

December 7, 2020

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Special Session on Monday, December 7, 2020 at Mary C. Snow West Side Elementary, 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 (via phone)
Jim J. Crawford, Sr.
Ryan White
Thomas E. Williams, Secretary

Debra J. Lewis, Recording Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Melissa Ruddle, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction
Mellow Lee, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary

LSIC REPORT

Destiny Spencer-Welcome to Mary C. Snow West Side Elementary. I am the acting Principal. I want to thank everyone for their assistance. Here at Mary C. Snow West Side Elementary we set and achieve goals, we learn and we lead.

LSIC REPORT (continued)

The big elephant in the room is what are you doing with COVID procedures? We have created a cleaning schedule and our Title I teachers are now classroom teachers and with that being said, there are no classes that have more than 13 students in them. There is not lunch in the cafeteria.

Our theme this year is super heroes. Learning is our super power. We want to empower stakeholders by helping them make decisions, getting their input and being collaborative leaders. We have created a school-wide improvement team. We've created a curriculum coordinator for the primary and intermediate teachers. This year we have been focusing a lot on student leadership. They are collaborating with the teachers. The student of the week gets to go to our Student Headquarters and pick out a prize. For our eLearner of the week we actually go to their house with balloons and take a selfie with them. We send out Remind messages every morning at 6:30 a.m. We have full staff meetings at 6:55 a.m. We send out the Wildcat Week-at-a-Glance weekly. The Wildcat Newsletter is sent home quarterly. Schoology is our main source of communication. We are having our first virtual Family Night on December 17th. The parents are going to come and pick up an 8 X 10 canvas, some paint and a holiday stencil. They are going to take that home and we are going to use Microsoft Teams to do the project and they will read a holiday book. We are really focusing on PTO trying to get parents more involved. We also have a technology specialist onsite every single day trouble shooting any problems with the iPads. We just did a parent survey in the spring of 2019 and there were 31% of parents who felt they were involved. In the spring of 2020 that doubled to 64%. We have two transition specialists who go to the classroom and give them that one-on-one support. We are using the ABE implementation which is the Alternative Behavior Educator Program. That is on an iPad so the student logs onto the program and they walk them through step by step on how to release their stress, let's them determine whether their behavior is wrong or correct and how they can fix it. We use a behavior flow chart. We are using in-school suspension. The first 9 weeks of 2019 we had 37 in-school suspensions, now during the first 9 weeks of 2020 we only had 3. In 2019 we had 70 interventions in the first 9 weeks, now we only had 8. We have a lot of corporations who are involved with our schools and donate anything that we need. We are truly thankful for them. Curriculum and instruction is something we are focusing on. This year we are primarily focusing on reading and math. We have a parent and student incentive which will help them to earn a \$25 gift card to Walmart. The parent academy is one of our family engagement initiatives. If the parents come for 8 sessions they get \$50 just for coming. They will work on things like Schoology, curriculum and technology. We also have the social emotional welfare hotline and that is where students, staff and parents can call if they need help.

LSIC REPORT (continued)

Mrs. Jordon-What is the percentage for students in the 2nd semester? Destiny Spencer-We have 197 coming and 137 that's going to do eLearning. That is higher in-person this time.

Mr. White-Are you still fluctuating a lot as far as student population? Destiny Spencer-Yes, not only have we had a lot of new enrollment, I think we've had 45 enrolled this time, but we've had a lot of fluctuating from in-person to eLearning. They are coming out of state not from within the county. Mr. White-How do you see COVID affecting academics? Destiny Spencer-If there is a positive case then attendance decreases. Some students may not have internet at home or a parent there that will help them so it does affect academics. We are only focusing on reading and math so that helps us help the students.

Mrs. Jordon-Are all of your positions here filled? Destiny Spencer-We have 2 teachers that just went on a leave of absence and we got a long term sub for one of them and we are working on getting another one.

Mr. White-How is the Lawyer in Schools program going? Destiny Spencer-It's good.

