

June 18, 2020

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Regular Session on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at the Board of Education Building, Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Board President Ryan White at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Ryan White, President
Ric Cavender, President Pro Tem
Jim J. Crawford, Sr.
Tracy White (via phone)
Becky J. Jordon

ABSENT

Ronald E. Duerring, Secretary

Debra J. Lewis, Recording Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Paula Potter, Assistant Superintendent, Middle & Alternative Schools
Carol Hamric, Executive Director, Human Resources
Terry Hollandsworth, Executive Director, Maintenance & Energy Management
Lindsey McIntosh, General Counsel
Melanie Meadows, Treasurer, Budget & Finance
Melissa Ruddle, Asst. Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction
Briana Warner, Communications Director
Mark Milam, Asst. Superintendent, Secondary & Career-Technical Education
Alan Cummings, Director, Purchasing & Supply Management
Keith Vititoe, Executive Director, Safety & Security

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Ryan White.

Mark Milam-I have a couple of announcements. This was to be Dr. Duerring's last Board Meeting but due to some last minute travel plans he and his wife had to leave early and he apologizes for not being here tonight. We wish him well in his endeavors. Secondly, due to a lot of concern we have heard about the Stonewall Jackson Middle School name we will place that on the July 6th Board Agenda for Public Comment and for Board Members to discuss that. Mrs. Jordon-That will be a discussion not a vote correct? Mr. Milam-Yes, that's correct.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. May 14, 2020 - Regular Session
- B. May 19, 2020 - Statutory Session
- C. May 26, 2020 - Statutory Session

DISCUSSION

A. Opening school facilities, playgrounds, tracks, etc.

Paula Potter-This was placed on the agenda because community members are calling principals and asking if they can walk on the track and Little Leagues are wanting to use the fields. Currently everything is closed. They have noticed that city parks are open so they didn't know if the regulations had lessened.

Mr. Cavender-I was told we can vote on it tonight and then we could let the principals know. Lindsey McIntosh-You can make a motion. Lindsey McIntosh-The only thing that would be needed is that we would require appropriate social distancing and if it gets too crowded we could ask crowds to disperse so anything we do would be under the appropriate county regulations Mr. White-Are we talking about the outdoor facilities? Lindsey McIntosh-Yes and that needs to be made clear in the motion.

Paula Potter-I know that there are some travel basketball leagues that have asked to use the gyms and coaches are wondering about the weight rooms. Mr. White-Are we allowed to open the indoor facilities per the State? Paula Potter-They would have to follow the CDC guidelines. We would have to consider whether we want to take on that responsibility or not. Lindsey McIntosh-The weight rooms would have to be managed by school personnel. Paula Potter-They all have plans in place. Mark Milam-In all the phases the WVSSAC is very specific with their guidelines and we need to follow those. Mr. Crawford-If the Health Department okayed the conditioning I don't see any reason

DISCUSSION (continued)

to not open the tracks and the playgrounds. Mr. White-I agree that there is no reason for us to keep our playgrounds closed. If you see a crowded playground stay away. Mrs. White-I agree that if the state and county is opening up then we need to open ours as well.

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: That the Board approve to open outdoor school facilities to the public to allow them to utilize them in a safe manner following CDC and local health board guidelines. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon and unanimously carried.

REPORTS

- A. Kanawha County Travel Reimbursement for May, 2020 (Enclosure 129)
- B. Monthly Financial Report (Enclosure 130)
- C. Legal Report

None
- D. Board Reports

Mr. White-I would like to go into an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to get a report on litigation.

PERSONNEL

- A. Personnel Agenda for June 18, 2020 (Enclosure 131)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the Revised Personnel Agenda as included in Enclosure 131. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky Jordon and unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the following CONSENT Items A-B. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon and unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT (continued)

A. Approval of Bills for May, 2020 (Enclosure 132)

Approval of the payment of bills for the month of May, 2020 in the amounts of \$21,961,030.54 for the Current Expense Fund and the Special Revenue Fund; \$92,464.31 for the KCS Public Library Excess Levy Fund; \$796,260.42 for the Permanent Improvement Fund; and \$533,086.24 for the Public Library Fund as reflected in Enclosure 132.

B. Budget Supplements & Transfers (Enclosure 133)

Approval of budget supplements and transfers as reflected in Enclosure 133.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

A. Vacation Leave Policy Waiver

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve to waive Policy G05.07.2, Vacation Leave Maximum Accumulation that allows employees to carry 30 days of vacation over to the next year and for the 2019-20 school year only, allow them to carry 35 days over to the 2020-21 school year at the Superintendent's request as a result of the 2020 COVID-19 Emergency. Thirty days will remain the maximum amount payable to the employee upon termination. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon.

