

June 10, 2020

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Special Session on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at the Board of Education Building, Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Board President Ryan White at 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Ryan White, President

Ric Cavender, President Pro Tem

Jim J. Crawford, Sr.

Becky J. Jordon (via phone)

Tracy White

Ronald E. Duerring, Secretary

Debra J. Lewis, Recording Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Tom Williams, Deputy Superintendent

Paula Potter, Asst. Superintendent, Middle & Alternative Schools

Carol Hamric, Executive Director, Human Resources

Lindsey McIntosh, General Counsel

Briana Warner, Communications Director

Leah Sparks, Executive Director, Technology

NEW BUSINESS

A. WVSSAC Sporting Activities

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve allowing athletes to participate in sporting activities as outlined by the WVSSAC. All activities are voluntary. All three phases must be followed. Activities can only start once the school has developed an individual plan on how they are going to implement the three phases, as well as cleaning and sanitizing plans and documentation that there was a meeting with all coaches on these protocols. The Board of Education has the right to revoke student participation at any time when deemed necessary. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Tracy White.

Dr. Duerring-Basically if you read the guidance from WVSSAC, the Board has to approve this. That's why you have this today. It was made very clear in their documents that the Board has to approve this.

Mr. Crawford-All of the schools have to comply with Phase I and Phase II. They have to have a plan in place with their practice sessions. They have to be supervised by their Principal or whoever they direct to make sure they are in compliance. In the motion it says that anybody that fails to comply with this gives the Board to right to revoke that privilege. We wouldn't be revoking the whole school's privilege just the individual program. Dr. Duerring-That's correct.

Mrs. White-How are we monitoring this? Dr. Duerring-It will be through the Principals and the Athletic Directors. Mrs. White-Just to be sure because I've had some questions, this is all extra-curricular activities like Band correct? Dr. Duerring-Yes, they did put out guidelines for Band that we have already sent to Principals.

The above motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. Graduation Ceremonies

Mr. White-The State came out with guidance today about outdoor graduations.

Dr. Duerring-When this transpired we were told by the State Department that we were not to make any plans without talking to the Health Department. Six of our eight high schools have done drive-by graduations and they have received their diplomas. The other two are forthcoming in the next couple of weeks. When we talked to the Health Department the real concern was we couldn't control people entering and exiting and congregating and with that many people at a graduation potentially putting people's health at risk. Then we decided to go with virtual because that would complement the drive-by graduations that they already had. Today it has now been released that we can do outdoor graduations. Now we will be moving forward with the outdoor graduations following the considerations whether they be at Laidley or the football field. They will have to maintain social distancing, not shaking hands, etc. -The graduation is voluntary. I talked to a couple of Principals and told them they may have to get personnel back to help with those.

Mr. White-Will it happen in July? Dr. Duerring-The schools will have to determine the date that is best for them. We want everybody treated the same. They have all had their own traditions and they can continue those.

Mr. Cavender-Is it being left up to the individual schools when the date will be and whether traditions will continue etc.? Dr. Duerring-Yes, that's always the way it's been.

Mr. Crawford-I'm comfortable with these guidelines. I think we need to leave it up to each of the high schools. Certainly I would probably attend some of them if they so desire to do it. I think it might bring closure to this thing and everyone would be much happier.

Mrs. Jordon-What if a high school principal doesn't want to have an outdoor graduation, do they have to? Dr. Duerring-I think all of our schools need to be treated equally as far as that goes. Mr. White-Is it a possibility that they could do it at their schools football field?

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Dr. Duerring-They could at Sissonville or Riverside because their turf is down. Hoover could do it at the old football site if they chose to do that. It could be at Laidley. We will have to get with Doug.

Mr. Crawford-To make this legitimate I think we need to have a motion and vote on this and we will be on record as to what we agreed to do.

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: That we authorize the 8 high schools in the county to have outdoor graduations consistent with the state guidelines and working with the Superintendent's office and the local Health Board to ensure that it is done in a safe manner. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Mrs. White-The Board has gotten a lot of publicity over graduations and everything that is coming forth and I just want to say that our decisions are only going to get tougher. Not all of these decisions will be easy and not all decisions will make people happy. Congratulations to our fellow Board Members for winning their elections. I can honestly say that all five people that set on this Board has the best interests for our students. In the weeks ahead we will have tough decisions and I will guarantee that this Board will do everything possible to make sure that our students get the education they need as safely as possible.

Mr. White-I would also like to congratulate Mr. Crawford and Mr. Cavender for being reelected to the Board. I want everyone to know that the State Board today did state that we will be able to go back to school in August for which I'm very thankful for and I'm looking forward to working with the Superintendent to come up with a plan to going back in August.

Dr. Duerring-Just keep in mind that it will not be like it was. As we work through those plans they will be coming to you all.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

- A. Wednesday, June 10, 2020, 1:30 p.m.-Special Session
- B. Thursday, June 18, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- C. Monday, July 6, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- D. Thursday, July 16, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- E. Monday, August 3, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- F. Thursday, August 20, 2020, 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. Tracy White and unanimously carried. The Special Session was declared adjourned by Board President Ryan White at 1:45 p.m.

President

Secretary

djl

6/12/2020