

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF COVINGTON, KENTUCKY
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
September 8, 2016
6:00 P.M.

The Board of Education of Covington, Kentucky met in regular session on Thursday, September 8, 2016 at the Holmes Hartman Room located at 25th and Madison Avenue, Covington, Kentucky.

Ms. Julie Geisen Scheper, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Call To Order

Roll call showed the following members present: Mr. Jerry Avery, Ms. Joyce Baker, Ms. April Brockhoff, Ms. Glenda Huff and Ms. Julie Geisen Scheper.

Roll Call

The Board led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Geisen Scheper welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that the Board of Education serves the public and community.

Welcome

Ms. Geisen Scheper called for public input. Ms. Mary Wheatley, Covington Education Association (CEA), reported that some members had concerns about hiring a principal at John G. Carlisle Elementary. CEA members expressed concerns for John G. Carlisle and Glenn O. Swing Elementary and thought some clarification was needed for students and families. Ms. Wheatley stated that CEA would be meeting with Mr. Garrison about these concerns.

Public Input

Ms. Daniele Axtell, Parent and Holmes High School Site-based Decision Making Council member requested that the Board consider postponing the vote on the 1:1 Initiative. Ms. Axtell expressed that making a decision on the 1:1 Initiative tonight seemed too fast and thought more review was needed on which device was chosen and what the impact would be short and long term.

Mr. Alvin Garrison, Superintendent of Schools, presented the items of information; Strategic Plan Revision – Board Input (Order No. 090816-01), 2015-2016 ACT Results (Order No. 090816-02), Footsteps2Brilliance (Order No. 090816-03), CIPS Requested Policy Amendment – First Reading (Order No. 090816-04) and Adoption of the 2016-2017 Working Budget for General Fund, Building Fund, Capital Outlay Fund, Food Service Fund, Debt Service Fund, Daycare Fund and Special Revenue Fund (Order No. 090816-05).

Informational Items

Mr. Bill Grein, Data and Assessment, reviewed the Strategic Planning process update which included feedback from stakeholders in the community i.e.; student groups, parent groups, Covington teachers, classified staff, administrators, community and business leaders. The Board requested that they meet to discuss their input for the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Grein reported that the 2015-2016 ACT Results show a five-year trend with both juniors and seniors closing the gap between our students and all students across the state from 2012-2016.

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Ms. Suzanne Thompson, Director of Elementary Education, reported that a data review was conducted with Footsteps2Brilliance and the authors of DIBELS Next – a regular monitor of the development of early literacy and early reading skills. The team reviewed student usage in Footsteps2Brilliance for students Kindergarten – Third Grade during the months of January – May. During the review it was determined that students who spent a minimum of 42 minutes per week on Footsteps2Brilliance scored at or above benchmark on DIBELS Next.

Mr. Garrison introduced the CIPS requested amendments to policy 08.31 Graduation Requirements. These amendments are requested to develop a district diploma that requires the state minimum number of credits to graduate from high school. This was the first reading for these amendments.

Ms. Annette Burtschy, Director of Finance, presented the 2016-2017 Working Budget. The Board of Education is required to approve a close estimate Working Budget for all funds by September 30 of each year. Each fund is balanced with anticipated expenditures equaling anticipated revenue. Covington Schools has a \$59,000,000 yearly budget and our financial health is good.

Mr. Garrison introduced the individual approval agenda items.

Ms. Burtschy presented the request to reinstate a Finance Department position. Ms. Burtschy reminded the Board that in 2013 the Benefits staff member was re-assigned to Personnel to do Classified hiring and Benefits for all staff, leaving payroll with only 2 people. Responsibilities in the finance have only increased. An additional staff member would cross-train on payroll, assist in creating and account monitoring of Fund 2, assist schools and organizations with REDBOOK school accounting and other duties as they relate to finance.

**Finance Department
Position**

1. Ms. Huff moved that the Covington Board of Education approves the Reinstatement of a Finance Department Position. Ms. Brockhoff seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, Ms. Huff, Ms. Brockhoff, Ms. Baker, Mr. Avery, Ms. Huff and Ms. Geisen Scheper voted yea. The motion passed.

Ms. Charlene Ball, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support, reported that the study of the 1:1 Initiative for Holmes High School has resulted in moving forward with the MacBook Air as the device of choice. Stephen Fite, Holmes High School Teacher and 1:1 Committee Member, stated that the committee was only going to pilot this initiative with the Freshman Academy. Teachers requested piloting this initiative 9-12 grades.

**1:1 Initiative and Lease
to Purchase Agreement**

2. Ms. Baker moved that the Covington Board of Education approves the 1:1 Initiative by Entering Into a Master Lease Purchase Agreement With Apple, Inc. Mr. Avery seconded the motion.

Ms. Geisen Scheper asked for discussion on the motion.

Ms. Brockhoff questioned why the Chrome Book and PC were not being

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presented as a device to use for this pilot program when the Chrome Book is 1/3 of the price of the MacBook? Ms. Ball stated that when you consider each devices specs, operating systems, professional learning support, teacher resources, accessibility, student resources, warranty, life span and partnership for planning, deployment and implementation of the device, the MacBook checks each of these categories. Also, by most standards, Mac is considered a state-of-the-art product that Covington students and staff should have access too just like other more affluent school district. There limits on what the other devices can do. The device should not hold a student back. Ms. Brockhoff agreed that Covington students and staff should have access to the best possible device available and is supportive of a 1:1 Initiative for the district but wanted to know if the MacBook devise was a financially sound decision? Ms. Annette Burtschy, Director of Finance, assured the Board that if this Initiative is a priority for the Board, the budget would be able to cover the expense of the plan.

Ms. Baker thought it was not a good idea to go with a lower level of product then 2 years later need to get another device. Mr. Avery stated that the teachers want and have recommended that we go with the MacBook device, so we should go with their recommendations.

Ms. Huff said she can see both sides of the argument that this was a huge commitment for the district. She called for a question on the motion.

With a roll call vote, Ms. Baker, Mr. Avery, Ms. Huff and Ms. Geisen Scheper voted yea. Ms. Brockhoff voted nay. The motion passed.

Mr. Garrison presented the YouthBuild MOU and Brighton Center MOU for Workforce Development. Both programs provide opportunities for success for all students and will innovate and improve the alternative programs.

3. Ms. Baker moved that the Covington Board of Education approves the YouthBuild Memorandum of Understanding. Ms. Huff seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, Ms. Baker, Ms. Huff, Ms. Brockhoff, Mr. Avery and Ms. Geisen Scheper voted yea. The motion passed.

YouthBuild MOU

4. Ms. Brockhoff moved that the Covington Board of Education approves the Brighton Center, Inc. Memorandum of Understanding for Workforce Development. Ms. Baker seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, Ms. Brockhoff, Ms. Baker, Mr. Avery, Ms. Huff and Ms. Geisen Scheper voted yea. The motion passed.

**Brighton Center, Inc.
MOU**

Mr. Bryce Rhoades, School Board Attorney, gave the Attorney's Report.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Garrison thank the Board for their bold leadership and innovative decision making.

The Board agreed by consensus to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Board Chair

Superintendent of Schools