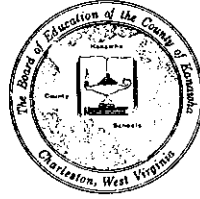


## MINUTES

# The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha

Charleston, West Virginia 25311



March 1, 2017

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Special Session on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, in the Board of Education Building, 200 Elizabeth Street, Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Board President, Jim Crawford at 4:00 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

Jim Crawford, President  
Becky Jordan  
Ryan White  
Ric Cavender  
Ronald E. Duerring, Secretary

### **ABSENT**

William Pete Thaw

Mala A. Bumgardner, Recording Secretary

### **ADMINISTRATION**

James W. Withrow, General Counsel  
Jon Duffy, Director of Counseling and Testing  
Carol Hamric, Executive Director Human Resources  
Kim Olsen, Specialist

### **OTHERS**

Sara Buzzard  
Allen Stump

**PURPOSE OF MEETING**

The Board met in Special Session to grant a personnel hearing to an individual who has been recommended for transfer and assignment for the school year commencing 2017-2018.

**HEARING OF SARA BUZZARD**

The Board met in an open hearing at 4:00 p.m. to conduct a hearing for:

Sara Buzzard

Ms. Buzzard was represented by Allen Stump.

**Statement by Jim Crawford, President**

“My name is Jim Crawford, President of the Kanawha County Board of Education. The purpose of this meeting is provide Sara Buzzard an opportunity to be heard in connection with the Superintendent’s recommendation that she be subject to transfer and assignment commencing with the 2017-2018 school year.

Mr. Withrow will present the case on behalf of the administration. At the conclusion of Mr. Withrow’s presentation, Ms. Buzzard, or her representative, may bring their presentation. The employee may make statements to the board, present evidence, ask questions of the administrative staff, or submit written materials for the board members to consider during their deliberations. Mr. Withrow may ask questions of the employee and any witness called by the employee. We have asked that you limit your presentation to 20 minutes.

The board will make its decision today and you will be notified of the decision in writing. It is our usual practice to deliberate and make a decision after the conclusion of the hearing.”

General Counsel presented the case on behalf of the administration, making reference to the fact that it is strictly a matter of several departments and areas being asked to make reductions in staff in order to meet budget next year. The three largest elementary schools have two counselors each. Mr. Duffy was asked to make cuts and one counselor from each of those three elementary schools are being eliminated. Cuts are necessary in order to keep Kanawha County Schools from going into a deficit like Boone and Wayne Counties. Jon Duffy explained that this was not an easy decision to make, but believes it is necessary. Ryan White asked whether, if a need was later found, there was a possibility of having an extra “floating” counselor in the future. Mr. Duffy stated that if grant funding became available, it was certainly a possibility. Dr. Duerring indicated that there is also crisis intervention available in emergency situations. Ryan White inquired whether this was funded within Kanawha County Schools, and Dr. Duerring assured him it is.

Sara Buzzard then began her presentation regarding the need for two counselors to remain at Elk Elementary Center. She presented a packet of Elk Elementary Center Statistics Quick Guide, which included things such as: Elk Elementary is second largest elementary

school; has 540 students; 82.6% of needy students; largest preschool population; one of largest elementary special education populations; large portion of families affected by June 23, 2016 flood; etc. She asked whether other possibilities had been considered and whether issues such as special education population and possible inequities had been addressed. Dr. Duerring and Mr. Duffy both addressed these questions, stating that yes other possibilities had been considered, the special education population had been taken into consideration, and that Kanawha County deals in disparities in all areas of the school system. Allen Stump spoke on Ms. Buzzard's behalf asking that the board take into consideration all the statistics Ms. Buzzard had indicated.

Thereupon, the hearing for Sara Buzzard was concluded at 4:24 p.m.

Ryan White moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation that Sara Buzzard be approved for transfer and subsequent assignment effective commencing with the 2017-2018 school year. The motion was seconded by Becky Jordan. There was no discussion. Motion passed with the vote 4-0.

### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

There were none.

### **ESTABLISED MEETING DATES**

- A. Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 4:00 p.m.-Personnel Hearing
- B. Monday, March 6, 2017, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- C. Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 3:00 & 3:15 p.m. Budget Workshop-Statutory Session (Presentation of Schedule of Proposed Levy Rates)(Budget Workshop to Follow)
- D. Thursday, March 9, 2017, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Approval of the Schedule of Proposed Levy Rates)
- E. Thursday, March 16, 2017, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- F. Monday, March 20, 2017, 3:30 p.m.-Personnel Hearings
- G. Monday, March 27, 2017, 3:00 p.m.-Personnel Hearings
- H. Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 3:00 p.m.-Personnel Hearings
- I. Wednesday, March 29, 2017, 3:00 p.m.-Personnel Hearings
- J. Monday, April 3, 2017, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- K. Tuesday, April 18, 2017, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Reconvening of March 9, 2017, Meetings to Enter all Levies)
- L. Thursday, April 20, 2017, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session

- M. Monday, April 24, 2017, 6:00 p.m.-Statutory Session (Public Hearing on Proposed Budget)
- N. Monday, May 1, 2017, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- O. Thursday, May 11, 2017, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- P. Tuesday, May 23, 2017, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Approval of the 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**

Ryan White moved: that the Special Session of the Board be adjourned. Motion was seconded by Becky Jordan and unanimously carried. The Special Session was declared adjourned by Board President Crawford at 4:25 p.m.

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President

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Secretary

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