

VIRGINIA: At a regular meeting of the Tazewell County School Board held at the Student Center of the Tazewell County Career and Technical Center on January 13, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Irene Mullins, School Board Chair
Erik Robinson, School Board Vice-Chair
Chris Moir, Board Member
Donna Whittington, Board Member
David Woodard, Board Member
Dr. Chris Stacy, Division Superintendent
Deidra Hill, Deputy Superintendent
Vicki Bailey, Clerk

Mrs. Moir called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Unscheduled Agenda Items

None

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Whittington made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Mullins seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Closed Session

Pursuant to section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, a motion was made by Mrs. Whittington, seconded by Mrs. Mullins and passed to convene to a closed session for the purpose of discussing the following specific matters:

Personnel – Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of employees as authorized by Section 2.2-3711 A 1 of the Code of Virginia.

Contracts – Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds as authorized by Section 2.2-3711 A 29 of the Code of Virginia.

Legal - Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants or attorneys, pertaining to actual or probable litigation, or other specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel as authorized by § 2.2-3711 A 7 of the Code of Virginia.

Property – Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property as authorized by Section 2.2-3711 A 3 of the Code of Virginia.

Students – Discussion or consideration of admission or disciplinary matters concerning students as authorized by Section 2.2-3711 A 2 of the Code of Virginia.

Regular Session

The Board returned to open session. Mrs. Moir called the open session portion of the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Certification from Closed Session

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a roll call vote was taken in which all members affirmed that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meetings, as identified in the motion for closed session, were heard, discussed, or considered by the Board.

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Moir called for a moment of silence. Mrs. Whittington led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The School Board conducted the annual reorganization as follows:

Election of Chair

Dr. Stacy called for nominations for School Board chair. Mrs. Whittington made a motion that the Tazewell County School Board elect Irene Mullins as School Board Chair for 2025. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion.

Dr. Stacy asked if there were any other nominations for School Board Chair. There were no additional nominations.

Mr. Woodard moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation. The Board unanimously approved.

Election of Vice-Chair

Chair Mullins called for nominations for School Board Vice-Chair.

Mrs. Whittington made a motion that the Tazewell County School Board elect Mr. Robinson as School Board Vice-Chair for 2025. Mr. Woodard seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Appointment of Clerk and Deputy Clerk

Mr. Woodard made a motion that the Tazewell County School Board appoint Vicki Bailey as School Board Clerk and Kayla Myers as Deputy Clerk for 2025. Mrs. Whittington seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Designation of Time and Place of Meetings

Mrs. Moir made a motion that the Tazewell County School Board designate the Student Center of the Tazewell County Career and Technical Center as the location for regular School Board meetings to be held the second Monday of each month in 2025, with closed session beginning at 5:00 p.m. and regular session beginning at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Whittington seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Designation of Individual to Attend Board Meeting in Absence of Superintendent

Mr. Woodard made a motion that the Tazewell County School Board designate the Deputy Superintendent to attend School Board meetings in the absence of the Superintendent for 2025. Vice-Chair Robinson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Designation of Fiscal Agent

Vice-Chair Robinson made a motion that the Tazewell County School Board designate the Division Superintendent as the Fiscal Agent to examine and approve all just claims and to authorize the payment thereof for 2025. Mrs. Whittington seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

School Board Appointment for A. Linwood Holton Governor's School

Mrs. Moir made a motion that the Tazewell County School Board appoint Donna Whittington to be the Board representative for A. Linwood Holton Governor's School for 2025. Mr. Woodard seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

VSBA Code of Conduct for School Board Members (SEE ATTACHED)

Mr. Woodard made a motion that the Tazewell County School Board adopt the Code of Conduct for School Board members for 2025. Vice-Chair Robinson seconded the motion and the Board approved as follows:

Woodard – Aye; Vice-Chair Robinson – Aye; Chair Mullins – Aye; Mrs. Whittington – Aye; Mrs. Moir - Aye

VSBA Code of Conduct for School Board Clerk (SEE ATTACHED)

Chair Mullins stated Mrs. Bailey had signed the VSBA Code of Conduct for School Board Clerks. The Code of Conduct for Clerks is posted online with the January agenda.

