

January 18, 2018

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Regular Session on Thursday, January 18, 2018, at the Board of Education Building, Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Board President Jim J. Crawford at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Jim J. Crawford, President
Ryan White, President Pro Tem
Ric Cavender
Becky J. Jordon
Ronald E. Duerring, Secretary

Debra J. Lewis, Recording Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Tom Williams, Deputy Superintendent
Bob Calhoun, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary
Melissa Ruddle, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction
James W. Withrow, General Counsel
Carol Hamric, Executive Director, Human Resources
Terry Hollandsworth, Executive Director, Maintenance & Energy Management
Paula Potter, Assistant Superintendent, Middle & Alternative Schools
Briana Warner, Communications Director
Valery Harper, Executive Director, Virtual School
Lisa Wilcox, Treasurer, Budget & Finance
Leah Sparks, Executive Director, Technology
Kate Porter, Asst. Superintendent, Special Education & Student Support Services
Diane Miller, Executive Director, Office of Child Nutrition
Brette Fraley, Executive Director, Transportation
Carol Lane, Director, Pre K
Elaine Gayton, Director, Staff Development/ESL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Jim J. Crawford.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. December 4, 2017 - Special Session
- B. December 14, 2017 - Regular Session
- C. December 20, 2017 - Special Session

There being no corrections, deletions or amendments, the minutes stand approved as submitted.

REPORTS

- A. Kanawha County Travel Reimbursement for December, 2017 (Enclosure 68)
- B. Monthly Financial Report (Enclosure 69)
- C. Child Nutrition

Diane Miller-This is just a brief follow-up for the concerns at Capital that were raised last month. Since the last meeting we have conducted unannounced visits at the school. We did these at various times throughout the day so they had no idea when we were coming. The survey percentages at Capital High School are consistent with last year. Breakfast is at 50% and lunch is up to 62% which is a good increase. The salad bars were full and refreshed. They were full of local produce. There were no vendor substitutions from US Foods and there were two menu changes due to staff illness at the site. The principals are making regular rounds during the two lunch periods. A new salad bar was incorporated into the pizza and the fast and fresh line so we can increase the opportunity for the vegetable consumption. We've included some spice racks at the salad bar so the students can have the opportunity to flavor and spice their own foods the way they have chosen to do so. The seasonal cycle of menus were on the 2nd cycle which includes all of the

REPORTS (continued)

students' favorites. They have also taken some suggestions to place on the new cycle. In your packet there are random pictures from four high schools including pictures from the beginning of the salad bar to the end. They are being restocked each and every day.

Mr. White-Is it safe to say that the majority of the students are satisfied with the food at Capital High School? Diane Miller-They are. They didn't like the 4-week cycle so we are going to move it to a 6-week cycle so they feel like they have the opportunity to have more of their favorites and to add new and different products.

Mr. Crawford-I would like to thank you and the staff for the work you did on this. This report is very thorough. I can see nothing wrong with the pictures of the food that is presented to the kids at Capital High School. It is well-balanced. I appreciate you doing that.

D. School Start Times

Brette Fraley-We were asked to take the high school schedule to 8:30 a.m. and through a variety of dialogues with principals, our own staff and our drivers we came up with the formula we thought would work. Most of the elementary schools will start at 7:30. There is some variation on that based on the buses. Our middle schools will start at 8:00 and our high schools will start at 8:30. I think it will be beneficial in the morning for breakfast, especially for the elementary schools and that will work to the advantage of staff not having to wait for buses as long.

Dr. Duerring-In building that schedule there was a lot of research looked at with the advantages of that starting time for high school and middle school kids. We also built in, under Senate Bill 2711, an additional thirty minutes of instructional minutes for the day. We were allowed to do three things with that 30 minutes. You can use those minutes for five snow days plus our five OSE Days. You can use that time for 5 full-day Staff Development days but we are not entertaining that right now and you can use 5 days for Reimagining Time. We are only interested in using the one for snow days right now. That was easy to build in on the regular start times.

REPORTS (continued)

Mrs. Jordon-What time will the high schools be over with? Brette Fraley-They vary. It will be from 3:30-3:57.

Dr. Duerring-When you take a look at our elementary schools, we have 27 that start between 7:05-7:55 so there won't be very much variation for them. We have 16 that start at 8:00 so it's pretty much in line where they have already been.

Mr. White-Will the middle schools be at the same time? Brette Fraley-They will begin at 8:00, so they will be starting earlier. Mr. White-I think it makes sense that the high schools would start later. Hoover started later and their test scores improved.

Mr. Crawford-I know that this is a change from what we are used to in this county. I would like for you to monitor this pretty closely and give us a report at mid-year and let the Board know how this is working out. Dr. Duerring-When you do a change like this you have to constantly evaluate the situation, to see if it is working or do we need to tweak it a little bit. Mr. Fraley is an incredible Transportation Director and he works with everybody in the school system. He and his staff have worked almost a year on this. They did an incredible amount of work and I want to say kudos to Mr. Fraley and the people in his department.

