**Roanoke Valley Governor’s School Regional Board
Minutes of April 26, 2021 Meeting - DRAFT**

The Roanoke Valley Governor’s School Regional Board met on Monday, April 26, 2021, 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
Ms. Michelle Austin Botetourt County
Mrs. Julie Nix Franklin County
Mr. Mike Wray Roanoke County

Board members Trace Bellassai and Jason Johnson were absent due to work conflicts.

Also present: Roanoke City Public Schools Superintendent, Mrs. Verletta White, representing the Committee of Superintendents; Governor’s School Director Mark Levy; Clerk Cindy Poulton; Deputy Clerk Paula Buch; Roanoke County Schools Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely; and Roanoke City representatives Archie Freeman and Dr. Cynthia Delp.

Call to Order

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

Moment of Silence in Honor of Dr. Michael Chiglinsky

Mr. Cathey led in a moment of silence remembering the family, friends, colleagues, and community of Dr. Michael Chiglinsky on his sudden passing. Mr. Cathey paid tribute to Dr. Chiglinsky’s service as a long-time member of the Salem City School Board and an original Board member of the Roanoke Valley Governor’s School Regional Board. He noted that Dr. Chiglinsky was a wonderful role model and would be greatly missed.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Mrs. Nix and Mr. Wray, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as distributed.

Approval of February 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Mr. Wray and Mrs. Nix, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 1, 2021 meeting as distributed.

Equity Planning Update

Mr. Levy reported that since the last update and discussion in February, the Virginia Board of Education had voted to pull back the requested regulations that provided specific guidance to increase access to Academic Year Governor’s Schools (AYGS) for underrepresented students requiring further study and discussion. Superintendent White noted the superintendents met following the February Board meeting to discuss the equity plan developed by Mr. Levy and specifically the geographic representation component; the superintendents decided it was best to bring the division diversity officers together for additional discussion and perhaps additional recommendations. Mr. Levy stated he would meet with all of the division liaisons this summer to develop the annual diversity report, which is due to the Virginia Department of Education by October 1, and use this time as an opportunity for further discussion. He added that with the onset of COVID-19 the timeline had been rushed, and he looked forward to having more time for collaboration and discussion. Mr. Levy stated at the June meeting he would present the data for the annual report.

Mr. Wray asked when a change in numbers would be expected; Mr. Levy stated he did not think there would be any differences in the admissions process until an equity plan was in place, and the only time changes in enrollment would occur would be during the recruitment and application process in February. He added that this year’s process had recently been completed for students entering in 2021-22.

Mrs. Nix stated she was pleased there would be continued consideration and discussion around options other than geographic representation.

Mr. Cathey acknowledged this important issue and noted that the Board concurs with the development of a plan to get ahead of a State plan.

2020-21 Budget Update

Mr. Levy reviewed the current operating report comparing it to the similar period last year; he noted the budget areas are trending favorably and financials are strong.

2021-22 Budget

Mr. Levy presented the proposed 2021-2022 Budget for approval noting a reduction in the number of students to 264, anticipating some student attrition, and total income projected at $1,773,302. He stated expenditures total $1,791,600 and include an additional $25,000 for technology, which would be a one-time increase and not part of future budgets, resulting in the use of $18,298 from the unspent funds category leaving $536,989 in unspent funds at the end of the year.

On motion by Ms. Austin and Mrs. Nix, the Board unanimously approved the 2021-2022 Budget.

Director’s Report

**Science Fair Update**—Mr. Levy reported Project Forum was held virtually on March 6 and results had been distributed to all divisions; the RVGS Foundation’s annual appeal received contributions totaling $32,361, and for the first time ever an additional gift of $16,000 was received from an alum to initiate a new program, which is currently being developed and will target rising juniors at the School. Mr. Cathey suggested the student alum be recognized by the Board.

Mr. Levy reported the Regional Science Fair was held virtually on March 20 and the results had been distributed and reviewed the projects that had placed at the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair held on April 10.

**Instruction Update and Future Planning**—Mr. Levy reported the current instructional model and attendance structure has worked well; students with grades less than 78% have the option to attend four days per week, and additional students are invited as space permits; the second semester has focused on moving students toward conventional academic expectations and additional supports are being provided; given a decline in grades, there will be considerations for the impact on academic probation for the current year as well as 2021-22, including student retention; and it is recommended that the 2021-22 school year open using the five-day-per-week model with an expectation for in-person attendance.

**2020-21 Enrollment**—Mr. Levy stated students have received invitations for 2021-22, and his report in June would address student attrition and information regarding the demographics of the applicant pool and enrolled students.

**Senior Recognition**—Mr. Levy stated the senior recognition would take place virtually on Wednesday, May 12, at 6:00 p.m.

Board Discussion Items

Mr. Wray noted that Roanoke County plans to be in session five days per week in 2021-22; Ms. Austin added that Botetourt County plans for five days per week, Mrs. White noted Roanoke City plans for five days per week, and Mrs. Nix noted that Franklin County was already back five days per week.

Next Meeting – Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment – The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

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 Mark K. Cathey, Chairman

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 Cindy H. Poulton, Clerk