Designation of Depository of Textbooks

Mrs. Whittington made a motion that the Tazewell County School Board designate the Tazewell County Career and Technical Center as the depository of textbooks for 2025. Vice-Chair Robinson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Whittington made a motion to approve items A, B, and C of the consent agenda. Vice-Chair Robinson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Approval of Student Disciplinary Committee Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Whittington made a motion that the Tazewell County School Board approve the minutes from the December 9, 2024 Student Disciplinary Committee meeting. Vice-Chair Robinson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Recognitions and Instructional Focus

A. Graham High School Recognition, Joanne Young, Principal, Graham High School

- Sophia Robinson – United States Senate Page
- Graham High School Football Team

Mrs. Young shared that Sophia Robinson was chosen to serve as a United States Senate Page during the upcoming session in Washington D.C. The US Senate Page Program introduces students to many interesting and challenging experiences and allows students to experience a myriad of new ideas and perspectives, as well as develop skills in communication and compromise. Senate Pages learn the value of public service, while meeting some of our nations most prominent leaders and witnessing first hand political debates of the United States Senate.

The Graham High School Football Team recognition was moved to the February meeting.

B. Richlands High School Recognitions, Rickie Vencill, Principal, Richlands High School

- Alayna Hankins, Richlands High School Student – All-District Choir
- Samuel E. Horn, Richlands High School Student – Air Force Flight School Scholarship
- Christina Musick – Richlands High School Teacher – WVVA Hometown Hero

The Richlands High School recognitions were moved to the February meeting.

C. Tazewell County Career and Technical Center Recognitions, *Tyler Brooks, Jobs for Virginia Graduates Specialist, TCCTC*

- Washington Trip – Miranda Brewster and Hope Looney

Mr. Brooks told Board members that Miranda Brewster and Hope Looney were voted in by their peers as the president and vice-president of the TCCTC JVG Career Association. Both students applied to be state officers for Virginia, and they were two of only nine students in the entire state to be accepted as delegates for the JVG State Team. These students were invited to attend a Jobs for American Graduates National Student Leadership Academy in Washington, D.C. where they met and networked with other students from all around the nation. Hope and Miranda also had a private meeting with Congressman Morgan Griffith to discuss the unemployment rate in Southwest Virginia and how they believed this problem could be mitigated by encouraging people to work with the JVG program.

- JVG State Competition – Miranda Brewster, Kydalynn Brown, Wes Dudley, Jayla Farmer, Hope Looney, Abbigail Wiley-Toler

Mr. Brooks shared that Miranda Brewster, Kydalynn Brown, Wes Dudley and Jayla Farmer would be competing in the JVG Ignite Competition. These students made it through district competition and would be competing as a team of four in February at the state competition at Radford University to show off their concept of a brand new product that they created called the Trek Torch (a concept for a new walking stick like attachment to be used for hiking, camping, hunting and other various outdoor activities).

Mr. Brooks said Hope Looney would be competing in the Prepared Speech Competition, where she would be giving a speech on how JVG has impacted her and prepared her for the future.

Abbigail Wiley-Toler would be competing in the Career Preparation Competition, where she would give a PowerPoint presentation on her chosen career of obstetrics.

If the students win at the state competition in Radford, they will be invited to compete at the national competition in Indiana later in the Spring. Mr. Brooks told Board members he was proud of each student, and added students like these make coming to work a joy.

D. Virginia School Principals Appreciation Week, January 12-18, 2025 *Deidra Hill, Deputy Superintendent*

Ms. Hill stated Virginia School Principals Week was a time to honor the dedication of school principals. Principals are more than leaders; they are the heart of the schools. Principals work in partnership with teachers, staff, students and families to foster a productive learning environment and to guide students toward their dreams and possibilities. Ms. Hill shared that the certificate of recognition for Virginia School Principals Appreciation Week from Governor Youngkin had been posted on the website with the agenda.

E. National School Counseling Week, February 3 – 7, 2025, *Deidra Hill, Deputy Superintendent*

Mrs. Hill shared that National School Counseling Week was always observed the first full week of February. This week takes place every year to bring to the public's notice the priceless contribution of school counselors. National School Counseling Week highlights the significant impact school counselors have in aiding students during their school years, such as assisting with college and scholarship applications, and also their careers.

