

December 17, 2020

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Regular Session on Thursday, December 17, 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  
Ric Cavender  
Jim J. Crawford, Sr.  
Ryan White  
Thomas E. Williams, Jr., Secretary

**ABSENT**

Tracy White, President Pro Tem

Debra J. Lewis, Recording Secretary

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Paula Potter, Deputy Superintendent  
Carol Hamric, Executive Director, Human Resources  
Lindsey McIntosh, General Counsel  
Briana Warner, Communications Director  
Amon Gilliam, Assistant Superintendent, Middle & Alternative Schools  
Leah Sparks, Executive Director, Technology  
Chuck Smith, Executive Director, Facilities, Planning & Management  
Alan Cummings, Director, Purchasing & Supply Management  
Keith Vititoe, Executive Director, Safety & Security  
Mellow Lee, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary  
Teresa Smith, Coordinator of Accounting  
Alicia Warden, Health Services  
George Aulenbacher, Assistant Superintendent, High Schools, Technical & Adult Education  
Melissa Ruddle-Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction  
Elaine Gayton, Director, Staff Development/ESL

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. November 2, 2020 - Special Session

## **REPORTS**

A. Kanawha County Travel Reimbursement for November, 2020 (Enclosure 53)

B. Monthly Financial Report (Enclosure 54)

C. Legal Reports

None

D. Board Reports

None

## **PERSONNEL**

A. Personnel Agenda for December 17, 2020 (Enclosure 55)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the Revised Personnel Agenda as included in Enclosure 55. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and carried 4-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **CONSENT**

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the following CONSENT Items A-B.  
Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and carried 4-0.

#### A. Approval of Bills for November, 2020 (Enclosure 56)

Approval of the payment of bills for the month of November, 2020 in the amounts of \$26,895,653.21 for the Current Expense Fund and the Special Revenue Fund; \$122,565.01 for the KCS Public Library Excess Levy Fund; \$2,379,764.07 for the Permanent Improvement Fund; and \$532,689.34 for the Public Library Fund as reflected in Enclosure 56.

#### B. Budget Supplements & Transfers (Enclosure 57)

Approval of budget supplements and transfers as reflected in Enclosure 57.

## **OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

#### A. Emergency Radio Network (Enclosure 58)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve a contract to provide an emergency radio network in the amount of \$153,920.70 to the lowest responsible bidder, Discount Communications & Electronics, Inc., per bid 21-116 as shown in Enclosure 58. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Keith Vititoe-This would put a base radio in every school so we can have positive emergency communication if we have a significant event. This has been a five-year goal of mine to get these installed in schools. Back in 2017, the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office was gracious enough to donate some radios that they had and we put those in every school but handheld radios don't work very good in concrete and steel buildings so this project was put on the school excess levy. We appreciated the vote of support for this project. Mrs. Jordon-Is it a one-time fee? Keith Vititoe-Yes, once we put these in we can expect a service life of 10 years. It's a long-term investment.

Mr. White-You believe this will make our kids safer? Keith Vititoe-Yes, that's the intent. At any given moment I can talk to every school in the county.

The above motion carried 4-0.

## **OTHER NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

### B. Levy Project Finance agreement (Enclosure 59)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve a finance agreement to fund the remaining roofing and HVAC projects per the current excess levy:

Year 2020-2021 - \$8.6M

Year 2021-2022 -\$23.7M

Year 2022-2023 -\$26.6M

Year 2023-2023 -\$27.5M

To the Highest Scoring bidder, BB&T now Truist, per RFP#21-110 as shown in Enclosure 59. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Alan Cummings-Basically the goal in seeking financing was to expedite construction projects. Right now we anticipate that levy funds will continue to flow, but we anticipate a cash flow issue as far as completion of construction projects. This will allow us to move more quickly in the construction process. If we wait we will have to delay schools that are being repaired or HVAC projects or other levy related projects until funding is available.

