

August 20, 2020

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Regular Session on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at the Board of Education Building, Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Board President Pro Tem Tracy White at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

Debra J. Lewis, Recording Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mark Milam, Deputy Superintendent
Paula Potter, Assistant Superintendent, High Schools, Technical & Adult Education
Melissa Ruddle, Asst. Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction
Carol Hamric, Executive Director, Human Resources
Lindsey McIntosh, General Counsel
Melanie Meadows, Treasurer, Budget & Finance
Briana Warner, Communications Director
Amon Gilliam, Assistant Superintendent, Middle & Alternative Schools
Mellow Lee, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary
Leah Sparks, Executive Director, Technology
Alicia Warden, Health Services

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Pro Tem Tracy White.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. July 6, 2020 - Special Session
- B. July 16, 2020 - Special Session
- C. July 16, 2020 - Regular Session

REPORTS

- A. Kanawha County Travel Reimbursement for July, 2020 (Enclosure 11)
- B. Monthly Financial Report (Enclosure 12)
- C. Legal Reports

None
- D. Board Reports

Dr. Williams-The last 2 days there have been 6 of us that went to all 66 schools and visited and talked to everyone and for the most part people are excited and have plans on what they are going to do. We continue to get guidance from the State Department. We are having a meeting at 8:00 in the morning and Alicia is going to lead us through what do we do if someone in the classroom comes down with COVID. We have a warehouse that has all kinds of PPE and they are getting it out to the schools as fast as they can. For the teachers that are getting rid of tables, the desks are coming in and they will all be in place before September 8th I've been told.

Mrs. White-Do we have a percentage of how many students chose in-person, virtual and eLearning? Dr. Williams-I don't have a percentage off the top of my head but I do know in the 10 schools that I went to and I asked that question it was almost half or a little more for in-person. I don't know if we can get that information yet because schools have students that are enrolling and it's not in WVEIS yet and we can't pull the data until it's in there. Mrs. White-Have all of the students went through orientation for virtual yet? I think there may be a misunderstanding about how stringent virtual is and I'm curious to see how many go to eLearning after that. Dr. Williams-I'm sure there will be some. She is holding those now in big auditoriums around the county.

REPORTS (continued)

Mrs. White-I've been getting some phone calls about classroom sizes and that some are still larger than what the Governor says it should be. Do we have some that are more than 25? Dr. Williams- I know of one that was 21 and we put a TIRE in there to lessen the numbers for those kids. We are meeting to discuss those types of issues. Mr. White-Are we prioritizing rooms based on class size? Dr. Williams-That would be a school-based decision but in the schools I have been in that seems to be what they have done. Mr. White-Are we still pushing teachers to go outside as much as possible? Dr. Williams-Yes, we've reminded them to take students outside, have lunch outside and have classrooms outside. They know that that is something they can do. Mr. White-Are we looking for ways to make it easier for them to do that? Dr. Williams-I don't know how we can make it easier. I know one school has a picnic shelter with 15 picnic tables. Missy Ruddle-That's at Sissonville Elementary and they have already talked to Leah about putting a hotspot out there so they can use the internet. Another one is Montrose. They have a shelter and we are looking at putting a hotspot there also.

Mrs. White-The big question is 3 ft. versus 6 ft. Do we have that in writing that we can put out to people? Dr. Williams-The World Health Organization is where I saw it in writing. They say 6 ft. is better but 3 ft. is okay.

Mr. Cavender-Will the individual schools have disciplinary measures in place when a student takes their mask off? Dr. Williams-To me it would be insubordination. There are 2 or 3 different things it could come under. I'm thinking first time would be a warning and second time would be a graduated thing. We are having the same issues with adults, we had to suspend one today because they refused to wear a mask.

Paula Potter-Most of the Principals are trying to inform parents that in-person learning requires a face mask. We are hoping to be proactive in telling the parent. When it doesn't happen it would be just like any of our other disciplinary infractions with clothing.

Mrs. White-When we do all of the outdoor classrooms can they pull their masks down if they are socially distanced? Is that at the teacher's discretion? Dr. Williams-If you are having physical activity or something and you can be socially distanced I think you'd have to take a look at that and that would be case by case, but the rule is you have to wear your mask. Mr. White-Are we going to open windows to increase ventilation? Dr. Williams-As much as possible but when we open windows we mess up our HVAC systems so we have to be careful with that. That's also a safety issue if you are on the 1st floor. That's a fine line right there.

