

August 3, 2020

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Special Session on Monday, August 3, 2020 at the Board of Education Building, Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Board President Becky J. Jordon at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

Debra J. Lewis, Recording Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mark Milam, Deputy Superintendent
Paula Potter, Asst. Superintendent, High Schools, Technical & Adult Education
Amon Gilliam, Asst. Superintendent, Middle & Alternative Schools
Mellow Lee, Asst. Superintendent, Elementary
Melissa Ruddle, Asst. Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction
Kate Porter, Asst. Superintendent, Special Education & Student Support Services
Carol Hamric, Executive Director, Human Resources
Briana Warner, Communications Director
Keith Vititoe, Executive Director, Safety & Security
Leah Sparks, Executive Director, Technology
Melanie Meadows, Treasurer, Budget & Finance
Laura Pauley, Executive Director, Accounting/Compliance
Valery Harper, Executive Director, Virtual Schools
Brette Fraley, Executive Director, Transportation
Alicia Warden, Health Services

PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Agenda for August 3, 2020 (Enclosure 9)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Revised Personnel Agenda as included in Enclosure 9. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of CPA Firm (Enclosure 10)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve Perry & Associates CPAs to perform the annual financial audits of Kanawha County Board of Education in accordance with West Virginia Code 6-9-7 (c). This approval is for Perry & Associates CPAs to conduct audits for the three fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, June 20, 2021 and June 30, 2022 as shown in Enclosure 10. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and carried 4-0.

Mr. Cavender joined the meeting via phone at 4:03 p.m.

B. Re-Entry Discussion

Dr. Williams-Basically our goals are to keep employees and students safe. We had a committee put together of principals, teachers, organization members, parents, etc. that helped us with the overall plan. Everything is subject to change that you will hear tonight. There are two options. Option 1 is students going to school 5 days a week or they come to school 2 days and then they are on eLearning for 3 days. Option 2 is Kanawha County Schoology eLearning and that could be in place with either option in Option 1. If a parent wouldn't want to go 5 days a week then they have the option of choosing eLearning or Virtual School. eLearning is with a Kanawha County teacher. It could be one of the teachers in a child's school. The Virtual School does have some West Virginia teachers and some Kanawha County teachers that teach with that. The final option would be home school if a parent wanted. The blended learning is the students coming for 2 days a week and doing eLearning on the other 3 days. Unless the Governor orders a stay at home, teachers will be at school. Parents need to sign up for what they want their child to do. All that information will be available online after the meeting tonight. What you vote on tonight is either 5 days of in-person, eLearning, 2 days in school 3 days Schoology or 5 days Virtual.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Mr. Crawford-On the blended schedule do they alternate weeks? Dr. Williams-No it would be 2 days in 3 days out. That would be too difficult for teachers and parents. Mrs. Jordon-It would be a nightmare for working parents. Mrs. White-How much of a logistical nightmare would it be if we begin on blended and if we spike to transition to 5 day? Dr. Williams-That's always an option. I do have a re-entry plan suggestion. On Tuesday September 8th, 1st, 3rd, 6th, 8th and 11th graders would come to school. The Kindergarten teacher is free that day so they can go to the 1st grade classroom and say goodbye to the student they had the year before and make the kids more comfortable in their new setting. That's just for the first week. Mr. White-If we decide to go 5 days could we stagger it for 2 weeks since people would be traveling for Labor Day? Dr. Williams-Yes, if that's something you all want to do. What we could do is do this on week one, on week two which is September 14th we could do 2/3, the week of September 21st we could do 2/3 and on September 28th we could do whatever you choose. Mrs. White-So the whole month of September it would be a staggered start? Dr. Williams-Yes, that gets them there in small numbers and they learn how we are going to do things. We would split it by the alphabet. The deadline for parents to register their child is August 11th. It will then fall on Principals at the schools to schedule everyone by hand. We will give them a list of parents that called. The parents who didn't call have to be called and as is typical on the first day of school students will show up where their parents have done nothing. Mrs. White-If they choose eLearning can they come that first week to the staggered opening to get familiar with their teacher? Dr. Williams-Yes, I think that would be good but some parents might not want that. The teacher could put a face with the student.

Mrs. Jordon-What will itinerant teachers and aides be doing? Dr. Williams-They will be working with small groups within the classroom. They will have a job to do. Mr. White-Are we going to push for as much outside classroom as possible? Dr. Williams-Yes, if it's a pretty day they are perfectly able to do that. Mr. White-Can we allocate some resources to purchase tents to better facilitate that? Dr. William-I don't know that we can do tents at this point but we can look at some of the things we have and maybe come up with something. Third Base will be available for people that are in person 5 days a week. One thing we need to emphasize is once the parent makes the decision that has to stay in place for a semester. Unless the Governor makes changes or the situation drastically improves where everyone wants to come back to school. It has to be that way. Mrs. White-Is Third Base available for blended for those two days only? Dr. Williams-Yes. With eLearning it will be a KCS teacher similar to a normal schedule. If I have English at 9:00 then I need to be on my iPad at 9:00 because my teacher will be delivering my English class at that time.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