Carol Hamric-Currently the policy says that you can carry over 30 days. A lot of employees had not had an opportunity to take their vacation due to the pandemic and I checked with a lot of our surrounding counties and they were doing that and Dr. Duerring, Dr. Williams and the Treasurer thought that 5 days would be reasonable.

The above motion unanimously carried.

Mrs. Jordon-Will an email go out to employees tomorrow to notify them? Carol Hamric-Yes.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

B. Workers Compensation Insurance (Enclosure 134)

Mr. White-I am recusing myself from the next motion.

Mrs. Becky J. Jordon moved: The Board approve a contract with Encova Insurance Company in the amount of \$817,021.00, as solicited by Commercial Insurance as shown in Enclosure 134. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Alan Cummings-This is just a renewal of our existing policy. We did solicit quotes just to make sure we were getting a competitive rate. Encova did reduce their policy premium by a little over \$1,000.00.

The above motion carried 4-0.

C. Self-Contained Classroom Camera System (Enclosure 135)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve a contract to provide a camera system for self-contained classrooms in the amount of \$239,300.00 to the lowest responsible bidder, Mason & Barry, Inc. per Bid #20-145 as shown in Enclosure 135. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon and unanimously carried

Keith Vititoe-This is a project that's actually mandated by law with SB 632 that mandated that public schools place surveillance cameras in their Special Education classrooms so we are complying with the law. The State actually granted money for this through the Safe Schools Fund. Kanawha County was awarded a grant amount to cover this expense. The bid came in much lower than what we were granted so that will allow us some flexibility with the remaining funds. Mr. Cavender-What can the money be spent on? Keith Vititoe-Safety and security projects. We have many goals so it will be pushed toward the highest needs. We do have multiple projects in mind. Mrs. White-Some of our rooms have cameras already. Will those rooms get upgraded cameras or new cameras or are we replacing them all? Keith Vititoe-We have higher resolution digital cameras planned for every classroom. Mrs. Jordon-Will it be done by August? Keith Vititoe-Our goal is to be done by the end of July.

D. South Charleston High School Gymnasium Floor Replacement (Enclosure 136)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve a contract to provide a replacement gymnasium floor for South Charleston High School in the amount of \$144,000.00, to the

OTHER NEW BUSINESS (continued)

lowest responsible bidder, Cincinnati Floor Company, per Bid #20-135 as shown in Enclosure 136. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon and unanimously carried.

E. CEFP Amendment

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the amendment to the Comprehensive Education Facilities Plan by adding the Ruthlawn Elementary Classroom Addition as the priority project on the SBA Needs List (Section 100.00 CEFP). Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon.

Chuck Smith-This is a standard procedure that we have to go through. We are putting in 2 classrooms and eliminating 2 portables.

The above motion unanimously carried.

F. Ruthlawn Elementary School Classroom Addition

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the Ruthlawn Elementary School Classroom Addition as the submission to the School Building Authority for consideration of MIP funding for 2020. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon and unanimously carried.

G. We Rise Together Resolution (Enclosure 137)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the We Rise Together Resolution as shown in Enclosure 137. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon.

Allen Stump-I am the representative for WVEA and also representing KCEA this evening. What we are asking is that county boards across the state and country ask Congress for \$175 billion to go back into the schools with high poverty areas because of the extra expenses that may come up. Mr. White-What are the chances of something being passed by Congress? Allen Stump-I really don't know. Mr. Cavender-How many counties have taken this up? Allen Stump-I represent seven counties and I have 3 or 4 that are supposed to be passing it this week.

The above motion unanimously carried.

DELEGATIONS

Jim Kirby-I just signed up to defer my time to Mr. Knox in case he didn't have time so I will do that now.

David Knox, LSIC President at Stonewall Jackson Middle School-I am going to read a statement from the Faculty Senate. We've come today with a petition of 150 families of current and future students of Stonewall Jackson and a letter of support from the Faculty Senate and our support from our LSIC. There are 4,100 signatures on Change.org that is circulating in our community. They are all in agreement that this name needs to be changed. I would ask that hopefully we will get a vote on July 6th. Quite frankly this change should have been made years ago. My wife and I chose to send our kids to SJMS and we are in the John Adams district. We did that so our children will go to school with all kinds of different people. In two weeks my wife and I are going to welcome a granddaughter that is bi-racial. It's more to me than just a name change. It's going to be changing her life as she grows up.