REPORTS (continued)

Mrs. White- With Option #2 will there be flexibility if a student has their internet go out? Will that be considered truancy if it's not an error on their end? Dr. Williams-That's going to be one of those things that we take on a case by case basis. Mrs. White-We had our first case of MIS-C in Kanawha County. Are they getting information to Mrs. Warden as to what to look for and procedures? Mr. Cavender-I've had parents contact me that signed up originally for in-person and now they are seeing this happen and now they are wanting to switch. Is that possible? Dr. Williams-That will be a nightmare for the schools. They are having a difficult time now getting everyone scheduled. We can keep making changes and come September 8th no one will know what they are doing. I've said it several times that for every rule there's an exception. We will work with parents on an individual basis but as far as saying flat out everyone can change we just can't do that.

Mr. White-I've seen reports that there is a saliva test that the FDA has approved and it will become available. If a school has a case can we look into using that and stop the spread? Dr. Williams-I don't know if we want to get in the business of testing kids. I think the Health Department does that and they do the tracing. I would be real leery of putting ourselves in that position legally. I think we would have all kinds of issues with that. We can't even give a kid a band aid or an aspirin. Alicia, what do you think? Alicia Warden-I agree and concur with everything that you said. COVID testing would be new to the nurses and we would have to have a policy to do that. It's a specialized medical procedure. We are in an educational setting and issues like that need to be taken care of in a health care setting.

PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Agenda for August 20, 2020 (Enclosure 13)

Mr. Ryan White moved: The Board approve the Revised Personnel Agenda as included in Enclosure 13. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Mr. White-Are we going to be able to fill the retirements? Dr. Williams-We are hoping. Carol, what is your thinking this year? Carol Hamric-The drop dead date for teachers being able to transfer is over. We just put the jobs out. You can hire new teachers or a student teacher that's qualified. Mrs. White-How are we as far as substitutes go? Carol Hamric-We have about 700 professional subs and 600 service subs. We sent a survey out to see how many would still substitute because of the pandemic and about 50% said no they wouldn't sub. We've been hiring as fast as we can for non-certified subs.

PERSONNEL (continued)

Mrs. White-What would be the protocol if a teacher can't get a sub? Dr. Williams-School-That will be a school decision and they will just have to do the best they can.

Mr. White-How are we looking for bus drivers? Dr. Williams-We are looking pretty good this year. The last I heard we were down 4 or 5 but we had that many trying to get their CDLs.

The above motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT

Mr. Ryan White moved: The Board approve the following CONSENT Items A-B. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ric Cavender and unanimously carried.

A. Approval of Bills for July, 2020 (Enclosure 14)

Approval of the payment of bills for the month of July, 2020 in the amounts of \$18,999,896.68 for the Current Expense Fund and the Special Revenue Fund; \$59,646.80 for the KCS Public Library Excess Levy Fund; \$2,247,097.24 for the Permanent Improvement Fund; and \$391,120.45 for the Public Library Fund as reflected in Enclosure 14.

B. Budget Supplements & Transfers (Enclosure 15)

Approval of budget supplements and transfers as reflected in Enclosure 15.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

A. Title I/II Blended Technology Integration Specialist Job Description (Enclosure 18)

Mr. Ryan White moved: The Board approve the Title I/II Blended Technology Integration Specialist Job Description as shown in Enclosure 18. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Dr. Williams-This is to supplement a position we already have. They will work with Title I/II schools doing technology integration as opposed to regular education. Mr. Crawford-Is this job paid for by federal funds? Dr. Williams-Yes. Mr. White-So this will help with eLearning? Dr. Williams-Yes. Mr. White-So at some point I hope we will be back to normal and will this person be relevant for back to normal school? Dr. Williams-I think with all of the eLearning that teachers are doing now will really up some skills of teachers and we will have more teachers using technology simply because they had no choice because of the pandemic.

The above motion unanimously carried.

FIRST READING

A. Dual Credit Policy (Enclosure 16)

Missy Ruddle-This is just an amendment to our current Dual Credit Policy. It just adds more dual credit offerings particularly Spanish 101 and 102. We were having a tough time keeping foreign language teachers in the county. We only have one high school that teaches French so we will be able to offer French 101 and 102 dual credit wise. It will increase opportunities for students.

B. Virtual School Policy (Enclosure 17)

Lindsey McIntosh-A lot of this policy change is just cleanup. This policy hasn't been revised since it was issued originally. The biggest change is that we are now extending Virtual school K-12.

