

November 19, 2020

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Regular Session on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at the Board of Education Building, Charleston, West Virginia. 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
Carol Hamric, Executive Director, Human Resources
Lindsey McIntosh, General Counsel
Melanie Meadows, Treasurer, Budget & Finance
Briana Warner, Communications Director
Chuck Smith, Executive Director, Facilities, Planning & Management
Alan Cummings, Director, Purchasing & Supply Management
Keith Vititoe, Executive Director, Safety & Security
Elaine Gayton, Director, Staff Development/ESL
Ryan Breinar, Director, Safety
Mellow Lee, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary
Leah Sparks, Executive Director, Technology

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. October 5, 2020 - Special Session
- B. October 15, 2020 - Regular Session

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Kanawha County Schools Educator of the Year 2019-20, Melissa Ruddle

Dr. Williams-As you all know we are a little behind because of the situation that we have been in since March, but last year's Educator of the Year is Mrs. Melissa Ruddle who has been in Kanawha County Schools for 32 years. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to KCS and has excelled as an educator helping teachers continuously improve the learning experiences for students. Missy started her teaching career as an English teacher at Spring Hill Junior High where she had Ms. Lee. Since that time Missy has been a Curriculum Assistant Principal at Sissonville High and South Charleston High School, Principal at McKinley and George Washington, Assistant Superintendent for Middle Schools and has currently been the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction for the past 8 years. Missy is also the one who is responsible for the weekly emails and Schoology Training that started last March and went out every week to teachers. Both of her children are teachers in our system. She is a dog lover and has four dogs of her own. Missy, congratulations and we truly appreciate everything you do

- B. Encova Safety Award

Alicia Cunningham-Kanawha County Schools has been selected to receive the safety award from Encova Insurance. The safety award program is a recognition of continuous proactive improvement within a company's safety culture. Encova uses 6 core elements of an effective safety and health program along with measurable goals to select the recipient of this award. Kanawha County Schools Safety and Human Resources Departments have dedicated numerous efforts to reduce the accidents and look at proactive ways to prevent and manage claims. We are very pleased to present you with this award and congratulate you on all of the hard work you have done.

Dr. Williams-I would like to thank Encova also as well as Ryan Bremar. The safety programs that he has implemented in our system have truly made a difference.

REPORTS

- A. Kanawha County Travel Reimbursement for October, 2020 (Enclosure 42)
- B. Monthly Financial Report (Enclosure 43)
- C. Legal Reports
None
- D. Board Reports
None

PERSONNEL

- A. Personnel Agenda for November 19, 2020 (Enclosure 44)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Revised Personnel Agenda as included in Enclosure 44. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

Mrs. Jordon-Congratulations Dr. Potter. Mr. Cavender-Congratulations to Mr. Milam.
Mrs. Jordon-Thank you Mr. Milam for all of your years of service.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT

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

- A. Approval of Bills for October, 2020 (Enclosure 45)

Approval of the payment of bills for the month of October, 2020 in the amounts of \$32,751,650.51 for the Current Expense Fund and the Special Revenue Fund; \$678,643.28 for the KCS Public Library Excess Levy Fund; \$2,123,748.17 for the Permanent Improvement Fund; and \$605,089.64 for the Public Library Fund as reflected in Enclosure 45.

- B. Budget Supplements & Transfers (Enclosure 46)

Approval of budget supplements and transfers as reflected in Enclosure 46.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

A. CEFP Approval (Enclosures 49 & 50)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) as shown in Enclosures 49 & 50). Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Chuck Smith-Adam Krason is here from ZMM to give the presentation.

Adam Krason-I will try to be brief. There is a lot of information to go through. We started the process actually a year ago. Our role is to review the facilities. We visited every school in the district with an architect and two engineers. We did cost estimating and we facilitated the committee meetings. The committee's responsibility was to help develop the goals and objectives. We used a survey to collect additional data from the CEFP Committee. All the decisions that were made were driven by the data. The enrollment numbers for 2009-10 were 27,220 students. The projection in the last CEFP was that it would drop to 25,887 and over the 10 years it dropped slightly more to 25,486 students. Mr. White-What is the actual enrollment for 2020? Briana Warner-24,698. Adam Krason-The projection for 2029 was 24,123 students. That was provided pre-corona virus. The school with the lowest enrollment is Sharon Dawes. The trend is there is lower enrollment in the eastern Kanawha County Schools. That's the Riverside attendance area. The FCI is calculated as the requirements to bring the school up to code versus the replacement value. If you get above 30 you are considered critical. By 2024, twenty-five Kanawha County Schools will fall in that critical category. When they projected what that means in dollars that would be \$239 million by 2024 to invest to bring them up to code and in 2029 it grows to \$514 million. Some of these utilization numbers are so low. Just to explain you could currently fit every student that attends Dunbar Middle and South Charleston Middle and West Side Middle into West Middle School. It's a lot bigger than it needs to be for the students it's servicing. The initial consensus of the committee was a renovation of Cedar Gove Elementary and the closure of Cedar Grove Middle School and a new Chesapeake/Marmet Elementary and a new Belle/Malden Elementary school would be next. In that consolidation Midland Trail would close and the students would move into each of those schools. The schools are about 3-5 miles apart. Then after that the new Capital area middle school which would be a combination of West Side and Horace Mann. The last two projects would be a new St. Albans area middle school which would be Hayes and McKinley and the final one would be a new Cross Lanes Elementary Center. If fully implemented, these would be the schools that would be closed.

