



BOARD OF VISITORS

THE VIRGINIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

P.O. BOX 2069

STAUNTON, VA 24402-2069

**Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Board Chairman**

June 8, 2016

Minutes of Meeting

Call to Order: Senator Hanger called the meeting to order at 10:39 am.

Roll Call of Members: Members present: Senator Emmett Hanger, Senator Barbara Favola, Delegate Dickie Bell, Delegate Tony Wilt, Mike Asip, Alice Frick, John Pleasants, and Virgil Cook

Members absent: Judy Sorrel, Paula Johnson, and Ann Latham-Anderson

Advisors to BOV Present: Wendell Roberts, AAG; Mona Siddiqui, AAG; Pat Trice, Superintendent

Absent: Wanda Council, VDOE

The roll call of members was conducted by introductions. Senator Hanger declared a quorum.

Reading and approval of April 6, 2016 meeting minutes: John Pleasants moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept the minutes as distributed. The motion passed.

Reports

Superintendent's Report: Pat Trice, Superintendent Trice reported that VSDB wrapped up another successful school year and expressed gratitude for all the wonderful support the school has received from the Board, the Foundation Board, VDOE, and Secretary Holton's office as well as other government departments. VSDB has hosted several VIP visits this year including Governor McAuliffe, the First Lady of Virginia, Secretary Holton, and most recently Michael Maul and Amy Mitchell from the Department of Planning and Budget. Wanda Council and a team from DOE will be on campus next week to discuss programming and assessment of the more challenging population that VSDB serves. Superintendent Trice is currently in contact with Secretary Holton about presenting updates to upper government levels related to the new vision of VSDB, hoping to change past perceptions and gaining support to move VSDB forward. In addition, the VSDB Foundation has provided crucial support by funding essential items for VSDB that are beyond its budget. It has funded curtains for both the Chapel and the Student Center which will help with both acoustics and lighting. Superintendent Trice also noted that, because

of the purchase of two high powered projectors that can be used in these same areas, VSDB will now have two functional areas for trainings, presentations, and workshops. The Foundation will hold a fundraiser in August, and members of the Board of Visitors are invited. The Independent Living Skills Apartments are also moving forward with considerable help from the Foundation. Working through the Foundation, Amy Thornton and Susie Miller have played large roles in fundraising and obtaining grants.

Work continues on the VSDB "Welcome Video". It should be in place by the fall meeting.

Regarding progress with on-line classes for students, VSDB is working with York County which has a very accessible online education program. VSDB will implement the on-line courses in the fall. To ensure full access for the students, a representative from York County visited VSDB.

There has been progress in the leasing of unused space on campus. Steve O'Keefe and his video editing business are ready to move into Strader Hall. Mr. O'Keefe currently has a former VSDB graduate from the blind department working with him. Students at VSDB will now have an opportunity for on-site work experience. Mr. O'Keefe also produces a radio program for the blind.

An outside educational program is also considering renting a sizeable portion of the 1st floor of Strader Hall this summer, with possible expansion to the 2nd floor the following year. This program will be a good partner for VSDB's moving forward. Because the Board has the ultimate responsibility for VSDB, Senator Hanger suggested that the Board delegate authority to the Superintendent to supervise these types of rental activities and to report to the Board as soon as discussions begin. Board members, being in agreement, decided to take such action at the next meeting, perhaps in Executive Session.

Budget and Grants: Janice Rankin, Director of Operations, noted that VSDB is 5% under budget as of the end of May.

Two packets were presented for the *No Child Left Behind Initiative*. The first was the Title I Grant Application. Janice noted that while there are no literacy coaches in the grant this year, one former employee is coming back as a contracted employee to work with the Fairview Reading Program that is used within the Deaf department. The total grant is \$93,951.51, the same amount as last year. John Pleasants moved approval of the Title I grant application. The motion passed.