E. Legal Report

None

F. Board Reports

Mr. White-The School Board Association will be having their next meeting on February 16th and they are monitoring the legislation that is going through the legislature right now.

PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Agenda for January 18, 2018 (Enclosure 70)

Mr. Ryan White moved: The Board approve the Revised Personnel Agenda as included in Enclosure 70. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon and carried 4-0.

DELEGATIONS

Brenda Arthur-I am a South Charleston resident I am the chapter leader for an organization called ACT for America. We have 750,000 members nationally and about 1,000 chapters. Why I am here today has to do with the separation of church and state. There was an invitation that was passed out on school time and on school property. Our organization monitors things like this across the country. Our organization stands for fighting for liberty, American values and also fighting against terrorism. I was told Dr. Duerring approved it so I ended up calling him. At first he said he didn't approve it and he would look into it but then he called me back and said I did approve it and that Jim Withrow said there was no problem with separation of church and state. If you read that invitation it very clearly says "come and learn about your Muslim students' culture and religion." If this had been mailed to the teachers home I wouldn't be here tonight but this was passed out on school time and on school property. We don't think Muslim students should be treated differently than any of our other students. There should be no special concessions made. What usually happens is that there will be a complaint of bullying so the mosque held an anti-bullying workshop back in November. Then from there they will want to make a complaint and then they will want to have a separate prayer room set aside in our public school buildings, and it goes from there. I have given you a chart that the FBI created. It was used in the Holy Land Foundation Trial in 2008 in Texas. This document that you have is the explanatory memorandum of the Muslim Brotherhood. It is the plan that they have to destroy the United States. There is a list of 29 organizations that came from their own document and MSA (Muslim Student Association) is one of their 29 front groups. You have one of those at GW High School and that is confirmed.

DELEGATIONS (continued)

Dinah Adkins-I notice that you have the drafts for the calendar for next year and I know that most of our members typically support a little bit later start than we have had at times. My concern, once again, is whether the HVAC is working when school starts. I hope you will put an effort into checking every school and monitoring that very closely so we don't have these high temperatures and high humidity in classrooms when school starts next year or even in the spring. My other purpose in being here tonight is to invite you to a premier screening of the movie Backpack Full of Cash. This can give you some information on charter schools. The showing will be on February 1st at the LaBelle Theater. Your tickets are free. We are asking educators and legislators to get some additional information about charter schools. We feel like we can't support charter schools because we feel like they drain funds from public education. I hope that you will try to come.

Shane Hudnall-You may remember I was here last year and spoke about the calendar and it kind of spawned the infamous online survey although the Board chose to start on August 14th. Today I took it upon myself to tabulate some data. I went to social media and have had 500 responses in just a few hours. Only 10 of the 500 wanted the 13th of August as the start date. I also spoke with a mother who homeschools her son and she said that the early start date was a major contributor in why she homeschools him. She said if that start date was later she would consider bringing him back to public school. Typically the only argument that I hear is that we want the finals before Christmas break. Every student that I spoke with said it didn't matter to them. They would rather start later in the summer. I, along with 1,000s of parents, teachers and students, are recommending the Board choose the later date of August 20th.

Fred Albert-I have three things that I want to speak to you about. One is PEIA. I know it's out of your hands as far as controlling it, but it's very troublesome. If you listened to the Governor's State of the State address the other night he wants to provide a 1% pay raise to teachers and public employees. That's not what we want, we want PEIA fixed. PEIA is eroding anything out of our paycheck that we are getting now. A 1% raise won't take care of the cost that are going to be incurred to the employees through PEIA. We need support. If you have voice in the matter please speak your voice. The other issue is the program through

DELEGATIONS (continued)

PEIA, Go365. I want to compliment the HR Department for sending out an email today that provides some clarification, but employees are quite confused over that program. They feel like it is invasive into their private life as far as the information they have to provide. You have to register and if you don't get 3,000 points in the first year your premium will go up by \$25 and you will be penalized with a \$500 more a month co-pay. We need help in trying to get a voice out. There is another issue that concerns the HR Department that I want to talk about. I understand that there is a Flexible Medical Account that employees can have. I'm not sure our employees are fully aware of that. I think we need more education on that. It might help some of our employees. I came before the Board at your Curriculum Meeting and talked about Mr. Thaw and how much we appreciated his dedication to our school system. I'm pleased to see Mrs. Thaw here this evening. The Kanawha Executive Board met today for our monthly meeting and we decided to offer a contribution of \$250 to the Kanawha Animal Shelter in his memory.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT

Mr. Ryan White moved: The Board approve the following CONSENT Items A-C. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon and carried 4-0.

