wray, Roanoke County.

Also present were Dr. Rita Bishop, representing the Committee of Superintendents; Governor’s School Director, Mark Levy; Clerk, Cindy Poulton; Deputy Clerk, Paula Buch; Dawn Verhoeff, Bedford County Schools’ Science, Foreign Language and Gifted Supervisor; Salem City Schools Representative Jennifer Dean; and Roanoke County Schools Representative Rebecca Eastwood.

Call to Order

Mr. Cathey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. He stated there was not a quorum present as Dr. Chiglinsky, Mrs. Crook, and Mrs. Nix had previously indicated they had conflicts, and Mr. Wray had a last minute conflict.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Mr. Johnson and Mr. Myers, the Board approved the agenda as distributed.

Approval of June 11, 2018 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Mr. Myers and Mr. Johnson, the Board approved the minutes as distributed.

Financial Report

Mr. Levy directed the Board to the updated FY2017-18 operating budget and the current FY2018-19 operating budget noting the snapshot compares current year spending against last year, which is as expected for this time of the year. Mr. Johnson asked about the anticipated results based on the current trajectory; Mr. Levy stated at this time of the year, revenue payments are not received consistently either from the State or from participating school divisions, and while it will eventually smooth itself out, it is too early in the year to make any projections and he was not concerned that revenues were a little behind at this time. Mr. Levy noted the carry forward amounts were projections, and he wanted to use reserve funds to update a few classrooms, particularly the current physics classroom that was previously a biology classroom. He noted he had talked with maintenance staff about possible renovations and cost, and he would share additional information as it became available. Mr. Levy stated the Governor’s School is a fine facility and he was not looking at renovations that would require an additional mortgage. Mr. Cathey asked about the terms of the mortgages; Mr. Levy stated one mortgage ran through next year and the other ran three more years.

2018-19 Budget - Updated

Mr. Levy stated the 2018-19 Budget distributed with the agenda packet had been updated to reflect the accurate unspent funds balance.

Director’s Report

Mr. Levy reported student enrollment was 266, compared to 262 last year; he noted enrollment could trend up to 270 with the ideal range being in the high 260s.

Mr. Levy stated he shares concerns regarding changes to dual enrollment and he concurs with the Region VI superintendents’ statement to SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) opposing the adopted policy statement around combined classes. He added that dual enrollment is an important issue for the Governor’s School as it will also impact its students.

Dr. Bishop added that the Region VI superintendents have taken a leadership role meeting with staff at Virginia Western Community College, talking with superintendents in Texas, and talking with members of the SACS Board regarding the harm such a policy position will have on minority and economically-disadvantaged students.

Mr. Levy reported on student community outreach activities including a collaboration with the Red Sox and their mascot Mugsy and a Calculus class, a student robotics team presentation to Boy Scouts in Bedford, and ongoing tours and presentations to middle school students to spark interest in the Governor’s School. Mr. Levy stated “we are committed to ensuring equity of access to students across the region.”

Mr. Levy stated students in other Virginia Governor’s Schools participated in the Shelly STEM Challenge on October 20 in an effort to get students from all the programs together. He reported the event was well attended by students and staff, and as part of the challenge students were asked to clean up storm water from a parking lot rooftop while handling a 100-year rain storm. Mr. Levy extended appreciation to Don Wages and Matthew Browning for coordinating the event, and he thanked Burns and McDonnell for their involvement as the industry partner and for awarding prizes to the top two teams.

Mr. Levy stated he is working on re-establishing the summer middle school program and trying to identify a corporate sponsor for the program. Mr. Cathey asked how the program was previously offered; Dr. Bishop stated Jon Hagmaier, founder of Interactive Achievement, sponsored the program for three years, and each participating middle school student received a laptop computer.

Mr. Levy reviewed the professional development provided to staff as part of the RVGS Determined Program noting he is pleased with how the program is going. He stated there has been a focus on learning theory, and faculty members have read a book on the topic and each presented a chapter. Mr. Levy stated sophomores are reading a book on study skills during the Determined session, and an author will visit in November to present “Make It Stick” to students and staff. He reported all students had the opportunity to participate in a recent Skype session with Dr. John Mather, a NASA researcher and Nobel Prize in Physics laureate.

Mr. Levy stated students understand what is expected of them and are perfectly aware of the “academic integrity” culture that has been cultivated at the Governor’s School.

He noted additional sponsorships from AEP, Novozymes and the RVGS Foundation will allow for one more International Science and Engineering Fair slot permitting three students to participate, and Roanoke will once again serve as host for the State science fair. Mr. Levy stated the six-week tutoring session for students during the summer targeted students on a contract due to grades; the first-year student mentorship program continues this year with upper classmen treating first year students during the morning session to a pancake breakfast and an ice cream social for students in the afternoon session.

Calendar Items

Board members were asked to put the following events on their calendar:

1. 2019 Project Forum – Saturday, February 2, 2019 in the Patrick Henry High School Cafeteria (inclement weather date is Saturday, February 9).
2. 2018-19 Senior Dinner – Monday, May 6, 2019, at the Hotel Roanoke.

School Division Calendars

Mr. Cathey stated discussion of this item would be tabled until the February meeting. He stated the intent is to discuss the challenges of the varying start dates for participating divisions and the impact on students participating at the Governor’s School, especially seniors.

Dr. Bishop stated starting as early as some of the other districts runs into Roanoke City’s summer program, but RCPS could open one week earlier and is considering adopting a two-year calendar.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is Monday, February 4, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

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Mark K. Cathey, Chairman

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Cindy H. Poulton, Clerk