

January 30, 2019

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Special Session on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at the Board of Education Building, Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Board President Ryan White at 12:00 Noon.

PRESENT

Ryan White, President

Ric Cavender, President Pro Tem

Jim J. Crawford, Sr.

Becky J. Jordon

Tracy White

Ronald E. Duerring, Secretary

Debra J. Lewis, Recording Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Tom Williams, Deputy Superintendent

Kate Porter, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education & Student Support Services

Briana Warner, Communications Director

PRESENTATION

A. Resolution Concerning the Omnibus Education Bill.

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the following resolution: WHEREAS: West Virginia's entire Public Education system continues to be underfunded, leading to shortages in teachers, service personnel, nurses, librarians, psychologists, counselors, bus drivers and special education staff; and WHEREAS: County Boards of Education budgets are already severely strained due to previous cuts made to appropriations to the school aid formula; and WHEREAS: A bill has been originated by the Senate Education committee which proposes certain reforms to public education in West Virginia (the "Omnibus Bill"); WHEREAS: The legislature has a duty to provide a thorough and efficient system of free schools in the State and the Kanawha County Board of Education has been delegated such duty for Kanawha County, West Virginia; and WHEREAS: To the extent reform to West Virginia's public education system is needed, such reform should have the goal of increasing student achievement for the most disadvantaged children that do not have the resources, parental guidance and general support to succeed in our current system; and WHEREAS: The opioid problem has additionally put a strain on our educational system that has furthered the difficulty in educating our most disadvantaged children due to the increase in number and magnitude of behavioral issues in children; and WHEREAS: Public schools are at the heart of the community well-being; and WHEREAS: Reduction in State financial support will negatively impact our ability to serve the children and families of our community; and WHEREAS: Research and experience across the country have shown that implementation of certain aspects of the bill has a high likelihood of adversely affecting the education of the most disadvantaged children in our system; and WHEREAS: Certain provisions of the current proposed Omnibus Bill is detrimental to our public schools and the ability of the Kanawha County Board of Education to provide a thorough and efficient system for all students in Kanawha County; and THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Kanawha County Board of Education opposes any and all efforts to use public funds for education reform or make any changes that does not lead to higher student achievement for the most disadvantaged students; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: Taxation and policy decisions which result in reduced revenues for public education and/or have a negative impact on our students and families must be avoided. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon.

Mr. White-We have some people here that would like to talk to us regarding this resolution. Would you like to come up individually? Dinah Adkins-We will just all come together.

PRESENTATION (continued)

Dinah Adkins-WVEA, Fred Albert-AFT & Rod Stapler, WVSSPA-We come before you with a request that you support this resolution due to the actions of the legislature. We feel that we must stand up for public education and we come together as three unions asking you to be supportive of our students and make sure there is nothing detrimental done in our legislature that would move our education system backward. We need to move forward. We need smaller classrooms, support for our teachers, and we need a legislature that understands education. We are very concerned that some people have not had experience in education like our teachers and service professionals have had and we would hope that they would listen to us and boards around the state like you as we come together and ask for support for reasonable legislation.

Fred Albert-I just left the WV State Board of Education Meeting. They called a special meeting today to discuss this omnibus bill. There were many questions. I think the Governor gave us a ray of hope at the press conference he had yesterday. He said that this was not his bill. He laid out what he hoped the legislators would propose as an education bill in his State of the State Address, where he clearly said he was proposing a 5% pay raise for teachers, service personnel and all state employees. He would like to see them correct or fund PEIA. This bill has clearly been proposed by people out of our state. I met with Senator Rucker before the legislative session started and I looked her eye to eye and said you seem like a very nice person to me. I would like to set down as a 29 year veteran of education and have some conversations with you about some ideas that I think could improve education for our students in West Virginia. I've yet to receive that phone call. However, when this bill was presented on Thursday some of the senators in senate education had never seen that bill. They had several versions of that bill. There was a lady there that Senator Rucker said was an expert on charter schools from Alabama. She talked about the two charter schools in Alabama. The interesting thing to me was one of the charter schools just started in August 2018. They have finished one semester. What kind of data would they have to share, but she's the expert. Not one teacher, principal, superintendent, or person from the State Board of Education, or the West Virginia Department of Education was ever consulted. They were never asked for any input on this bill. The rapid pace of this bill is alarming and I appreciate your resolution to try and stop this bill before it does harm to generations in this state. I think this is the wrong path to take to try and make education reform in our state.

PRESENTATION (continued)

Mrs. Jordon-Is Senator Rucker a former educator? Fred Albert-She said spent two years teaching Social Studies in Maryland and I found out that she was a substitute teacher. She homeschools her five children.

Rod Stapler-You all know about the transportation issues we are having. Since October we have hired 25 new drivers and we have 6 in training right now. If they pass this and start taking funding away they will start cutting. We will lose cooks, custodians and bus drivers. How will we get these kids to school? Who is going to supply the meals and take care of the building? It's not a good thing. I appreciate what you all are doing and the support that you give us.

Dinah Adkins-We hope that other boards across the state will consider this same action. We hope that our community members will come together and take a look at how it's going to affect your property values and the appeal this area has for business. We so much thank you for coming together to support this resolution.

Mr. Crawford-I'm not in favor of this bill. It's not in the best interest of public education in West Virginia. Mrs. White-I'm not in favor of this bill, it's detrimental as a whole for special education students. When you talk about charter schools, and there are rumors of having them just for kids in special education, there is nothing more segregating than having a complete school for kids in special education. Mr. Cavender-We are not in a position as a county or a state to fund our schools appropriately. We are struggling as it is. There's no way I could support this bill with them pushing charter schools down our throats. Mr. White-We all recognize that our educational system is not perfect but when we talk about reform we should tackle problems we have. Some of these provisions in this bill I see will allow them to cherry-pick kids out of our system. The kids still in our system that don't have parents that will push them into those schools will still be in our system with less resources.

The above motion unanimously carried.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

- A. Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 12:00 Noon-Special Session
- B. Monday, February 4, 2019, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- C. Thursday, February 21, 2019, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- D. Monday, March 4, 2019, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- E. Thursday, March 7, 2019, 3:00 p.m. & 3:15 p.m. Budget Workshop-Statutory Session (Presentation of Schedule of Proposed Levy Rates) (Budget Workshop to Follow)
- F. Thursday, March 14, 2019, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Approval of the Schedule of Proposed Levy Rates)
- G. Thursday, March 21, 2019, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session

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. Ric Cavender moved: That the Special Session of the Board be adjourned. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon and unanimously carried. The Special Session was declared adjourned by Board President Ryan White at 12:18 p.m.

President

Secretary

djl

2/1/2019