

April 9, 2018

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Special Session on Monday, April 9, 2018, at the Board of Education Building, Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Board President Jim J. Crawford at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Jim J. Crawford, President

Ryan White, President Pro Tem

Becky J. Jordon

Ric Cavender

Betty C. Spencer

Ronald E. Duerring, Secretary

Debra J. Lewis, Recording Secretary

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Tom Williams, Deputy Superintendent

James W. Withrow, General Counsel

Briana Warner, Communications Director

Bob Calhoun, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary

Charles Wilson, Executive Director, Facilities, Planning & Management

## **ADMINISTRATIONS'S PRESENTATION**

Jim Withrow-This is a hearing on the proposed closure of Bridge Elementary School and the merger into Clendenin Elementary School when the new Clendenin Elementary School construction is completed. A Public Hearing is required under state law for that proposed closure. The notice for this hearing has been published in accordance with requirements of law and policy. It's been posted in every school in Kanawha County. We have also taken the additional steps of posting it in various businesses and other locations in the Elk River area and also emailed it to every employee in Kanawha County Schools. Those closure documents have been available in the Superintendent's Office for the required 30 days. I don't believe anybody has signed up to speak at this meeting.

Chuck Wilson-To me the main reason for the closing is the picture that is on the front of the closure document which shows Bridge Elementary under water. State Policy 6204 describes the method in which we look at closing schools. The documents look at the effects on enrollment, facilities, personnel and transportation. Those have been completed within those hearing documents. Clendenin was built in 1930 and it has been condemned. We won't be going back there. They had about 160 square feet per student based on today's enrollment. Bridge has about 153 square feet per student and on a new school they typically start out with about 128 square feet per student so both schools were under-utilized. Even before the flood there was some need to do something in the area. We are working on the new school and this being a merger will affect staffing as well as the education program which is being redeveloped. Going through the notices and requirements we've hit everything. We are basically here to answer any questions you may have.

Mr. White-What's the estimated student population of the new school? Chuck Wilson-About 400 students. Mr. White-We definitely have other elementary schools that have a higher student population than that don't we? Chuck Wilson-Yes we do. Mr. White-What is the furthest that a student will have to travel? Chuck Wilson-Transportation feels like they can get everybody there within the required travel times which is 30 minutes for elementary. There are some waivers to that. The location of the school is between the present Clendenin and

## **ADMINISTRATION'S PRESENTATION**

Bridge. Mr. White-The current Bridge facility where students are, is it in a flood way or flood plain? Chuck Wilson-It is in a flood way and a flood plain. It had at least 3 feet of water in it. Mr. White-So it would be dangerous to continue to have students there? Chuck Wilson-Yes, in my view it certainly would.

Mrs. Spencer-How far away will the new building be from where they presently go to school? Chuck Wilson-The new site will just be upstream a little ways from Hoover.

Mr. White-Will the kids from Clendenin be a lot closer to the new school than where they are going now? Chuck Wilson-Yes. Mr. White-Will the majority of the kids that will be in the new school be from Clendenin? Chuck Wilson-Yes they have the higher enrollment

Dr. Duerring-They will end up with a beautiful school. It's going to be a nice facility. I think it will blend well with the area. There will be a lot more advantages when we get the new school built. They have a good education at both schools now, but as you know the new school can be built to handle the technology.

## **SPEAKERS WHO REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

None

## **QUESTIONS/ANSWERS**

Mr. Crawford-When do we anticipate voting on the closure? Dr. Duerring-We can do it at the very next board meeting.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES**

- A. Monday, April 9, 2018, 5:30 p.m.-Special Session (Closure Hearing on Bridge Elementary)
- B. Tuesday, April 17, 2018, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Reconvening of March 13, 2018, Meeting to Enter all Levies)
- C. Thursday, April 19, 2018, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- D. Monday, April 23, 2018, 6:00 p.m.-Statutory Session (Public Hearing on Proposed Budget)
- E. Tuesday, May 1, 2018, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- F. Thursday, May 10, 2018, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- G. Monday, June 4, 2018, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- H. Thursday, June 21, 2018, 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. Ryan White 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 Jim J. Crawford at 5:44 p.m.

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President

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Secretary

djl

4/19/2018