The above motion unanimously carried.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. Contracts for Construction of a New Herbert Hoover High School (Enclosure 51)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve contracts, as outlined below and shown in Enclosure 51, to the following lowest responsible bidders, for the Construction of a New Herbert Hoover High School.

- Work Package #2, General Construction, in the amount of \$40,523,000.00 to Swope Construction Co.
- Work Package #3, Proposal #3-1, Plumbing Work, in the amount of \$3,482,000.00 to Dougherty Company, Inc.
- Work Package #3, Proposal #3-2a, HVAC Work, in the amount of \$7,695,850.00 and Proposal #3-2b in the amount of \$105,000.00 to DSO Mechanical LLC.
- Work Package #4, Electrical Work, in the amount of \$9,295,000.00 to Progressive Electric, Inc.
- Work Package #5, Automatic Fire Suppression Work, in the amount of \$479,300.00 to Nitro Constructions Services.
- Work Package #6, Food Service Equipment Work, in the amount of \$697,727.78 to C & T Design and Equipment Co.
- Work Package #7, Furnishings and Equipment: Proposal 7-1, Metal Lockers in the amount of \$242,765.00 and Proposal 7-18, Combinations, which include: 7-10 Music Casework and Furnishings, 7-11 Classroom Furniture, 7-12 Metal Case goods, 7-13 Metal Shelving, 7-14 Mobile Folding Tables and Café Tables, and 7-15 Miscellaneous Furnishings in the amount of \$1,293,041.00 to Capital Business Interiors.
- Work Package #7, Furnishings and Equipment: Proposal 7-5, Gymnasium Equipment, 7-6 Plastic Laminate Casework, 7-7 Wood casework, 7-8 Auditorium Seating, 7-9 Telescoping Stands in the amount of \$855,000.00 to RM Huffman Co.
- Work Package #7, Furnishings and Equipment, Proposal 7-16 Aluminum bleachers and grandstands in the amount of \$2,699,380.00 to Dant Clayton Corporation.

The above motion was seconded by Mr. Jim. J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Attendance Policy (Enclosure 31)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the revised Student Attendance policy as shown in Enclosure 31. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Lindsey McIntosh-The substantive changes were in accordance with the law. We just made the policy look nicer and more readable.

The above motion unanimously carried.

DELEGATIONS

Vincent Knoll-I'm here to discuss COVID-19 and this county's response to it. I'm the father of a child in her first year of school. Before school opened up, we made contact with the school to make sure we were following the guidelines and what we were given were the CDC recommendations. Day 1 and 2 of school was a success. Day 3 we were stopped outside by the principal saying our mask wasn't good enough for the child. I'm confused. I want to know why. Mrs. McIntosh emailed me saying the mask didn't meet the CDC recommendations. Ironically it does. It actually exceeds them. She admits they have no written reason for pulling my child from class. Again on October 12th we got an email from Ms. Mellow Lee, pointing out they only have CDC recommendations. The following day my wife takes the child into the school and the Principal ignores her. They gave my wife a mask to give to our child. Does that mask adhere to CDC guidelines? No it does not. This is very hypocritical on multiple levels. It's really politicians that are making these absurd rules.

Mrs. Knoll-I'm here to support my husband. We conducted a survey and we interviewed over 1,000 people and I just wanted to tell you some results. We interviewed 793 parents, 126 teachers and 9 doctors. Twenty-three percent of those people have listed that they don't have adequate internet access at home. Sixty-seven percent voted for traditional learning and only four percent said that online learning is acceptable. Twelve percent agreed that children should stay in one classroom for 6 hours a day. Others thought it was animalistic. Eight percent said that children should have traditional schools. Sixty-three percent said school buses should operate as normal. Twenty-nine percent said that they will vaccinate their children, thirty-seven percent said they will not and thirty-three percent are undecided. Parents should also have a freedom of choice about their children. What I am trying to say is that we are asking for a choice as parents. Let us choose what we want to do. Let each decide if they want their child to wear a mask or not.