Mrs. White-Are substitutes hard to find? Destiny Spencer-We have a transition specialist that will go in and sub and we also have Mrs. Lamb, the technology specialist, and Mrs. Cosby, the counselor, who will become the sub.

Mr. Crawford-I'm impressed with the progress you all have made. You guys are doing a wonderful job and I appreciate that. Destiny Spencer-Thank you. Dr. Carena deserves to hear that too and I will make sure she knows that.

Mr. White-What can the Board do to help in getting the kids back up to speed? Destiny Spencer-If you could help us continue to have smaller classroom sizes that would be beneficial.

Dr. Williams-I would like to thank the principal and assistant principal. You all are in a very difficult situation not only with Dr. Carena but with the loss of a former teacher and a teacher's husband. You all are doing a tremendous job. You made a comment about your discipline, and part of it is due to low classroom sizes, but I really think it's getting back to the Leader in Me Program that you all used when the school was first opened. There were very few problems with discipline then and now that you all are coming back to it, I think that makes a huge difference with the kids. I think that's part of the

LSIC REPORT (continued)

reason why your discipline referrals are down and when they are down your academics go up. Thank you for all you are doing during extraordinary situations.

PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Agenda for December 7, 2020 (Enclosure 52)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board vote separately on the George Washington High School Principal position. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan White and carried 4-0 with Mr. Crawford recusing himself from the vote.

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the revised personnel agenda as included in Enclosure 52. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan White and carried 4-0 with Mr. Crawford recusing himself from the vote.

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the George Washington High School principal position as included in Enclosure 52. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan White.

Mr. White-I'd like to say that because of the recent decision that occurred, I personally do not think that we have much latitude in this because he was #1 on the matrix. That's just me. Mr. Cavender-What did Mr. White say? I couldn't hear him. Mr. White-I personally do not think that we have much latitude in this decision because he was #1 on the matrix and the decision that was made basically said we have to go with #1 on the matrix. Mr. Cavender-I agree.

Mrs. Jordon-That's for another time. I don't think we always need to go with the person who is #1 on the matrix because of other decisions. I support Mr. Crawford to go to GW High School so congratulations Mr. Crawford.

The above motion carried 4-0 with Mr. Jim J. Crawford recusing himself from the vote.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Mr. Crawford-I think we need to have a meeting sometime this week to discuss whether we will still go face to face or remote. Mrs. White-I'm getting contacted a great deal with staff members that are concerned about numbers and safety. If we have a majority I would agree to have a meeting.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS (continued)

Mr. White-It sounds like we will be remote no matter what next week because the numbers are so high. Are we ready to go remote next week? Dr. Williams-Our teachers have been told time and again that it could happen at any point. It would just be a matter of teachers getting their lessons on Schoology. Mrs. Jordon-I think we need to wait and see what our numbers are. Mr. White-I think we need to start letting parents know that they could possibly be remote next week. Dr. Williams-We can do that. I don't know that we need to have a meeting to discuss it. I talked to Alicia this afternoon and she suggested we wait a day and see what our numbers are tomorrow and then perhaps give the parents a day or two so they can make plans. I can make a decision after speaking to you. Mrs. Jordon-I think that's fair.

Mrs. Jordon-I'd like to make a comment about teacher matrix. I want people to know that I respect Jude Bloom and his recent decision but our Superintendent is in that position because they know who is best at each school and that's where I will continue to support. It won't always be #1, it will be the one that the Superintendent feels like out of the top 4 names will be best at that school. Just because that decision was made does not mean that it is our new Board decision. I'd like also the Board to have your calendars when we come to the meeting on December 17th because I would like us to meet in early January to meet and discuss Dr. William's future contract.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

- A. Monday, December 7, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Special Session at Mary C. Snow West Side Elementary
- B. Thursday, December 17, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- C. Monday, January 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Special Session at Piedmont Elementary
- D. 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

Mrs. Tracy White moved: That the Special Session of the Board be adjourned. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan White and unanimously carried. The Special Session was declared adjourned by Board President Becky J. Jordon at 6:29 p.m.

President

Secretary

djl

12/22/2020