Greg Suzanne Ferguson-I started a petition in 2015 to change the name apparently before it was an idea whose time had come. I retreated into research on the issue. Since becoming a voice my role has expanded to include published work. My love for the students of Kanawha County is boundless. I ask that the Board share my goals. I sent you some publications to inform your decision on July 6th. I ask that you also put this to a vote on July 6th.

Katherine Dooley-I sent each of you a letter to have you look at the issue of the name change in a different vein. Because it's impossible to walk in an individual's shoes I ask you to listen to what the community is saying about the name Stonewall Jackson. I read nowhere where he freed his slaves and paid them for their work. There's a problem in our society where the name of a confederate soldier rests on a building where we educate students. Now is the time to make changes that may be difficult but that is what equity and inclusion and justice looks like. There has been an outpouring of support for this name to be removed. I call on you to do that and for this matter to be placed on the agenda and to be placed for a vote and it will stand in history that this Board made the difficult decision for freedom, justice and liberty.

Jerry Throckmorton-I'm here as a private citizen. The issue I would like to address is the symbol of the confederate flag. I grew up in the old south in Richmond Virginia. That symbol means a lot to me in many different ways. I would like to see the Board make a stance that eliminates the showing or the wearing of that symbol on clothing, or flying flags on the back of their pickup trucks. I know what that symbol means to me and when

DELEGATIONS (continued)

you have African American students in your building they shouldn't be subjected to that. It needs to be eliminated.

Mrs. Jordon-On the July 6th agenda, why don't we have a discussion and go ahead and vote? This cannot just continue. I think we need to vote on it July 6th and it will be put to rest yes or no. Mr. White-I would also request that the administration get a sense of the actual students of what their feelings are.

PRESENTATION

This item was deleted from the agenda.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Mrs. White-Can we get an update at the next Board Meeting on Bridge/Clendenin? Mr. Milam-Yes, we can do that. Mrs. White-I would also like to get a cost comparison of the last 9 weeks of 2020 versus 2019. Melanie Meadows-Yes. Mrs. White-Do we have a date when the re-entry suggestions will be brought to the Board? Mr. Milam-We are going to meet weekly. Once we get some options we will bring those back to you. Mrs. White-Do we have a date to bring those to the Board? Mark Milam-We will have to do that as quickly as possible.

Mr. Cavender-I agree 100% with Mr. Throckmorton. I'd be interested to know from a policy prospective what does the policy state and what do we need to do to move forward with that? Lindsey McIntosh-We do have a policy that talks about renaming of facilities KCS Policy B7. It does require that we do consider community input. The process isn't outlined in it. It would be up to the administration as to how you decide to get that community input. Mr. Cavender-I agree but just for clarification I was discussing the confederate flag. Lindsey McIntosh-As far as that goes it's covered in J36 which is the student dress policy. It states that any clothing that is considered offense is not to be worn but it's up to the Principal to determine what is offensive Mr. Cavender-Does the Board have the power to deem that offensive and add that to the policy language? Lindsey McIntosh-You can add it but there may be some First Amendment considerations. It's already in the policy if we just want to enforce it differently.

Mr. White-Going back to what you were saying before about the community input I believe that Mr. Milam had said that we were also going to have a Public Hearing with regard to the rename. Mr. Milam-No, I said that we would have public discussions on July 6th. Mr. White-Since it's required that we have public input per our policy that we

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS (continued)

also have a Public Hearing and allow everyone to speak to it that wants to as well. Mrs. White-If we are going to vote that night, I would agree.

Mr. White-I saw the good news about the Clendenin School moving forward with FEMA. When will we go to bid for that? Chuck Smith-This will go out to bid end of July or mid-August. Both that and Herbert Hoover are slated to go out for bids in that same time frame. What's the current estimated completion for Clendenin? Chuck Smith-We are still at 2022.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of getting a litigation update. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon and unanimously carried. The Regular Session was recessed and the Executive Session convened at 7:10 p.m.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board reconvene the Regular Session of the Board. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon and unanimously carried. The Regular Session was reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

- A. Thursday, June 18, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- B. Monday, July 6, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- C. Thursday, July 16, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- D. Monday, August 3, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- E. 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 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 Ryan White at 7:36 p.m.

President

Secretary

djl

7/2/2020