Hearing of Citizens

None

Hearing of Employees

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

A. Approval of the Appalachian Volleyball Officials Association Agreement, *James McGee, Director of Secondary Education (SEE ATTACHED)*

Mr. McGee asked Board members for approval of the Appalachian Volleyball Officials Association Agreement for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027. He advised the agreement remained the same except for a \$20 increase in fees for the two-man crew that would officiate games.

Mr. Woodard made a motion that the Tazewell County School Board approve the Appalachian Volleyball Officials Association Agreement for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027. Vice-Chair Robinson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Update, *Dr. Chris Stacy, Division Superintendent*

Dr. Stacy shared various school updates, some of which included:

- This school year seemed to have the longest Christmas break in history. He told Board members there were still roads covered with snow and ice. Dr. Stacy advised he had been working with VDOT employees to clear some of the roads that were still covered.
- Budget season was just around the corner.

Dr. Stacy expressed thanks to Mrs. Moir and Mrs. Whittington for serving as chair and vice-chair during 2024. He congratulated Chair Mullins and Vice-Chair Robinson on being selected to serve during 2025.

Board Member Comments

Mrs. Moir congratulated Chair Mullins and Vice-Chair Robinson and said she looked forward to their leadership. Mrs. Moir congratulated Sophia Robinson on being selected as a United States Senate Page, and said she looked forward to hearing about her time in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Moir wished all of the TCCTC students the best of luck at the next level of competition. Mrs. Moir said the school division was blessed with incredible principals and assistant principals, and that the success of the schools was a direct reflection of their leadership. She expressed appreciation for the school counselors and the wonderful job they do. Mrs. Moir said she appreciated the time and energy Dr. Stacy put into the decisions regarding school schedule during inclement weather, and said he had 100% support from her on those decisions.

Mrs. Whittington thanked Mrs. Moir for her excellent services as chair of the School Board. She congratulated Chair Mullins and Vice-Chair Robinson, and said she looked forward to working with them. Mrs. Whittington acknowledged principals and assistant principals have a tough job, and she thanked them for everything they do for the students. She expressed appreciation to school counselors for doing an excellent job. Mrs. Whittington congratulated Sophia Robinson and said she looked forward to hearing great things from her. She applauded the TCCTC students, and said she was excited to hear about the state competition.

Mr. Woodard agreed with the comments of fellow Board members. He congratulated Chair Mullins and Vice-Chair Robinson and thanked them for being willing to serve. Mr. Woodard thanked Mrs. Moir and Mrs. Whittington for the outstanding job leading the Board in 2024.

Vice-Chair Robinson thanked Mrs. Moir and Mrs. Whittington for their great job in leadership this past year. He wished the best of luck to the TCCTC students in the upcoming state competition. Vice-Chair Robinson thanked principals, assistant principals, and counselors and said the school division was very lucky to have them. He stated he was very proud of Sophia for being one of 30 students in the country to be chosen for the United States Senate Page Program.

Chair Mullins agreed with the comments of fellow Board members. She congratulated all of the students recognized during the meeting. Chair Mullins thanked the principals and assistant principals for all they do for students. She expressed appreciation to all of the directors, supervisors and managers of Central Office for doing a great job. Chair Mullins said she appreciated Dr. Stacy and all the decisions he had to make each day. She thanked Mrs. Moir and Mrs. Whittington for their leadership during 2024.

Mr. Woodard made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Vice-Chair Robinson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

B. Irene Mullins, School Board Chair

Date

Vicki Bailey, School Board Clerk

Date

Approved by the School Board: February 10, 2025

The official signed minutes are filed with the Clerk at the Tazewell County School Board Office, 506 Jeffersonville Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

VSBA Code of Conduct for School Board Members

As a member of my local school board, I will strive to be an advocate for students and to improve public education and to that end:

1. I will have integrity in all matters and support the full development of all children and the welfare of the community, Commonwealth and Nation.
2. I will attend scheduled board meetings.
3. I will come to board meetings informed concerning the issues under consideration.
4. I will make policy decisions based on the available facts and appropriate public input.
5. I will delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent, and establish a process for accountability of administrators.
6. I will encourage individual board member expression of opinion and establish an open, two-way communication process with all segments of the community.
7. I will communicate, in accordance with board policies, public reaction and opinion regarding board policies and school programs to the full board and superintendent.
8. I will bring about desired changes through legal and ethical procedures, upholding and enforcing all laws, state regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools.
9. I will refrain from using the board position for personal or partisan gain and avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety.
10. I will respect the confidentiality of privileged information and make no individual decisions or commitments that might compromise the board or administration.
11. I will be informed about current educational issues through individual study and participation in appropriate programs, such as those sponsored by my state and national school boards associations.
12. I will always remember that the foremost concern of the board is to improve and enhance the teaching and learning experience for all students in the public schools of Virginia.

