

September 17, 2020

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Regular Session on Thursday, September 17, 2020 at the Board of Education Building, Charleston, West Virginia via Zoom Conference. The meeting was called to order by Board President Becky J. Jordon at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Becky J. Jordon, President
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

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
Laura Pauley, Executive Director, Accounting/Compliance
Briana Warner, Communications Director
Amon Gilliam, Assistant Superintendent, Middle & Alternative Schools
Leah Sparks, Executive Director, Technology
Alicia Warden, Health Services
Chuck Smith, Executive Director, Facilities, Planning & Management
Alan Cummings, Executive Director, Purchasing & Supply Management
Brette Fraley, Executive Director, Transportation

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Becky J. Jordon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. August 3, 2020 - Special Session
- B. August 20, 2020 - Regular Session

REPORTS

- A. Kanawha County Travel Reimbursement for August, 2020 (Enclosure 22)
- B. Monthly Financial Report (Enclosure 23)
- C. Legal Reports

None
- D. Board Reports

Mr. Crawford-I wanted to let you know what we discussed yesterday at the WVSSAC Meeting. Those students who were to play in the girl's golf tournament, it is possible as soon as we can participate in athletics, that they go and play and possibly if their school is good enough they can make all-tournament. That's the decision the Board made yesterday.

PERSONNEL

- A. Personnel Agenda for September 17, 2020 (Enclosure 24)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Revised Personnel Agenda as included in Enclosure 24. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT

Mr. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the following CONSENT Items A-B. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

- A. Approval of Bills for August, 2020 (Enclosure 25)

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT (continued)

Approval of the payment of bills for the month of August, 2020 in the amounts of \$20,986,792.82 for the Current Expense Fund and the Special Revenue Fund; \$221,359.38 for the KCS Public Library Excess Levy Fund; \$3,612,803.38 for the Permanent Improvement Fund; and \$623,298.28 for the Public Library Fund as reflected in Enclosure 25.

B. Budget Supplements & Transfers (Enclosure 26)

Approval of budget supplements and transfers as reflected in Enclosure 26.

Mr. White-What is the budget revision for \$13,774,048 to the Permanent Improvement Fund? Melanie Meadows-That is actually carryover from last year of the Permanent Improvement Fund Budget. It was what we ended with last year and we brought into this year.

The above motions unanimously carried.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Financial Statements (Enclosure 27)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the annual financial statements of Kanawha County Board of Education for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 for the purpose of publication in the Charleston Gazette-Mail. The publication of the school system's annual financial statements within ninety days after the beginning of the subsequent fiscal year is required by West Virginia Code Section 18-9-3a. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

B. AEP Easement (Enclosure 28)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the AEP Easement to allow utility relocation for the new Herbert Hoover High School Site as shown in Enclosure 28. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Chuck Smith-This easement allows us to relocate a utility pole that is in the turnoff lane that is being constructed to enter the property. That is the purpose of the easement.

The above motion unanimously carried.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS (continued)

C. Temporary Easement Agreements (Enclosure 29)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Temporary Easement Agreements with the Sanitary Board of the City of Charleston to allow utility relocation as shown in Enclosure 29. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Chuck Smith-This easement allows the City to replace the sanitary line behind the school facility at Weberwood. In order to do that they need to gain access to the property at the bottom of the hill behind the school along the creek.

The above motion unanimously carried.

D. Sanitary Sewer Easement Agreement (Enclosure 30)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Easement Agreement with the Sanitary Board of the City of Charleston to allow utility relocation as shown in Enclosure 30. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim Crawford.

Chuck Smith-The first easement you approved was a temporary easement to allow them access for the construction of one parcel. This is a permanent easement in the same location for another parcel that we own adjacent to it. It is in the same general area. We are having to relocate the sanitary line in order to meet their requirements.

The above motion unanimously carried.

E. School Bus Purchases

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve a purchase for eight 77-passenger Blue Bird Buses to Blue Bird Bus Sales of West Virginia per State Contract SBUS20A in the amount of \$828,104.00 as well as three 54-passenger Special Needs Buses to World Wide Equipment per State Contract SBUS20C in the amount of \$323,883.00. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim Crawford.

Mr. White-Are they a low bid on a contract? Mr. Fraley-All the school bus manufacturers in WV are within \$2,000-\$3000. What we are looking at is determining the lowest cost of ownership. Both of these are WV companies. Mr. White-Do these run on propane? Mr. Fraley-No they are all diesel.

The above motion unanimously carried.

FIRST READING

A. Attendance Policy (Enclosure 31)

Lindsey McIntosh-Basically the substantive change to this policy comes along with what was passed in HB 206 two sessions ago which states that meaningful contract has to be made after a certain amount of unexcused absences. There were things moved around in the policy to make it more readable. I spoke to Eddie Ivy before and after and he is pleased with the way the policy now looks. Mrs. Jordon-Aren't the Social Workers attempting to contact the students after so many absences anyway the way we have it now? Lindsey McIntosh-It's just updated to be in accordance with what the law actually says which is meaningful contract. You aren't just sending a letter home or trying to call, you are actually making several attempts to actually communicate with the student and the parent. Mrs. Jordon-Does it say face-to-face? Lindsey McIntosh-No it just says meaningful contact.