District iPads are now 3rd grade through 12th. Mrs. Jordon-When they sign up for eLearning don't they have to indicate that there is an adult supervising their work during the day? Dr. Williams-Yes, it's more important at the elementary level. We can't have teachers working from daylight to midnight. They have to get on a schedule. Face coverings will be required for all students when they can't social distance and that includes Pre K. Mr. White-Can't we go ahead and require them at all times? Dr. Williams-They pretty much will be since most of our classrooms aren't big enough to have everyone 6 ft. apart depending on how many students there are. We will have plastic shields, masks, gloves and cleaning supplies. The custodians are being trained by the National Guard. Also school nurses always go through health records and they will be responsible once someone is symptomatic if the nurse is in the school that day. It would be nice to have nurses in all schools but that would mean hiring 30 more nurses at \$1.6 million a year so for us that's not an option. Every classroom will have sanitizer. Mrs. Jordon-Teachers don't have to pay for sanitizer? Dr. Williams-No, we sent out budget codes today to all of the schools and that they are able to purchase supplies that we have in the warehouse. Melanie Meadows-We have 3 months in stock and he is ordering more stock based on the survey that we did with Principals.

Dr. Williams-It's more important this year to make sure the emergency cards are updated. If parents come to pick up students they will have to come to the office to be screened with their temperature taken and answer some questions. We are discouraging volunteers this year. Mrs. Jordon-So we will cut Read Aloud right now? Dr. Williams-Yes. Mrs. White-They don't have to choose the same choice for each student correct? Dr. Williams-Yes. Mr. White-Are we going to have a process available for us to review if there is a case of COVID 19 so that everyone will know what to expect? Dr. Williams-That's one of the questions we have that we are going to ask when we meet with the Health Department. Mrs. White-If a student doesn't have internet at home are they going to feel pressured in going back to school? Dr. Williams-We have applied for a grant and part of that is for Mi-Fis to go into homes. I think we applied for a 1,000 of them. We should know within a week if we get the grant. We will have buses that we can park in the area. Mrs. White-When you said they need to log on to English at 9 a.m. will students be expected to log on for a typical 7 hour school day? Dr. Williams-Attendance will be taken, grades will be given and all assignments will count. This will not be like last spring.

Mr. Crawford-My concern is keeping our employees and students safe. I like the blended because it would enable us to keep good social distancing in the classroom. Mrs. White-I like blended as well my but concern is for working parents. Nothing we choose is going to be perfect.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Dinah Adkins-I would like to thank the Board for including our team in the re-entry plan. Today you will make the most important decision of your career as a Board Member and I feel this is the most important speech I have ever made. Our students and teachers must be as safe as possible. We must set high standards. We understand that nothing is 100% but it's our responsibility to go above and beyond. At the first re-entry meeting 6 ft. was the guideline, at the follow-up meeting it became 3 ft. because someone in the powers that be, I'm assuming the State Department, realized that you don't have 6 ft. in your classrooms. We can't accept 3 ft. of social distancing. It increases the chances of contracting the virus. We cannot start school with 5 days of instruction and allow all students to attend each day. If we start with the blended entry we will eliminate much of the confusion. We can't crowd students on a bus, we can't have them getting on a bus with a temperature. KCEA is suggesting hiring additional help and looking at our career centers for individuals who can help with these needs. We don't need to require a LRN to take temperatures. September 8th is the Tuesday after Labor Day and many families will continue to follow tradition and too many students and educators will be returning after possibly being exposed to the virus. Spikes and personal choices may lead to increased exposure and many of those could walk into the school building on September 8th. We are all hopeful that the Governor will extend the start date but we can't count on that. So many are counting on you to keep us safe and I know they are not just a number to you. We can't choose which ones will be infected. Even if they survive the virus there are long-term health conditions to be concerned about.

Ron Reedy-I am here representing the Schoolmasters. Tonight you are charged with coming up with a plan that will do the best job of educating our students while at the same time maximizing the opportunities for the safety of our students and teachers. What's the next step once you cast your vote tonight? Where does that responsibility go next? To the high school and middle school administrators. I pledge to you that you have our unwavering support but I urge that you ensure that we have the authority to implement that plan that you are giving to us. Responsibility without authority is not leadership. Mrs. Jordan-What do you mean? Ron Reedy-We as administrators have to figure out what's the best way to feed our students and what order and what's the best way to keep them safe in the hallway. What I am asking is that you allow us to figure this out for ourselves and give us the authority to make those decisions and we assure you that we will make it work to the best of our ability.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Jerry Throckmorton-I am a high school history teacher at Sissonville High and the President of AFT Kanawha Chapter. There are so many questions. I would like to say thank you for giving us a place at the table with the re-entry committee. What the plans are for counselors? Their offices are barely 6 X 6. Will there be face shields in their office? I know some of ours are meeting with them in the commons area. Are their shields for our secretary and clerks that greet our parents? What are the plans for that? What about the assignment of duties for teachers? Who teaches what classes? Who makes that decision? How do you get your voice heard when you want to get some input in there? Who teaches eLearning? Who makes that decision? These are difficult things and people want a fair process in how those assignments are determined. I know it's a big responsibility for you as Board Members. There are a lot of people that are scared and whether they want to go ahead and retire or ask for a leave of absence. What about their sick days? All I can say is best of luck in what decision you make tonight.