The Title II Grant application was presented with no changes from the previous year. The total is 18,158.05. This money is used for teacher certification, conferences, training material, and training for paraprofessionals. John Pleasants moved approval of the Title II application. The motion passed.

The tentative budget for fiscal year 2017 is \$11.9 million. Except for the increase in salaries there are no other changes, with the exception of the \$102,000 contingency fund, which is in place for the first time. The General Assembly funded the salary expense incurred as a result of the calendar change. VSDB has repurposed positions for next year in order not to impact the budget. Funding from the Foundation has also helped. Dr. Pfeiffer's position is funded through DOE. A question arose about the hiring of a marketing/social media position. Superintendent Trice noted that, while a marketing position is very important, the position most needed at this time is an Assistant Principal. We hope that the Foundation will help with a social media position.

Board member Mike Asip proposed that for next year's budget presentation the board be provided line item amounts for the current year vs the proposed budget amounts.

Senator Barbara Favola moved that the proposed budget be accepted. The motion passed.

Ms. Rankin informed the Board that the APA is coming in September to discuss their audit. The Board will address this in September when the APA is here for their audit presentation.

Human Resources: Nathan McLamb, Human Resource Director, discussed the impact of the 3% increase in pay on VSDB. He gave a PowerPoint presentation that included the comparison of our teacher salaries vs those in Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County. VSDB is asking the Board to approve this scale contingent upon receiving this 3% increase effective Nov. 10th. If the 3% increase is not approved, salaries will remain at the current amount. Senator Favola moved that the Board adopt the proposed pay scale with the afore-mentioned contingency. The motion passed.

Mr. McLamb then presented Option 2. VSDB would like to propose a scale to adjust salaries to be comparable with those of the local school divisions. The goal would be to adopt the average of the three local school divisions – this is Option 2. He then explained how much it would cost VSDB if Option 2 were to be adopted. The plan proposed would give this increase beginning July 25 when the teachers return, then add the 3% state raise in November. This plan would be contingent upon VSDB identifying the \$32,349 needed in the budget. Senator Favola moved to adopt and move forward with Option 2, providing VSDB finds sufficient funds. The motion passed with the contingency of availability of funds.

School Report: Keith Van Fossen, Principal, reported that VSDB has had another very successful year. Two proms were held, one for the Blind Department and one for the Deaf Department. Five students graduated, with all being academically successful. Both Alumni Associations provided scholarships for the graduates. He also noted that Debbie Oldman-Brown, a middle school teacher, was awarded the VFW Citizenship Education Award.

Recapping the year, Mr. Van Fossen reported that VSDB has completed the SOL testing with 125 new tests and 67 retakes, for a total of 192 tests.

VSDB had 23 students to enroll this past year, with 13 students leaving during the year. Some students moved; some left for health reasons, and some students exhibited needs beyond what VSDB was able to meet. For the 2016-2017 school year, five students have already been accepted and four more are waiting for evaluations or acceptance. Additional applications for enrollment are expected in August and September.

The VSDB Yearbook was presented for the Board to preview. The theme this year was "One". This theme was emphasized on the cover with a picture combining the two existing mascots (the Chief and the Cardinal).

Mr. Van Fossen asserted that VSDB is moving forward, not standing still. Collaborative efforts continue over the summer with the Community Services Board's Camp Excel being held on the campus. VSDB is also hosting the module training for VCU's Deaf Blind Project.

Residential Report: Becky Watson, Director of Student Life, reported that the residential program had a great year. The school year ended with 55 students in the residential program. Some students worked in the community after school, with one working in a cosmetology program. VSDB wants to continue the after-school work program. More focus can be given to the Independent Living Apartments (ILA) now that school is out. VSDB plans to open the apartments in January of 2017. The sports programs were successful this year, particularly with the VSDB Goalball Team winning the championship. VSDB will host the tournament in March of 2017. Guest, JH Cline, reported that two VSDB students are going to Goalball Para-Olympics Camp this summer. This camp is attended by students throughout the country. The Blind Alumni are sponsoring both of the students.

