

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF COVINGTON, KENTUCKY
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
April 12, 2012
5:00 P.M.

The Board of Education of Covington, Kentucky met in regular session on Thursday, April 12, 2012 at the Administration Building, 25 E. 7th Street, Covington, Kentucky.

Mr. Mike Fitzgerald, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Call To Order

Roll call showed the following members present: Mr. Jerry Avery, Mr. Mike Fitzgerald, Mrs. Glenda Huff, Ms. Krista Powers and Mrs. Denise Varney.

Roll Call

Mr. Fitzgerald welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that the Board of Education serves the public and community.

Welcome

1. Mrs. Huff moved that the Covington Board of Education amend the agenda by moving recognition of Covington Adult High School Graduates to first. Mr. Avery seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, Mrs. Huff, Mr. Avery, Ms. Powers, Mrs. Varney and Mr. Fitzgerald voted yea. The motion passed.

Amend Agenda

Ms. Stephanie Trenkamp, Mr. Joe Craighead, Mr. Bob Ryan and Mr. Jim Howard, Covington Adult High School, presented diplomas to Covington Adult High School Graduates. Diplomas were distributed to: Ciera Mitchell, Cassie Dornbusch, Samatha Loveless, Elizabeth Wheatley, Jordan Rickett and Naire Jones.

**Recognition
CAHS Graduates**

Mr. Fitzgerald called for public input. Mrs. Dawn Vancini, 222 E. 19th Street, stated that she was very passionate about Covington Schools and that her children are thriving. She voiced her frustration with members of the community that continue to speak negatively about the schools, the administration and the board of education.

Public Input

Mr. Tom Miller, 230 E. 16th Street, stated his grand-daughter was upset after a fight in the cafeteria. He asked why weren't the students told what was going on and why a one-call did not go out to the parents?

Mr. Ken Kippenbrock, Director of Pupil Personnel and Discipline, stated, there was a fight in the cafeteria at Holmes High School Monday. Covington Police assisted School Administrators and staff in breaking up the fight. Five eighteen year old students were arrested. Six juveniles were cited. Administrative Discipline hearings are pending and the students involved are suspended pending the outcome of that hearing.

Minutes – Regular Working Meeting, April 12, 2012

Page 2 of 5

No students possessed or displayed any weapons. There were no serious injuries from the fight. No firearms were drawn by police. No dogs were present. One officer did have a department - issued pepperball gun in case it was needed. It was not. One officer did deploy a taser to assist in gaining control over an 18 year old adult student. Only School Resource Officers, Covington Police, and one former Covington Officer who now works for Park Hills who was in the area and stopped by to check on the situation and offer assistance if needed. It was not.

The school was placed on lockdown as a precaution, to ensure that no additional students arrived in the cafeteria while administrators and police were sorting out the offenders.

The Board of Education Central Office received a call from a family concerned that a “one call” was not made regarding the lockdown at Holmes High School Monday.

There are several reasons a “one call” is not made regarding lock downs:

- 1) Many parents miss the “one call,” and call the school back to see why they missed a call. This floods the office with calls and decreases the ability for dispatch to call should that be necessary.
- 2) Many parents respond to the school. If a situation escalates in any way, and medical or police resources should need to respond, this would hamper the ability of those responders.
- 3) The school is required by law to practice lockdown, and the school is placed on lockdown for incidents in the surrounding community that do not directly involve the school.
- 4) We do not wish to cause alarm or panic over a fight in the cafeteria.

In an effort to always follow best practice, I contacted several neighboring Directors of Pupil Personnel and asked if their district has a policy regarding “one calls” being placed, and lockdowns. None had policies regarding one-calls for lockdowns.

Newport Independent, Kenton County, Gallatin County, Dayton Independent, Campbell County and Beechwood Independent all indicated they do initiate a one call for lockdowns.

Not one DPP responded that they do an “all call” or “one call” Some stated that they send a letter home the next day to address the issue and clear up rumors. In this case that was not done as a press release was being completed by Covington Police to clarify, and new outlets covered that press release. The investigation did not fully conclude until recently, and a letter was sent home today.

Although we strive to improve our communication, it's not our primary focus during an emergency. Keeping students safe is our one and only priority.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he had been on the board for 16 years and that this was the best board he had ever worked with. He said that due to family responsibilities, he needed to step down as board chair and pass the position to the current vice-chair Glenda Huff. He reiterated that personal circumstances require his full attention and the children of Covington deserve a Board Chair able to make them the priority. He stated that at the next meeting Glenda Huff would assume the responsibilities of Board Chair and that the Board would vote on the vice-chair position. He asked the staff that was in attendance at the meeting to stand and thanked them for their dedicated professionalism.

**Fitzgerald Board
Chair Resignation**

Mr. David Schaefer and Ms. Shawn Wood, Skills USA Sponsors, introduced the 2012 winners of the state SkillsUSA competition held in Louisville KY over spring break. Customer Service 1st place Autumn Martin, Telecommunications Cabling 2nd place Zach Mardis Promotional Bulletin Board, 3rd Place Team Ashley Daniel & Christina Fukano. The following people received their KY Statesmen award: Mrs. Wood, Zach Mardis, Kyle Poe, Katelyn Watson, Robert Hughes-Carr, Nicole Lang, Christina Fukano and Gentry Freyler

**Recognition
Skills USA**

Ms. Powers presented Ms. Laura Schepis, School Psychologist, Ninth District Elementary, received the Certified Employee of the Month Award for April.