DELEGATIONS (continued)

Dinah Adkins-As we near the holidays families are planning gatherings and many will be traveling. We are charting new territory and we are in dangerous waters. Class size has increased in some situations. Subs are not always available. Let me propose an analogy. For safety and consistency KCEA is asking you to set a schedule for remote teaching from Thanksgiving Break to Jan. 11th. However we have an issue. Football playoffs. For some this is an important activity so to be fair please consider this plan. Students are already remote through Dec. 3rd. We would suggest to start remote again on December 7 and go through Monday January 11th. This will allow students to participate in playoffs. We hope you will consider scheduling a meeting to take action and prepare our school system for the trying weeks ahead. We know all of you are in a difficult situation.

Jerry Throckmorton-I can't be more proud as a professional in this county for the hard work and energy that all of our people have performed for the benefit of our students. They need to be praised and I'm here to do that. I don't think any of us envisioned how difficult this circumstance would be. We know what the concerns are. Nothing is new. We have the same problems. Do we have enough PPE and are we going to keep getting it? I know in the last few days I have had a couple of my classes that have gone from in-person to having eLearning students in there. They want me to put my lecture on conference calls. I don't care to do that but in some ways I don't have the technology to be able to give the services in quite the same way. It's just a difficult thing to manage. Having enough substitutes is a real problem. I'm proud of the hard work everyone is doing. We are stressed and we are working hard. We are all trying to solve the problems.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. 2021-22 School Calendar Options (Enclosures 47 & 48)

Elaine Gayton-Two years ago you approved a calendar for 3 years. Basically what we are doing is bringing back version one of that calendar which would be the same calendar that would have been this year if we hadn't had to delay the opening due to COVID. We also have a second version. The first version employees would return on August 3rd and school would start for students on August 9th. The last official day for employees would be May 31st. The only difference in the second version is that it would start a week later. Employees would return on the 10th and students would start on the 16th. Most of it is very similar. June 2nd would be the last official days for 200 day employees.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Mr. White-Can we get someone to explain the move away from DoJo? Dr. Williams-Leah can best address all of those issues. Leah Sparks-We've been using Schoology for four years and at the time we still have a lot of our elementary schools that didn't use it except for grades and attendance. During that time we ended up with issues because there were so many different programs that schools were using and we ended up receiving a ton of complaints from parents because they didn't know where to look. They had Remind, they had the call-out system, etc. The other thing is that we needed to transition to daily work being provided online. The other platforms aren't a learning management system. The place that all of the online learning was happening is Schoology. That's where we needed to communicate. The other thing that happened was that we were trying to provide technical support to everyone at home. I can help them and my staff can help them with anything in Schoology because we purchased it, we oversee it.

Mrs. White-Have we gotten any numbers of what we are seeing as far as trends? Dr. Williams-We have had 53% of our parents that have registered their child for the next semester. It's just about even. There's very little movement one way or another.

Mr. Crawford-I want to take this time to compliment Dr. Williams and our staff throughout the county. Everybody is doing the very best they can.

Mr. Cavender-Do you think we may want to consider what our potential plans would be for entering into the next semester? Mrs. Adkins made some good points and some recommendations. Do you think we could schedule a special meeting to discuss a contingency plan? Mrs. Jordon-I don't understand what we can do? We are dictated by the Governor. If we are red we don't go. Mr. Cavender-Is there something we can do as a county to protect our students if we don't feel as confident as the Governor does with the numbers? Mrs. Jordon-I don't see a reason for it, but if the majority wants it I will. Mr. Crawford-We can put it on the agenda and talk about it at the next meeting, I'm fine with that. Dr. Williams-The next meeting is an LSIC Meeting at Mary C. Snow West Side Elementary. You all can decide and let me know and I can schedule one.

Dr. Williams-I don't know that people really realize what our cooks, our bus drivers, our teachers and our aides, what everyone has been doing. Today alone 88,000 meals were delivered for our kids for this week and next week. Our principals are working just as diligently to do what they need to do to make sure the school is running smoothly. Alicia deserves a gold star because I don't know how she is keeping up with it all. The support we have from you all is very much appreciated.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

- A. Thursday, November 19, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- B. Monday, December 7, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Special Session at Mary C. Snow Westside Elementary
- C. Thursday, December 17, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- D. Monday, January 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Special Session at Piedmont Elementary
- E. Thursday, January 21, 2021, 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. Tracy 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 7:35 p.m.

President

Secretary

djl

12/17/2020