Continuing Business

Policy Updates: Nate McLamb presented the policies which were given to Board members at The April 16, 2016 meeting:

- SH01 – Student Health Services Overview*
- SH02 – Student Health Services Staff*
- SH03 – Universal Precautions Training*
- SH04 – Universal Precaution Reporting*
- SH05 – Physical and Dental Exam Requirements*
- SH06 – Providing Medical and Dental Services*
- SH07 – Providing Emergency Services*
- SH08 – Communicable Disease*
- SH09 – Student Health Screenings*
- SH10 – Student Allergies*

SH11 – Medications

SH12 – Student Sexual Health

SH13 – Substance Abuse

Individual policies were discussed with the following revisions being requested:

SH04 – Questions arose about training, payment for testing where testing is provided, who and how transportation is provided. Board members felt that this policy should be better articulated. Nate McLamb will send out additional information.

SH09 – A question addressed the conducting of health screenings, to whom the reports are distributed, where they are filed and also that the policy should state that they are “kept in the student’s file and are protected by HIPAA standards.... “. This should, and will be, noted in this policy.

Senator Favola moved approval of policies SH01-SH013 with the suggested amendments. The motion passed.

Nate McLamb then expressed a need to discuss S001 –Admission Policy – previously adopted. VSDB is requesting two revisions to this policy. VSDB would like to remove the 35 mile radius restriction, thus allowing students to be considered for residential placement without regard to the distance they live from school. Many local students could also benefit from the 24/7 programming, and this change would remove another barrier to services. The 2nd change being requested is the removal of the word “primary” as related to the student’s sensory impairment. It is not in the code that it has to be their “primary”, only that they have a sensory disability. If students have a visual or hearing impairment, they are eligible to enroll in VSDB even if it is not their primary disability. Delegate Bell moved approval of both revisions. The motion passed.

The following policies were given to all Board members for their review and are to be voted on at the September meeting:

G014.2	Visitors on Campus
G019.1	Fire Safety Guidelines
Go19.2	Safety & Health Program
G019.3	Crisis Management Plan
HR008	Educational Assistance and Leave Policy
OPO18	Parking & Traffic Policy
OPO34	Concussion Policy
S017	Appointment of Surrogate Parents

New Business

Three people were presented to the Board for approval to serve on the VSDB Foundation Board. The following people were presented:

Warren McKeen
Race Drake, Jr.
Beth Young

Mike Asip moved approval of all three people. The motion passed.

The last item presented to the Board was the reading by Senator Hanger of the proposed formal resolution of Recognition of the Board of VSDB Superintendent, Pat Trice. Delegate Wilt moved adoption of the resolution. The motion passed. [A copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes.]

Public Comment

None

Adjournment: Senator Hanger announced the meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 21, 10:30 am.

Virgil A. Cook, Board Secretary



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Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
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**IN RECOGNITION, AND PROFOUND APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT
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DULY PASSED ON JUNE 8, 2016**

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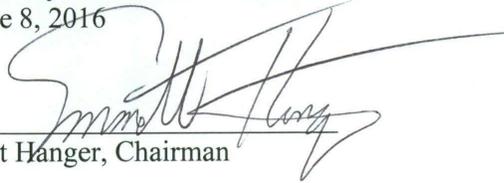
WHEREAS, Pat Trice, has always been mindful of the needs of the deaf, blind and multi-disabled children of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and of the students at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind,

WHEREAS, Pat Trice has provided outstanding leadership and guidance to the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Visitors for the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, acknowledges and extends its full support to Pat Trice for her excellent leadership and her efforts in transitioning the school and with the increased collaboration with the residential program and with local school divisions.

Adopted by the Board of Visitors

On June 8, 2016



Emmett Hanger, Chairman



Virgil Cook, Secretary

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