DELEGATIONS

Jerry Throckmorton, President of AFT Kanawha-I'd like to say I'm not here to criticize anyone. I'm really here as much to praise people as I am to express some concerns. I would like to praise all of our people that have been preparing for the coming storm. They are working as hard as they can. When they go to their classrooms are there going to be masks, things to clean their desks with? Do we have the supplies and materials? What do we do with someone when they have symptoms? Some schools don't have a nurse more than one day. Where are you going put them and who is going to watch them? There's a lot of questions. No one is more impressed with the job that has been done to organize professional staff programs. We will get through this. We have the best people and the best technology.

DELEGATIONS (continued)

Barry Holstein-I'm here to talk about a topic that is important to me and that is sex trafficking. I am president of Community 101 which is a community non-profit group. Sex trafficking is our current focus. There is a movie called Eight Days that is on Amazon Prime. I want to encourage everyone to take a look at it. It's going to make a change in how you think about sex trafficking. It's a big problem in West Virginia as well as the United States. The average age that a teen enters the sex trade in the United States is 13 years old and it just hit home last week in the news. I think training on this topic is important. I'm here to offer an opportunity for your consideration. Shared Hope International has a training program called Chosen and I am offering to purchase this program for KCS if you will approve it. It won't cost you anything I can provide experts to come in and talk to you. In addition, I am working to have a daylong sex trafficking event coming up soon and I will be inviting you all to attend. Mr. White-Dr. Williams can you look into that? Dr. Williams-Yes.

Lucinda Burns-I am a proud member of WVEA KCEA. I am speaking on behalf of various schools within Kanawha County Schools. Parents who have elected to send students into our buildings are doing so with a false belief that we are social distancing according to the CDC guidelines. I worked last Saturday evening and was able to get only 15 desks at 3 ft. apart in my classroom. This is not 6 ft. However KCS is sending our students back into those conditions. Parents and students are believing they are going to be safe there and I believe it is our duty not to go back 5 days a week until we have this under control. I feel that is only the responsible thing to do is go back as we are going the 2nd and 3rd week. This is my request to keep our students safe. I believe that more have decided to come back to school in person than any of you thought. I hope we do the right thing.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Mr. White-Can we urge students, parents and teachers not to travel in the next 2 weeks? We are very close to orange and I think if we could put out a message that if we want to have in-person school that it would be beneficial for people to not travel especially during Labor Day weekend. Dr. Williams-We will put something on the website.

Mrs. White-What is our update on the HVAC systems at Capital High School and GW? Dr. Williams-I spoke to Mr. Smith yesterday and I think we will have about 6 to 8 rooms that won't be able to be used at Capital and there is about that many at GW as well. We knew this was going to happen once school started.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS (continued)

Mrs. White-Have we made a decision about our homebound students and if the teachers will go to them or will there strictly be packets? Dr. Williams-Kate is working on that and I think it's going to be a little bit of both depending on the kid's health and how they are. Mrs. White-Will the 3rd grade iPads that we purchased with the Cares Funds be in on time? Dr. Williams-We are hoping. Mrs. White-What do we do when all the kids come back and if we have too many for us to socially distance? Dr. Williams-It's going to be difficult. That's why it's important for everyone to wear a mask. We can't add on to our buildings and if they want to come we can't tell them that they can't come.

Mr. White-Can we check with other governmental entities to see if we can use their buildings that they aren't using? Dr. Williams-I don't know if they would meet the code because the fire codes are much different for schools then they are for other buildings. There would be all kinds of issues to look into for that.

Mrs. White-As long as the Governor says that our mandate is 25 we will not put more than 24 students in a classroom with a teacher correct? Dr. Williams-He said that for situations like this but I haven't heard him say that for a classroom. We are trying our best to keep the numbers down. What do you do? Unless you all want to go two days then two days but if we want 5 days a week school that's the option. Mrs. White-Theoretically if we do see that we have too many, we could do blended if the Board chooses to do so? Dr. Williams-Yes, if that's what you all choose to do. Mrs. White-I'd like to go to visit schools next week before schools open and then again the week of blended when we have students back. Could we schedule some days to do that? Dr. Williams-Any school you want, just tell me and I'll make arrangements.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

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

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES (continued)

E. 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

Mr. Ryan White moved: That the Regular Session of the Board be adjourned. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried. The Regular Session was declared adjourned by Board President Pro Tem Tracy White at 7:00 p.m.

President

Secretary

djl

8/28/2020