

Roanoke Valley Governor's School Regional Board Minutes of October 3, 2022 Meeting

The Roanoke Valley Governor's School Regional Board met on Monday, October 3, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Governor School's Lecture Hall.

In the absence of the Chair, Mr. Mark Cathey, Mr. Mike Wray assumed responsibilities of the Chair. The following Board members were present:

Dr. Susan Mele	Bedford County School Board
Ms. Anna Weddle	Botetourt County School Board
Mr. Trace Bellassai	Craig County School Board
Ms. Julie Nix	Franklin County School Board
Mr. Mike Wray	Roanoke County School Board
Dr. Nancy Bradley	Salem City School Board

Not Present: Mr. Mark Cathey, Chair, Roanoke City School Board

Also Present: Mrs. Verletta White, Superintendent, Roanoke City Public Schools representing the Committee of Superintendents; Mr. Mark Levy, Director, Roanoke Valley Governor's School; Ms. Paula Buch, Deputy Clerk; Ms. Dawn Winter-Ware, Clerk; Dr. Curtis Hicks, Superintendent, Salem City Public Schools, Dr. Ken Nicely, Superintendent, Roanoke County Public Schools, Ms. Gerri Vandyke, Director of Student Services, Craig County Public Schools and Dr. Karen Woodford, Chief Learning Officer, Bedford County Public Schools.

Call to Order

Mr. Mike Wray called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM. Mr. Wray asked if anyone had questions regarding the Agenda, and hearing none, the Agenda was approved.

Approval of June 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Mike Wray and seconded by Trace Bellassai, the June 6, 2022, meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Proposed 2023 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Wray asked for a motion to approve the 2023 Roanoke Valley Governor's School Regional Board Meeting calendar. Upon motion by Trace Bellassai and seconded by Dr. Mele, all members approved the Meeting Calendar as below:

February 6, 2023

April 17, 2023

June 5, 2023

October 2, 2023

Floyd County Public Schools RVGS Application

Mr. Wray asked if Board members had the opportunity to review the application from Floyd County Public Schools to join the Roanoke Valley Governor's School. It is the responsibility of the Regional Board to approve the request.

Mr. Levy stated the Floyd County School Board would approve and execute the RVGS Constitution and By-laws at their next Board meeting and send a signed copy to RVGS Regional Board. Following would be a letter from the RVGS Regional Board to confirm Floyd County as a party in the Regional Program.

At the next meeting of the RVGS Regional Board, the Floyd County's representative (Board member), would be present and the Regional Board would propose an amendment to the Constitution and By-laws adding Floyd County as a participating member. Upon completion of Floyd County Public Schools becoming a member, newly-created enrollment slots would be made available to Floyd County for the 2023-24 school year with subsequent increases as determined by the Director of RVGS to reach a total of eight slots.

On motion by Dr. Nix and seconded by Mr. Bellassai, Floyd County was approved to become a member of the Roanoke Valley Governor's school, effective upon the Floyd County School Board voting to execute the RVGS Constitution and By-laws followed by receipt of a signed copy of the Constitution and By-laws from the Floyd County School Board Chair.

On motion by Dr. Nix and seconded by Mr. Bellassai, RVGS Regional Board allocated up to four newly created enrollment slots to Floyd County Public Schools for the 2023-24 school year with subsequent increases, as determined by the RVGS Director, to reach a total of eight slots, contingent upon Floyd County Public Schools becoming a member of the Roanoke Valley Governor's School.

Mr. Levy thanked the Board for their approval and support.

Update: State Funding Support of Academic-Year Governor's Schools

Mr. Levy presented a page summarizing recent discussion with the State regarding State funding. Mr. Levy said State funding is regular topic at the Board meetings and he has worked over the years to place RVGS in a better situation. Mr. Levy's consistent desire is to make sure the State is paying their fair share for programs not just in Roanoke but across the State for all Governor's schools. Mr. Levy stated it appears RVGS is receiving a year-by-year increase from fiscal years 2021-24; however, the only increase over the period of time is for compensation supplements, providing the State share of 5% teacher salary increases each year, leaving Governor's Schools with no increase for operational expenses.

