

A JOINT CALLED MEETING OF THE BRISTOL VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL AND THE BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD WAS HELD ON OCTOBER 3, 2016, AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE BRISTOL VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, 220 LEE STREET, BRISTOL, VIRGINIA, WITH MAYOR WILLIAM HARTLEY PRESIDING. COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE VICE MAYOR JIM STEELE, AND ARCHIE HUBBARD. ALSO PRESENT WERE CITY MANAGER, TABITHA CROWDER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, KIM ORFIELD, AND CITY ATTORNEY, PETE CURCIO.

COUNCIL MEMBERS J. DOUGLAS FLEENOR AND KEVIN MUMPOWER WERE ABSENT.

MEMBERS OF THE BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT WERE CHAIR, RANDY ALVIS, VICE CHAIR, TYRONE FOSTER, BOARD MEMBERS STEVE FLETCHER, AND RANDY WHITE. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT, GARY RITCHIE AND FINANCE DIRECTOR, TAMMY JONES WERE ALSO PRESENT.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RONALD CAMERON WAS ABSENT.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Hartley called the meeting to order stating that this was a Joint Called Meeting with the Bristol Virginia School Board for the purpose of discussing mutual interests.

Chair, Randy Alvis, called the meeting to order for the Bristol Virginia School Board.

2. Presentation by Interim Superintendent, Gary Ritchie

Interim Superintendent, Mr. Gary Ritchie, gave a presentation on the accomplishments of the Bristol Virginia Public School system, pointing out that four (4) of the six (6) schools were fully accredited and that all of the schools had resource officers. He pointed out that the schools had obtained several federal and state grants which helped provide free breakfasts, third (3rd) meals for Highland View Elementary, nutritious snacks for elementary students, year round school grants, 21st Century after school grants, and pre-school initiatives.

He advised that some of the obstacles that challenged schools were poverty, large numbers of students transferring into the system with Individualized Education Program (IEP), the starting point for many of the students who were below the national average, limited funds available in high risk areas, closing the gap requiring more resources than they had available, and transiency and homelessness.

He gave an overview of the number of employees throughout the school system, and provided a comparison of the school system with other localities on the number of students, staffing, expenditures, as well as teacher and instructional position salaries.

He gave an overview of the goals set by the School Board, which included, hiring a Superintendent, conducting a feasibility study on providing in-house custodial services, evaluating the CTE programs, exploring a "Career Exploration" class as an elective, update the facilities plan to include short and long term elementary configuration options, providing outreach and enrichment opportunity for at-risk students and families, review the capital needs plan, provide support for meeting state and federal accountability standards, provide support for enhancing K-12 literacy and numeracy skills.

Following the presentation, a brief discussion ensued relating to transiency and homelessness and how that impacted the school system.

Chair, Randy Alvis, commented on the excellent education provided by the Bristol Virginia School system.

Council Member Hubbard commented on the number of individuals who were challenged and that the school system had to provide services for them.

School Board Member Randy White stated that challenged students did not exist in other countries. He advised that the government mandated that these students be educated, but did not provide adequate funding to support the mandated education.

Vice Chair, Tyrone Foster, added that sometimes kids show up during SOL testing and that the school had to take the hit because the student was not up to speed with other students.

Council Member Hubbard inquired about exemptions for these students with regard to the SOL testing. Mr. Ritchie advised that there were exemptions but it depended upon the timing of when the students entered the school system.

Interim Superintendent, Gary Ritchie, thanked the City for their support and the funding provided to the Bristol Virginia School system.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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City Clerk

Mayor