



School Board Meeting Recap

Thursday, October 14, 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. Recognitions: *Timestamp: 4:14 - 6:59*

Tammy Ogle, nurse at Buchanan Elementary School, is the Employee of the Month for September! October 18-22 is National School Bus Safety Week. Mr. Andy Dewease and Mr. Kris Clegg received a recognition on behalf of the Transportation Department, following which a [video](#) was shown. Ms. Michelle Austin, Mrs. Anna Weddle, and Mrs. LuAnn Delosreyes were recognized for participating in the VSBA School Board Academy for effective school board governance.



Anna Weddle, LuAnn Delosreyes, & Michelle Austin



Kris Clegg & Andy Dewease
Transportation Safety Recognition



Tammy Ogle
Employee of the Month

Note: There was a loss of audio from 6:26 - 12:46 resulting from a dislodged cable. Thank you to those watching online who alerted us, and to our technology staff for promptly resolving the issue!

2. Public Comment: *Timestamp: 12:00 - 21:31*

As a reminder, all requests to speak at a school board meeting must be made by 10:00 AM on the day of the meeting by calling LuAnn Delosreyes or using the online [Request to Speak Form](#).

Citizens expressed their thoughts, concerns, and opinions on how to attract and retain bus drivers and aides, vaccination mandates, CDC guideline requirements, homework, and mold at Lord Botetourt High School.

3. Approval of 2022-23 Program of Studies: *Timestamp: 22:13 - 25:12*

Dr. Janet Womack, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, presented the 2022-23 Program of Studies, which the board approved. This is now available online at: [Program of Studies 22-23](#)

4. Approval of Change in Pay Rates for Substitutes: *Timestamp: 44:18 - 49:42*

Dr. Russ recommended *substitute* pay rate changes for the following positions:

- Instructional Assistants & Library Assistants: Daily: \$75/day; Long-Term: \$85/day
- School Nurse & Teacher (w/degree): \$140/day
- Teacher (w/o degree): \$125/day

Dr. Russ also recommended a permanent substitute be assigned to each building that would be available 4 days/week (M, T, TH, & F) to fill vacancies and assist with other instructional needs, such as small group and remediation. The board approved each of these recommendations.



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5. Bonuses for School Nurses & Bus Drivers: *Timestamp: 28:58 - 38:40*

\$1500 retention bonus and a \$1500 sign-on bonus (paid in two installments) for any driver hired after October 1, 2021. Substitute drivers will receive a bonus based on a scale. Gratitude was expressed by Ms. Austin and Dr. Russ to the parents and guardians who have commuted their students to school when routes are cancelled, as well as to those elementary schools who have opened their doors even earlier to accommodate working parent schedules. A one-time bonus will also be offered to any employee with a CDL who drives 5 outside events.

6. Superintendent's Update: *Timestamp: 38:41 - 51:31*

- With the exception of Thomas Jefferson High School in Fairfax County Public Schools, James River High School had the highest math SOL scores of any high school in the entire state! GO KNIGHTS!!!
- Dr. Russ expressed gratitude to the School Board for approving the early release schedule for teachers. He also expressed gratitude to the nurses and administrators for the immense amount of time they spend contact tracing.



7. 2022-23 & 2023-24 Calendars: *Timestamp: 51:32 - 54:07*

These calendars are available on our division website and open to public comment for the next month. Staff and community members can view them on the [Calendars page](#) and provide feedback using our [online form](#) or by calling the school board office and speaking to LuAnn Delosreyes.

8. Community Outreach and Committee Reports: *Timestamp: 59:20 - End*

- Ms. Austin attended Roanoke Valley Governor School Board Meeting with Dr. Russ. She advised the school board to consider who would be replacing her in that assignment. Regarding legislative initiatives and advocacy, she has not yet heard from Secretary Qarni nor Governor Northam. She met with Delegate Austin and he will try to help forward her communication along. Candidate Youngkin was very complimentary of Botetourt County SOL scores and supported our board's opposition to Critical Race Theory.
- Mrs. McCaleb has links to information regarding the work Delegate Austin has done with the VDOE in the course of his committee assignments if any constituents would like this information. She and Mrs. Weddle also virtually attended a VSBA training on October 6.
- Mrs. Weddle attended the Lord Botetourt and James River High Schools cross country invitational. She also held a Character Counts committee meeting.

Next School Board Meeting: Thursday, November 11, 2021

Botetourt County Public Schools

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