DELEGATIONS

None

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Mrs. White-Why are we doing lunches everyday now and not once a week? Dr. Williams-Because our cooks are at work and it's cheaper to do it day by day.

Mrs. White-Are we continuing to allow students to transfer out of Virtual? Dr. Williams-It's case by case. Mrs. White-So they can still transfer but it depends on the circumstance? Dr. Williams-Yes. I'm not advertising that they can because we would rather they wouldn't transfer. There's always an exception but we try to limit those. We are watching them carefully.

Mrs. White-Our staff wants to know why they are reporting when we are red. Dr. Williams-Unless the Governor issues a stay-at-home order all staff report.

Mrs. White-I wanted to give a shout out to Kanawha City Elementary. Their teachers went on the road to one of their community housing areas and actually got to see some of their students and give some help with iPads. I just wanted to acknowledge them. Dr. Williams-We've actually had several schools doing that.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS (continued)

Mr. Cavender-I have had a couple folks say that if their child didn't get to the conferences right on time or they couldn't find it, then teachers were giving zeros. We are all learning this together and I know a lot of them are being understanding, but I think we need to send a blanket message to teachers about that. Dr. Williams-We've sent messages out and if we've heard of specific cases we address those individually. We have to be lenient with the kids. This is a brand new experience for everyone. It's so much different than it was in the spring. Our teachers are still learning how much work to give. Overwhelming our teachers are being really patient.

Mr. White-A couple days ago the Governor added a metric to the color coded map with regard to the positivity rate. It's my understanding that what he did is go down to yellow to go back to school by the old way or reduction of the 7 day rolling average of the positivity rate below a certain percentage. What is the actual percentage that we need to get it down to? Dr. Williams-We would have to go down below 5. That was to get us from orange to gold. If we were in orange and our positivity rate was 4.99 or lower then we could go back to school. Mr. White-What if we are red but we get back to 4.99%. Are we allowed to go back? Dr. Williams-No, if we are red we have to stay where we are until the next Saturday.

Dr. Williams-I've been trying to send you some positive things that's been going on. Things aren't perfect, but we work every day to make them better. There are some things that people are asking about and one is about the need for buses to go out into the areas to help with Wi-Fi. We have to coordinate the buses and the meals but we are trying to get buses out to specific areas that can serve the most kids. We are getting a lot of positive comments about that. We are also having some questions about what happens if a person tests positive. If they test positive the Health Department notifies us and Alicia, who is our contact with the Health Department, and they give the person who tested positive instructions on what they are to do, how long they have to be out, if they can use COVID leave, etc. We go in and sanitize the room or area where the staff member has worked. There's also a form that our Principals complete by talking over the phone with the person to see what areas of the building they were in etc. and we send that to the Health Department and that helps them with tracing. They are incredible people to work with. One more question I get a lot of questions about is the disinfectant that we are using. The MSDS sheets have been sent out. Some schools may already have them. We have labels for all of the bottles.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS (continued)

Mrs. Jordon-People are saying that that they need a Wi-Fi bus at the Clendenin area. Maybe you can address that tomorrow. Does every bus has Wi-Fi? Dr. Williams-We are replacing the Wi-Fi equipment. That has been ordered and we are waiting on it to come in. I actually sent an email to Mrs. Brown this morning to see what areas they needed help in.

Mrs. Jordon-I see we still have some teacher vacancies. Is someone filling in for those vacancies? Dr. Williams-A lot of the subs coming in are the newer people who just graduated and we are working with them to help them get up to par.

Mrs. Jordon-People are commenting and asking why this meeting tonight is on Zoom with teachers having to report to school? Dr. Williams-When we first talked about this one of the concerns was our numbers kept going up. We've had 2 positive cases in this building. When we have a positive case in the school we ask teachers to stay in their rooms to make sure it's not spread but yet we were going to have a meeting here tonight and bring all of our people together as well as bringing others in the building that could possibly contaminate some of the people. We don't ask our schools to do that so I don't think we should ask our staff here to do that as well. Hopefully we will be out of the red by our meeting in October and we can go back to a live meeting.

Mrs. White-We have mentioned the important of the mental health aspect. I didn't know if there was some information that we could put out to families. There are a lot of folks that have a lot of anxiety. Is there something Mr. Duffy could put out? Dr. Williams-We have stuff out there and Mr. Duffy and the counselors have been working closely with students, but you are right our families are important too. I'll talk to him tomorrow and see what we can do.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

- A. Thursday, September 17, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- B. Monday, October 5, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- C. Thursday, October 15, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES (continued)

- D. Monday, November 2, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Special Session at Riverside High School
- E. Thursday, November 19, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- F. Monday, December 7, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Special Session at Mary C. Snow Westside Elementary
- G. Thursday, December 17, 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 Becky J. Jordon at 6:36 p.m.

President

Secretary

djl

9/29/2020