Mr. White-Dr. Williams what do you suggest that we do? Mr. White-In my opinion I like the staggered opening that we discussed and I like taking it 2 weeks further out with the 2/3 and then we can see where we are, but I think the 5 day option gives the parents the choice in whether to send them to school or do Schoology eLearning. Our numbers in Virtual is already up. I think once we get our eLearning numbers the classrooms will be smaller but I have no way of knowing that until we get our numbers in the next week or so. Mrs. White-So theoretically when teachers come back on the 19th they may not know whether they will be teaching a classroom or eLearning? Dr. Williams-Yes. We have developed shells for K-8 on Schoology that address the standards, etc. and the teacher will have to decide how they will teach the lesson.

Mr. White-I have a question for Alicia Warden. What is the metrics that we would use to determine the positive case rate? I saw somewhere that nationwide that 5% is the magic number and if it's below 5% we should be good to go. If we do blended for a couple of weeks and then it goes below that we can move on to 5 day? Alicia Warden-In doing my research from other states that seems to be the common number in what I've seen. Each school will have a designated isolation area and I have a form for the nurses to help them if someone presents during the day that they are symptomatic. We are here to help the Health Department with the tracing. Mrs. White-I know not all of our schools have a full-time nurse so there will be a designated person to take that role in each school. Mrs. Jordon-Will that be another hat given to the secretary? Dr. Williams-Each school will have to develop their own plan.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Mrs. White-We have a huge mental health component in this plan that we are going to focus on and I want people to know that and all of the things Special Education has to do before school starts to get 504 and IEPs back in line. Dr. Williams-You all may make a decision tonight and the Governor may say something and we might have to come back and have a special meeting and change your decision. Mrs. White-Chandler has a daycare program for the new mothers if we open up 5 days will that be happening still? Dr. Williams-Yes, the numbers are so low there anyway.

Mrs. White-I just want to take a minute and say thank you to our entire team. I know that this didn't start two weeks ago. I know that a lot of heart and soul went into these meetings to make this plan. The plan we were given was 38 pages long. I've not seen one as tight as we have. I want to thank you for the devotion you have for our students and teachers. Myself, Ryan and Ric have kids that have to go back to school and Becky and Jim have kids that work in our schools. We aren't just standing up here and making decisions for others. No one takes this lightly. Mr. White-One thing I would like to say is that I think that this plan is a very thought out plan and I've heard people compliment the plan and say that it is the best one they have seen in the State of West Virginia. I do think that it's important that we get back to 5 days a week. I have serious reservations about the kids that aren't getting anything out of eLearning. When you are talking about K-3 in particular if they aren't in school 5 days a week they aren't going to learn how to read. They won't be able to be educated the rest of their career and it's going to affect their entire lives. I don't want to lose a whole generation of kids because they can't be in school 5 days a week. I know also the mental health aspect is bad. The abuse and neglect is even worse when you don't have kids in school. The amount of abuse and neglect cases that have been reported has dropped off the map, it didn't go away. In my opinion I would like for us to start out at blended where we ease into a 5 day a week and keep a close eye on it. Mr. Cavender-We've been listening to many parents and we have a lot of people to consider in this decision. I agree with getting to the 5 days. I am in favor of this plan.

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Kanawha County School's re-entry plan of staggered from September 8th-11th, blended option from September 14th-25th and in-person 5 day option beginning September 28th along with a KCS Schoology option, a WVDE virtual option as discussed in this meeting which will be made a part of the full plan for re-entry. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan White and unanimously carried.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Mr. White-I would appreciate that at the next meeting and every meeting before the 25th to be kept apprised of the metrics of the Kanawha Charleston Health Department.
Mrs. White-Could we have that sent in the Friday Packet? Dr. Williams-Yes.

Mrs. White-Can I request that those of us that want to could do a walk though of the buildings and see what exactly it's going to look like. Dr. Williams-Keep in mind the teachers don't come back until the 19th. Dr. Williams-Yes we will get that worked out.
Mrs. Jordon-What is the deadline that we need this done? Dr. Williams-August 11th.
Mr. White-Can we require any staff that has been to hotspots the weeks prior to school opening to quarantine for 14 days? Dr. Williams-I checked with Lindsey today and there are lots of issues with that. How do you enforce that? Mr. White-Can we strongly encourage that? Dr. Williams-That's something we could encourage but not enforce. The Governor is not even doing that with the State. Mr. White-There are a bunch of employers that are doing that. Dr. Williams-I know there are some private employers that are. Mr. White-I hope that everyone will be cautious and that includes parents.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

- A. Monday, August 3, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- B. Thursday, August 20, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- C. Tuesday, September 8, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- D. Thursday, September 17, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- E. Monday, October 5, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- F. Thursday, October 15, 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

Mrs. Tracy White moved: That the Special Session of the Board be adjourned. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried. The Special Session was declared adjourned by Board President Becky J. Jordon at 5:23 p.m.

President

Secretary

djl
8/12/2020