



School Board Meeting Recap

Thursday, August 12, 2021

There were several notable moments during this week's special School Board meeting. The timestamps with each highlight will help you navigate directly to the point in the recorded meeting, which is available in the Archives section of BCPS Live (<https://bcps.live/archives/>).

1. Board Chair Announcement: *Timestamp: 4:07 - 4:55*

Mrs. Weddle conveyed information regarding Gov. Northam's public health emergency order which requires masks in all K-12 schools, effective August 12 and until CDC guidelines change or the order is lifted. Local school boards do not have input regarding this matter.

2. First Day of School Update: *Timestamp: 6:05 - 5:30*

Dr. Russ provides an update on the first day of school. He and central office administration visited each location; Students were happy to be back and teachers were happy to have them back in the classroom.

2020 First Day Student Number: **4420**

2021 First Day Student Number: **4523**

3. Superintendent's Update: *Timestamp: 7:25 - 15:42*

Financial audit is complete and a final report will be provided in the September school board meeting. New Teacher Orientation was a great success this year. BCPS still has several staff vacancies; interested parties can learn more and apply online. Division administrators received training to use TalentEd for staff evaluations. Laura Hall achieved CLASS certified trainer distinction. 428 students attended the Summer Academy this year. Dr. Russ commended secondary students who completed requirements to receive a diploma. Work on the Lord Botetourt HS roof is complete. Meal pickup will continue and is available to ALL Botetourt County children regardless of enrollment status. Canvas will continue to be used this school year.

4. Career Quest: *Timestamp: 15:45 - 19:30*

[GO Virginia](#) and the [Virginia Workforce Development Board](#) are hosting a hands-on, interactive career fair for 7th and 8th graders this year. BCPS participated in 2019 but it was cancelled last year due to the pandemic. It will be held for 7th graders on September 29 and for 8th graders on October 20. In order to participate, businesses must provide a hands-on activity for students to interact with.

5. Public Comment Session: *Timestamp: 19:42 - 33:59*

Prior to public comment Mrs. Weddle reiterated Botetourt County Schools' policy on the VDOE standalone Transgender Policy, on Critical Race Theory, and the requirement of masks. Citizens provided comments on Critical Race Theory, the Equity Task Force, and the requirement of masks.

6. End of Agenda Items: *Timestamp: 1:18:45 - 36:56*

- Nashville Nights has been canceled at the request of the performers due to COVID concerns.
- Ms. Austin provided an update on action she has taken to communicate citizens' concerns to elected representatives
- Mr. East reached out to State Senator Newman regarding Critical Race Theory and mask requirements
- Mrs. McCaleb reported that she and Dr. Russ had attended a meeting at the Jackson River Governor School

Next School Board Meeting: Thursday, September 9, 2021

Botetourt County Public Schools

143 Poor Farm Road • Fincastle, VA • 24090 • (540)473-8263 • www.bcps.k12.va.us