A. Approval of Bills for December 2017 (Enclosure 71)

Approval of the payment of bills for the month of December 2017 in the amounts of \$22,432,466.07 for the Current Expense Fund and the Special Revenue Fund; \$113,395.39 for the KCS Public Library Excess Levy Fund; \$793,555.93 for the Permanent Improvement Fund; \$650,616.49 for the Public Library Fund; and \$467,478.20 for the RESA Fund as reflected in Enclosure 71.

B. Budget Supplements & Transfers (Enclosure 72)

Approval of budget supplements and transfers as reflected in Enclosure 72.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT (continued)

C. Out of State Travel Requests (Enclosure 73)

Approval of the Out of State Travel Requests as contained in Enclosure 73.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

A. 2018-2019 Head Start Grant Proposal (Enclosure 76)

Mr. Ryan White moved: The Board approve the 2018-2019 Head Start Grant Proposal as included in Enclosure 76. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon and carried 4-0.

B. Travel Series G47 Policy Revision (Enclosure 55)

Mr. Ryan White moved: The Board approve the revisions to Kanawha County Board of Education Policy Series G47 "Travel" as contained in Enclosure 55. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon and carried 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. 2018-19 School Calendar Options (Enclosure 74 & 75)

Mr. Ryan White moved: The Board approve Enclosure 75 as the calendar for the 2018-19 school year. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon.

Mrs. Becky J. Jordon-I feel like it needs to end at the semester. You need to get those finals over with. They need to be before the Christmas Break. The second thing is, on this year's calendar there are no breaks in February and all the way through the first of April before you get a break. That's a long time on our staff, students and parents. I am not for the later start. It's stressful on these kids not to have their finals over with.

PUBLIC HEARING (continued)

Dinah Adkins-Do you have any statistics that show that it's actually better for them? Mrs. Jordon-I'm a mom and I've watched my kids and if you know you still have reports to do and tests to take how do you really relax on those 2 weeks off? Dinah Adkins-I've heard some people say they would rather relax a little bit and come back and take their finals.

Fred Albert-I also did an impromptu survey on Facebook and I had many people who favored the August 20th start date. We talked about it at our Executive Board Meeting and one of the suggestions was, even though the semester on paper would finish after Christmas Break, why couldn't we work toward giving final exams before Christmas. You always have students running late at anything you do, so maybe you could have some make-up time after Christmas Break.

Shane Hudnall-When would the semester end if we started on Aug 20th? Elaine Gayton-January 18th. Shane Hudnall-That gives you 3 weeks, but what if we pushed it another week that would give them almost a month to review and get ready for finals?

Mrs. Jordon-Will either calendar affect a payroll this year? Dr. Duerring-No, there won't be a pay gap.

Mrs. Jordon-Mr. Kelley, you come from the high schools, what are you hearing? Jeff Kelley-It doesn't apply to St. Albans because we are on a trimester, but when we did I can tell you that I wanted those finals finished before Christmas. The notion that those kids would be gone for 2 weeks and then come back and be ready for finals is a stretch from where I'm setting.

Leslie Michaelson-I just wanted to share with Mrs. Jordon that I did receive a phone call from a parent and they wanted it to end at Christmas Break. There are parents who agree with you.

Sherry Gilbert-I am in favor of starting at Labor Day. My daughter plays a lot of sports and it's too difficult to study and get all the homework done on a school night. There is not enough time to relax.

The above motion carried 3-1 with Mrs. Jordon voting No.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Mr. White-Do we have a sense of how the potential government shut down might affect our school system with funds? Lisa Wilcox-That could affect some of our Federal Grant Funds. We've already done as much draw down of funds as possible. We typically draw down on the 10th of the month.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

- A. Thursday, January 18, 2018, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- B. Monday, February 5, 2018, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- C. Thursday, February 15, 2018, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- D. Monday, March 5, 2018, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- E. Thursday, March 8, 2018, 3:00 p.m. & 3:15 p.m. Budget Workshop-Statutory Session (Presentation of Schedule of Proposed Levy Rates) (Budget Workshop to Follow)
- F. Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Approval of the Schedule of Proposed Levy Rates)
- G. Thursday, March 15, 2018, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- H. Monday, April 9, 2018, 3:00 p.m.-Special Session (Budget Work Session)
- I. Monday, April 9, 2018, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- J. Tuesday, April 17, 2018, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Reconvening of March 13, 2018, Meeting to Enter all Levies)
- K. Thursday, April 19, 2018, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES (continued)

- L. Monday, April 23, 2018, 6:00 p.m.-Statutory Session (Public Hearing on Proposed Budget)

NOTE; The above meetings of the Kanawha County Board of Education, unless otherwise indicated, will be held in the Board of Education Building, 200 Elizabeth Street, Charleston, WV.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan White moved: That the Regular Session of the Board be adjourned. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon and unanimously carried. The Regular Session was declared adjourned by Board President Jim J. Crawford at 6:45 p.m.

President

Secretary

djl

1/24/2018