

Roanoke Valley Governor's School Regional Board Minutes of October 23, 2017 Meeting

The Roanoke Valley Governor's School Regional Board met on Monday, October 23, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the Roanoke Valley Governor's School Lecture Hall. The following Board members were present:

Mrs. Ruth Wallace	Botetourt County	Chairman
Mr. Mark Cathey	Roanoke City	Vice Chairman
Dr. Michael Chiglinsky	Salem City	
Mr. Jason Johnson	Bedford County	
Mr. Patrick Myers	Craig County	
Mrs. Julie Nix	Franklin County	

Absent: Mr. Michael Wray, Roanoke County

Also present: Dr. Rita Bishop, representing the Committee of Superintendents; Governor's School Director, Mark Levy; Clerk, Cindy Poulton; Deputy Clerk, Paula Buch; and Dawn Verhoeff, Bedford County Schools' Science, Foreign Language and Gifted Supervisor.

Call to Order

Mrs. Wallace called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She welcomed newly-appointed Board member Julie Nix, Franklin County School Board representative, to her first meeting.

Recognition of Former School Board Member

Mrs. Wallace recognized former Franklin County School Board representative Sarah Alexander for her five years of service on the Governor's School Regional Board and for her strong support and leadership in promoting the value and benefits of the Governor's School to members of the Franklin County School Board, students, and community.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Mr. Cathey and Dr. Chiglinsky, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as distributed.

Approval of June 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Mr. Cathey and Dr. Chiglinsky, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 12, 2017 meeting as distributed.

2018 Meeting Calendar

On motion by Mr. Cathey and Mr. Myers, the Board unanimously approved the Board's 2018 Meeting Calendar setting the meeting dates as February 5, April 23, June 11, and October 22.

2017-18 Budget

Director Mark Levy presented a 2017-18 Budget update noting a decrease in State revenues due to a decline of seven students (from 269 to 262 students) as a result of late withdrawals and several unfilled slots. He added that the unfilled slots were offered to other divisions but with the late notice, the slots could not be filled. Mr. Levy stated tuition payments remain the same as budgeted. He added that for 2018-19 he hoped the three available slots would be absorbed by other divisions that wish to increase student enrollment and the advance notice would provide sufficient time for budget planning. Mr. Levy reported the tuition increase approved for 2017-18 provided some security to the unspent funds balance, and spending was carefully monitored and minimized during the last school year to further bolster the unspent funds balance. He added that no additional tuition increases were anticipated for 2018-19 even though funding for the Governor's School has reverted to prior funding levels, which will result in a loss of 2.5 percent from the current budget and the \$50 per student credit hour that was to be added in FY 2019. Mr. Levy stated it is important to him that he is a good steward of the monies paid and that the monies are managed correctly; he added the goal is to sustain the unspent funds balance at or above the \$400,000 approved by the Board last school year but thought it important for the Board to be aware of potential fluctuations.

Director's Report

Mr. Levy stated his focus is to improve equity across the districts by targeting specific middle schools in Craig, Bedford and Roanoke City to foster increased student interest; he noted there was an increase in the number of applications from the schools targeted last year. Mr. Levy noted he is involved in a number of initiatives to increase student interest and stated he is collaborating with Carilion Clinic and the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute to bring back the middle school summer program that was previously sponsored through a grant from the Interactive Achievement Foundation. Mr. Cathey asked for additional information; Deputy Clerk Paula Buch stated the six-week summer camp was offered from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. for three summers to middle school students who were rising 7th graders in year one and rising 8th graders in year two; she noted students participated in a mini project forum at the end of the session that was judged and students received a certificate of participation. Mrs. Buch stated students who participated the first summer were presented laptop computers. She noted she thought two or three of the students who participated in the summer program were now enrolled at the Governor's School.

Mr. Levy reviewed some of the new initiatives and early year highlights including the RVGS Determined program designed to try and help students with the mindset of being in a gifted environment, first-year student mentorship program, summer tutoring provided for students on academic probation, the "Women in STEM" series, and a STEAM event at Glen Cove Elementary. Mr. Levy encouraged Board members and district staff to let him know if there was an event in their district that Governor's School staff or students might participate and work with students. Mr. Levy stated last year's science fair was very successful with the Governor's School earning the second most awards of

any school in the Commonwealth. He stated the goal is to build on this accomplishment and he announced the State Science Fair would be held in Roanoke this year and for the next couple of years. Mr. Levy stated the Shelly STEM Challenge introduced last year would continue in 2017-18 with the first challenge on November 11 when students would collaborate with representatives from General Electric.

Mr. Levy stated Project Forum is scheduled for February 3 in the Patrick Henry High School Cafeteria and efforts will be made to more easily identify each district's students so that Board members and superintendents have easier access to those projects.

Mr. Levy stated four new staff members joined the Governor's School faculty this year, and he is very pleased with how all four have acclimated to the School noting all are performing well, appear to be enjoying themselves, and students are positive.

Board Items

Dr. Chiglinsky thanked Mr. Levy for addressing the needs of the whole student; he stated he loved the idea of women and STEM, supporting women as role models and anything that could be done to support women; he stated he was happy to help in any way needed.

Superintendents' Items

Dr. Bishop thanked Mr. Levy for his visits to middle schools because it does make a difference when students see the director and especially when that individual is a former student at the school. She stated she was grateful for Mr. Levy's efforts to involve students from all of Roanoke City's middle schools.

Mrs. Wallace added that the attention Mr. Levy gives and the fact that he attended the Governor's School makes it real for the students.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Roanoke Valley Governor's School Regional Board is Monday, February 5, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Ruth E. Wallace, Chairman

Cindy H. Poulton, Clerk