With not only salary increases but with baseline expenses also increasing, Mr. Levy has been working to ensure individuals in the Legislature, the Governor's Office and VDOE are aware of the situation. Mr. Levy has been advocating for the Director's Committee to lead another round of efforts for SOQ funding. (Attachment: *Continuing Concerns Regarding State Funding of Academic-Year Governor's Schools*)

Mr. Levy further stated that because of the pandemic, there is more attrition and some difficulties with recruitment. Mr. Levy is confident there will be a rebound within the next few years and RVGS will build back to a normal number. However, as RVGS happens to be at a lower enrollment at the moment, the budget crunch is felt acutely because RVGS is not funded at an SOQ formula. Mr. Levy said he is in the final stages of editing a document that will be distributed to the other directors for advocacy with appropriate stakeholders, Legislators and the Governor's Office.

Review of State Diversity report

Mr. Levy provided information on the *Governor's School Diversity Goals and Report (attachment)*. Each Academic-Year Governor's School is required to submit an annual diversity report to the Governor's office and the VDOE. The beginning of the report features goals and planned action steps. The middle portion of the report contains an overview of the application processes and procedures. The remaining section features updated demographic data for RVGS and students from each participating school division. Finally, information is included on RVGS population demographics from the past three years compared to a weighted average of participating school divisions.

Mr. Wray expressed appreciation to Mr. Levy for the excellent information on the State Diversity report.

Financial Report

Mr. Levy provided information on the RVGS Operating Report FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 (*attachments*). Mr. Wray asked if anyone had questions and asked if there were any major operating expenses in the foreseeable future. Mr. Levy replied not in the next few years.

Mr. Levy stated it would be a tougher budget year because of enrollment numbers and the level of State funding but there is a carryover because of fiscal stewardship within the last year and the lower enrollment is temporary and not long-term. RVGS would be receiving tuition fees for 252 students, but funding for 245. Mr. Levy reiterated he is doing everything possible to minimize the impact of the budget and hopes to receive some relief from the caboose bill.

Mr. Wray stated Mr. Levy's conservative oversight placed RVGS in good condition and thanked him for his work with the budget.

Director's Report

Mr. Levy announced RVGS Counselor, Kathy Sebolt was recognized by the Yale Office of Undergraduate Admissions as a recipient of the 2022 Yale Educator Award.

Students entering the Yale Class of 2026 were asked to nominate outstanding educators who deeply impacted their lives. Mrs. Sebolt was nominated for the award by **Madison Brown**, a former Governor's School student, then selected as a winner by a committee in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Ms. Sebolt has 22 years of experience as a school counselor and has been at the Governor's School for 15 years. Ms. Sebolt continues to work with RVGS seniors during the college admissions process. Ms. Sebolt will be formally recognized at the Roanoke City School Board meeting on October 11, 2022.

Mr. Levy provided information on a new data tracking system set up in order to keep track of student applications to colleges so RVGS can complete additional outreach as needed. Additionally, a new recognition program for distinguished research scholars targets students looking to enter research science or STEM fields like engineering.

Mr. Levy said there are five staff members currently completing the gifted endorsement work detailed in previous Board meetings and he anticipates another cohort will participate.

Mr. Levy briefly touched on student supports in place and monitoring student progress for first year students.

Mr. Levy announced the Project Forum would take place in person in February and additional information will be provided to Board members. The Senior Dinner will be held on May 8, 2023, at the Hotel Roanoke.

Board Discussion Items

None.

Superintendents' Discussion Items

Mrs. Verletta White, Superintendent of Roanoke City Public Schools, representing the Committee of Superintendents, said regarding increased funding that school divisions should go back and have a discussion in terms of a Legislative agenda and reaching out to elected officials. She thanked Mr. Levy for the Diversity Plan and having a conversation with the Superintendents to ensure the student body is more reflective of the students served and expressed appreciation to Mr. Levy for keeping diversity at the forefront.

Announcement of Next Meeting:

February 6, 2023, at 6:30 PM at RVGS.

Adjournment

Mr. Wray commended Mr. Levy for providing detailed information on all subjects presented on the agenda. Mr. Wray adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM.

Mike Wray, in absence of Mark K. Cathey, Chairman

Dawn Winter-Ware, Clerk

DRAFT