**Roanoke Valley Governor’s School Regional Board
Minutes of June 3, 2019 Meeting - DRAFT**

The Roanoke Valley Governor’s School Regional Board met on Monday, June 3, 2019, 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
Dr. Michael Chiglinsky Salem City
Mr. Patrick Myers Craig County
Mrs. Julie Nix Franklin County

Absent:

Mrs. Michelle Crook Botetourt County
Mr. Mike Wray Roanoke County

Also present were Roanoke City Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Rita Bishop, representing the Committee of Superintendents; Governor’s School Director, Mark Levy; Clerk Cindy Poulton; Deputy Clerk Paula Buch; and Roanoke County Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely.

Call to Order

Mr. Cathey called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and welcomed the students and families in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Mrs. Nix and Dr. Chiglinsky, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as distributed.

Approval of April 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Dr. Chiglinsky and Mrs. Nix, the Board unanimously approved the minutes as distributed.

Recognition of International Science and Engineering Fair Honors

Mr. Levy stated seven students, representing five projects, participated in the International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix, Arizona in May and three of the projects received recognition as Grand Award winners. He noted not only was this the highest number of projects to earn a spot at ISEF but it was the best showing for the Governor’s School in its history as only one school at ISEF had more category award winners than RVGS. The Board recognized the following students who received ISEF Grand Awards:

Mary Grace Giles, RVGS and Patrick Henry Student – Fourth Award, Earth and Environmental Sciences for her coal ash pollution project.

Kevin Sheng, RVGS and Cave Spring Student – Fourth Award, Biomedical and Health Sciences for his project on gene research and cancer risk.

Logan Dunkenberger, RVGS and Glenvar Student – Second Award, Microbiology for her Epstein-Barr virus reactivation project.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Cathey extended congratulations to the students for their significant accomplishments.

2018-19 Operating Budget Update and Financial Report

Mr. Levy reviewed the current operating budget in comparison to the prior year noting the highlighted column on the 2017-18 budget most closely aligns with the current operating statement. He noted several tuition payments were outstanding but were expected.

2019-20 Operating Budget

Mr. Levy reported the budget was included for information and there are no changes since its approval in April. He reported renovations in the physics classroom are underway and progressing well.

Directors Report

**State Review**: Mr. Levy stated he is preparing for a State review of the program in 2019-2020.

**Science Fairs**: Mr. Levy stated he is elated with the science fair results this year adding that at the ISEF only a Texas school had more awards (5) than RVGS, and 15 to 20 other schools, including RVGS, had three award winners placing RVGS in the company of nationally respected schools such as Thomas Jefferson, DuPont Manual, and Jericho. Mrs. Nix asked how many schools participated; Mr. Levey stated he was unsure of the number of schools but there are typically 1,800 students.

**Class of 2019:** Mr. Levy thanked Board members for attending the senior banquet where 52 graduating seniors were recognized. The seniors were offered more than $3.3 million in scholarships and will attend 20 different colleges, including Yale, Stanford, Rensselaer and Vanderbilt, this fall. A list of the graduates and selected colleges was provided.

**Community Outreach:** Mr. Levy reported efforts continue to strengthen the student mentorship opportunities, and the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute remains a committed partner while undergoing some turnover. He stated he is establishing a new diversity and equity team and invited interested Board members to participate. The first meeting is June 14. Mr. Cathey stated he was out of the country and unable to participate on that date; however, the topic is important.

**Future Funding:** Mr. Levy stated the committee chair of the Academic Year Governor’s School (AYGS) directors recently met with Virginia Department of Education staff to formally request a change to the funding model; should the change be approved, RVGS could receive $30,000-$40,000 in additional funding annually.

**Student Supports:** Mr. Levy stated only five students are on probation for the summer and will receive extra tutoring during the summer. He stated an orientation/welcome to the Governor’s School meeting was held for incoming students and their families. First-year students will be assigned an upper classman mentor to acclimate them to the program.

**Staff:** Mr. Levy happily reported all staff would return in 2019-20 for the third consecutive year.

Mr. Levy stated it has been a tremendous year at the Governor’s School, and his goal is for RVGS to be known as providing a STEM education that is as good as or better than any other program in the State. He added he believed RVGS was well on its way to achieving this goal because of to the ISEF and State science fair successes, the Shelly STEM challenge that included students from other Governor’s Schools, the student supports provided and efforts to encourage student health, and securing nationally-recognized speakers to interact with students and faculty. Mr. Levy stated he could not be more proud to serve as the Director of the Roanoke Valley Governor’s School.

Board Discussion Items

Dr. Chiglinsky applauded Mr. Levy stating, “first, for you to have sustained a stable force on the front lines for three consecutive years is a real, positive statement about your leadership; and second, as a psychologist, I am thrilled with your training of mind skills for these young people and for them to learn these skills and perhaps pass them on is a testimony to what this program is about, and I applaud you and your staff for your creativity.”

Superintendent’s Items

Dr. Bishop stated, “I am very proud to work with Mark Levy.”

Next Meeting

The Roanoke Valley Governor’s School Regional Board will meet next on Monday, October 7, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Governor’s School.

Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Mark K. Cathey, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Cindy H. Poulton, Clerk