Recognition

Mrs. Varney presented Mr. Tom Cox, Custodian, Ninth District Elementary, the Classified Employee of the Month Award for April.

Mr. Avery presented Ms. Carmen Lake, Volunteer, Ninth District Elementary, received the Volunteer of the Month Award for April.

Ms. Jackson presented items of information; Ninth District Elementary Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (Order No. 041212-01), Freshman Academy Update (Order No. 041212-02), 2012-2013 Staffing Allocation (Order No. 041212-03), Continued Upgrades at Holmes High School BG-1 Form (Order No. 041212-04) and Consultant Contract A.I.A., B-101 Upgrades Holmes High School Project (Order No. 041212-05).

Informational Items

Ms. Jennifer Maines, Principal, Ninth District Elementary, presented a report on the school's continuing improvement. Along with Ken Lockard, Assistant Principal and Laura Schepis, Psychologist, Ms. Maines highlighted Ninth District's objectives with measures of success.

**Ninth District
Consolidated School
Improvement Plan**

Minutes – Regular Working Meeting, April 12, 2012

Page 4 of 5

Mrs. Varney was excused from the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Mr. Jason Booher, Holmes High School Assistant Principal and Donna Hastings, Holmes High School Guidance Counselor, presented the Freshman Academy Update. The Holmes High School *Freshman Academy* groups students in teams. They stay with the same core group of teachers throughout their 9th grade year. This is an attempt to have teachers working collaboratively to address the needs of students, focusing on individual academic progress.

Freshman Academy

The Board agreed by consensus to recess at 6:30 p.m. The Board came back from recess at 6:40 p.m. All members were present.

Recess

2. Mrs. Huff moved that the Covington Board of Education amend the agenda by moving the addendum agenda to this point. Mr. Avery seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, Mrs. Huff, Mr. Avery, Ms. Powers, Mrs. Varney and Mr. Fitzgerald voted yea. The motion passed.

Amend Agenda

Ms. Jackson presented the addendum agenda.

Ms. Caroline Lee, Psychologist John G. Carlisle Elementary, updated the Board on the elementary schools' Response to Intervention initiatives.

Response to Intervention

Ms. Renee Murray, Instructional Coach Holmes High School, updated the Board on the secondary Response to Intervention initiatives.

Mr. Jon Hopkins, Counselor Holmes High School, reported to the Board on the administration's plan to take students on a trip to Washington, D.C. Mr. Hopkins reviewed the itinerary, student selection and cost/fundraising. Mr. Hopkins took students to the 2008 inauguration and is confident that this trip will be as educational and exciting.

Washington, D.C. Trip

Mr. Bill Grein, Instructional Data, presented the 2012-2013 Staffing Allocation. The updated 2012-2013 Staffing Allocations presented for review, used Kentucky Department of Education guidelines to determine the allocations and the formulas utilized in calculating numbers of positions. Title I, Special Education and Family Resource and Youth Services Center Staff have been added, in pink, to the February data, along with the latest enrollment numbers.

2012-2013 Staffing Allocation

Mr. John Fisk, Architect, reviewed the BG-1 on the additional upgrades at Holmes High School. Replacement of some of the exterior concrete panels on the gym/science building. Asbestos

**Additional Upgrades
HHS BG-1**

abatement on the ground floor of the gym lobby and stairs. Architectural and lighting upgrades in the gym lobby and stairs. These items were to be a part of the last renovation project. Re-build the band room in the vocational building (old masonry shop). The estimated project cost is \$1,165,409.98 . The funding source for this project is a bond sale. Also, reviewed was the agreement and fees, per the Kentucky Department of Education guidelines, for the Architectural and Engineering firm.

Ms. Jackson presented the agenda items for individual vote.

3. Ms. Powers moved that the Covington Board of Education approve a First Reading of Amendments to Policy 03.122 Holidays and Annual Leave (Certified). Mr. Avery seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, Ms. Powers, Mr. Avery, Mrs. Huff, Mrs. Varney and Mr. Fitzgerald voted yea. The motion passed.

**First Reading – Policy
03.122 Holidays and
Annual Leave
(Certified)**

4. Ms. Powers moved that the Covington Board of Education approve a First Reading of Amendments to Policy 03.222 Holidays and Annual Leave (Classified). Mr. Avery seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, Ms. Powers, Mr. Avery, Mrs. Huff, Mrs. Varney and Mr. Fitzgerald voted yea. The motion passed.

**First Reading – Policy
03.222 Holidays and
Annual Leave
(Classified)**

Ms. Mary Ann Stewart, School Board Attorney, gave the Attorney's Report.

Attorney's Report

Ms. Powers spoke about the public input portion of the meeting. She said that during this portion of the meeting speakers should have been directed to ensure no comments were personal in nature. She understands that people are passionate and have the right to address the board during public input, and this must be done respectfully and abide by the policies and procedures for public input. Ms. Powers stated that in the future, she will guide anyone speaking during this portion of the meeting to share their thoughts in a way that offers insight into any concerns or dynamics relevant to the mission of the district while also adhering to policies and procedures. She asked that the minutes reflect this comment.

The Board agreed by consensus to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Board Chair

Superintendent of Schools