Therefore, I will always strive to demonstrate appropriate behavior/conduct as a public school board member.

Chris Moir
Chris Moir
B. Irene Mullins
Irene Mullins
ER
Erik Robinson

Donna Whittington
Donna Whittington
DW
David Woodard

TAZEWELL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
JANUARY 13, 2025



VSBA CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCHOOL BOARD CLERK

As clerk of my local school board, I will strive to be an advocate for students and improve public education and to that end:

1. I will have integrity in all matters and support the full development of all children and the welfare of the community, Commonwealth and Nation.
2. I will keep correct and proper record of all the proceedings of the board, and shall prepare such reports and keep such account as are required by the code of Virginia.
3. I will notify the Virginia School Boards Association of the names of newly-elected or appointed school board members in a timely manner.
4. I will come to board meetings informed concerning the issues under consideration.
5. I will communicate, in accordance with board policies, public reaction and opinion regarding board policies and school programs to the school board and superintendent.
6. I will refrain from using the clerk position for personal or partisan gain and avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety.
7. I will respect the confidentiality of privileged information and make no individual decisions or commitments that might compromise the school division.
8. I will be informed about current educational issues through individual study and participation in appropriate programs, such as those sponsored by my state school boards associations.
9. I will always remember that the foremost concern of the school division is to improve and enhance the teaching and learning experience for all students in the public schools of Virginia.

Therefore, I will always strive to demonstrate appropriate behavior/conduct as a school board clerk.

Board Clerk: Vicki A. Bailey

Board Chair: B. Irene Mullins

Superintendent: Chris A. St

CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR OFFICIATING SERVICES

This contract for officiating services is between the Appalachian Volleyball Officials Association (AVOA) and TAZEWELL County Public Schools. Based upon the mutual contract, contained herein, the Parties have agreed to the following:

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. The AVOA has a history of providing officials to schools in Southwest Virginia and has a unique role and responsibility regarding the conduct of high school volleyball contests.
2. The schools desire to secure officiating services for Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Middle school volleyball matches and has a unique role and responsibility regarding the conduct of high school athletic contests.
3. The Parties wish to memorialize their agreement based upon the following terms and conditions.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The AVOA represents that it will provide officials to the school for the sport of Volleyball for a term of two(2) years starting July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2027. In the absence of a renewal agreement, there will be an option of extending this contract for one year or until a new agreement is reached.
2. The Parties may modify any part of this agreement, mutually agreed upon in writing, and any agreement reached shall be deemed to be supplemental to this contract.
3. All officials provided by the AVOA shall be knowledgeable of Volleyball rules along with the regulations of the VHSL. They shall be capable of providing impartial officiating. Officials must be registered with the VHSL and AVOA. They must meet all criteria set by the VHSL (testing, clinic and training). They must be a member in good standing of the AVOA as defined in the AVOA constitution.

4. The AVOA will work with Principal and/or Athletic Director to provide the highest quality of officiating for the student athletes. Prior to the start of the season, each school may request to have one(1) eliminated from officiating any of their contests, home and away. To block an official, the Principal shall, on school letterhead, send a letter to the Commissioner specifically naming the official and the year of the request. During the season to block an official, the Principal must send, on school letterhead, a letter to the Commissioner naming the official, the effective date, and reasons for the block. Any block of an official is for one season.

5. It is recognized that the capabilities of any official is greatly affected by the training provided to that official which should include an ongoing evaluation of their performance. The AVOA commits to implement training programs and camps for its officials and to monitor and evaluate and officials and use best efforts to provide the highest quality officiating to the schools. It is understood that sub varsity contests may be used as training for new and/or less qualified officials.

6. Individual school responsibilities shall include the following:

- a. The names, email addresses, phone numbers for contact information of the Principal, Athletic Director and/ or coach for the Commissioner.
- b. Provide schedules to include date, time and location of contests.
- c. If possible provide schedule changes in writing(email). When rescheduling make a reasonable effort to confirm availability of officials with the Commissioner.
- d. Provide a game administration representative to communicate with the officials upon arrival at the school and be available throughout the contest. A security plan should be in place to maintain a safe environment before, during, and after the contest.
- e. Comply with the sportsmanship rule(VHSL Handbook 27-1 1-14).

7. Commissioner/AVOA Board responsibilities shall include the following:

- a. Maintain and provide schools, upon request, the names and contact information of all registered officials with their level of certification. This information may be provided using assigning software(currently Arbiter).

- b. Upon request provide a copy of the AVOA constitution.
- c. Maintain the status of a VHSL association in good standing.
- d. Comply with the VHSL Officials Association Guide.

8. The Commissioner shall provide the schools the following information:

- a. Contact information of the Commissioner
- b. Requested date of volleyball schedules
- c. Fee schedule of contests to include varsity and sub varsity.

9. The Commissioner shall be paid an assignment fee. This fee includes a \$10 fee to Arbiter for the use of their software. The fees are: 1. Varsity-\$60 2, JV- \$60 3, Middle School-\$60. For all 3 it is \$180, for 2-\$120. The Principal and or Athletic Director will be allowed to view game information and officials assigned to games prior to the date of the game.

10. Officials payment shall be rendered consistent with the practices of the individual schools. If a school needs to cancel a contest the school should contact the Commissioner as soon as possible. The school may also contact the game officials by phone, text, or email. If an official arrives at a location without an attempted notification from the school, that official shall be entitled to half the game fee.

11. The AVOA is an independent contractor and is not and shall not be deemed to be an employee, agent or servant of the School Board. The School Board shall not provide any benefits to the AVOA or official acting pursuant to the agreement, including, but not limited to, workers compensation, insurance or unemployment insurance. The School Board shall not withhold any taxes for payments to individual officials or the AVOA. It is explicitly agreed that the AVOA and the officials shall be solely responsible for properly accounting for said payments with any and all taxing authorities. The AVOA agrees to comply with any federal, state or local laws, rules and regulations.

12. It is understood and agreed that this contract is subject to the availability of funds. It is further understood that the School Board, school and/or the AVOA have the absolute right to terminate the contract in part or as a whole, without cause, if

in its sole discretion, that partial or full termination is in its best interest. Prior to any termination either party must provide a thirty(30) day written notice of intention to terminate and all terms and conditions are to remain intact for the thirty days.

13. The AVOA will not discriminate against any individual because of race, religion, sex, color national origin, age, disability or any other reason prohibited by law relating to employment discrimination.

14. The parties recognize the need for good faith and open communication throughout the term of this contract. If a matter that is not covered in this contract should arise, an attempt by the Commissioner, Principal, and/or Athletic Director shall be made to reach a mutually agreeable resolution. In the absence of an agreement, the matter will be referred to the Division Superintendent. If no resolution can be reached between the Parties, The Superintendent may make a decision in accordance with the VHSL Handbook and Policy Manual.

15. This contract is made for the benefit of the Parties involved only. There is no intended third party beneficiary as to the provisions of this contract. Only registered AVOA officials with Level 1,2, or 3 status as defined by the VHSL are eligible to officiate contests. School representatives do not have the authority to solicit officials directly to officiate contests. All assignments must be made by and through the AVOA Commissioner.

16. All notices and fees required by this contract shall be provided to the AVOA Commissioner.

17. Nothing in this contract shall interfere with the independent judgement and discretion of officials assigned to a contest.

18. If during the term of this contract any provision is found to be invalid by either party, all other provisions shall remain in effect. The parties shall use Article 15 to resolve this issue.

WITNESS THE FOLLOWING SIGNATURES

Tazewell County

School Division



Superintendent

12-3-24

Date

Danny Rasnake

Chairman of the AVOA

12-3-24

Date

Please return by January 15, 2025 to the following address.

Danny Rasnake

57 Mountain View Road

Rosedale, Va. 24280

You may also email to dlrasnake@hotmail.com

If you have any questions you may email me at the address above or call 276-880-1473 or Frank Hess at frankhess@jetbroadband.com or 276-880-1168