Mr. White-I'm disappointed we didn't get this to local underwriters. I think we would have had a chance at a better interest rate if we would have done that. I spoke to Mr. Smith and he said if we were to rebid this that it would cause significant delay in the projects. Mrs. Jordon-Why wasn't it? Mr. White-It was a misunderstanding. Mr. Cavender-Do we have a process and policy in place? Mr. White-There are some ways we could have put it out that didn't happen but I think that's going to change in the future. Mr. Cavender-You are saying local insurers here? Alan Cummings-Yes, like Crews and Associates and Piper Jaffray. They have indicated that they would have provided a competitive rate. Alan Cummings-Next time we will specifically target those companies. We did advertise on a national level, we used data bases on national levels as well and we also advertised in the Gazette. We did everything we could but for whatever reason those companies didn't participate.

The above motion carried 4-0.

### C. AEP Easement (Enclosure 60)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the AEP Easement to allow utility installation for the new Herbert Hoover High School as shown in Enclosure 60. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and carried 4-0.

## **OTHER NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

### D. DuPont Middle School Roof Replacement (Enclosure 61)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve a contract for the replacement of DuPont Middle School Roof to the lowest responsible bidder, Mecklenburg Roofing & Sheet Metal Co. of WV, LLC, as per Bid #20-127 as shown in Enclosure 61. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Mr. Crawford-Where is this company located? Chuck Smith-Their headquarters are in Charlotte but they have a local office on Woodrums Lane in Charleston. They have an office in Charleston and they are licensed in the state of West Virginia. Mrs. Jordon-For \$40,000 more we could have got Tri-State Roofing which is a West Virginia company. Chuck Smith-Legally I'm bound to offer to the lowest responsible bidder. Mr. Crawford-If we have to go before the people again and ask them to support it, they aren't going to do it. Chuck Smith-I understand that but this is not a levy project, and Mecklenburg has an office in Charleston. Mr. Crawford-Do they pay taxes here? Chuck Smith-Yes if they are working in West Virginia I would assume they would. Dr. Williams-Will they be using local workers? Chuck Smith-Yes.

Alan Cummings-For construction projects in particular we can't offer local preference. Mr. Cavender-Why is that? Alan Cummings-It's written in state code. We follow policy 8200 and it specifically outlines when we can apply vendor preference. It says for commodities and services and printing. It also says that we can only give a 5% preference so that is outlined in the policy that we are mandated to follow. I would love to see it go to local vendors as well, but we have to follow those rules. The federal guidelines are even more stringent. Mr. White-Can we require them to use local workers? Chuck Smith-If the project was more than \$500,000 they would be required under the West Virginia Jobs Act to use labor force within a certain mile radius of the West Virginia border. Mr. White-So we don't have the power to extend the WV Jobs Act to contracts under \$500,000? Chuck Smith-Not to my knowledge. Dr. Williams-Lindsey can look into that.

The above motion carried 3:1 with Mr. Crawford voting No.

## **OTHER NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

E. Virtual Work-Based Learning Internship (Enclosure 62)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the course and content standards for Virtual Work-Based Learning Internship as shown in Enclosure 62. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Missy Ruddle-We are doing this in partnership with the Education Alliance. It's for a virtual work based learning course and they will get some job shadowing with Appalachian Power, Toyota, West Virginia American Water Company and Dow and they will also get business mentoring from people at these different companies. This is a great opportunity for them.

The above motion unanimously carried.

## **DELEGATIONS**

Dinah Adkins-We would like to thank everyone for your hard work. We are especially appreciative of the Board that voted to change to remote learning in December. KCEA members want our students in the classroom but safety must be the first priority. The weeks between now and mid-January will show an increase in cases and unfortunately deaths. We would like the Board to allow instruction to remain remote until mid-January then re-entry with the blended model until the number of positive cases and the number of students selecting the in-person model of instruction can be accurately assessed. Notifying teachers, service personnel and family will alleviate stress and last minute adjustments to scheduling. Employees would appreciate knowing about how and when the classrooms and schools are cleaned. Thank you for all you do.

Jerry Throckmorton-We applaud being out this week and we think eLearning should extend to mid-January. We know we are dealing with the people that gathered at Thanksgiving and we know that people will be gathering for Christmas. We obviously have a lot of questions about the vaccinations and who will get it and where, will insurance cover it, etc. Those are some of the issues and I appreciate all the hard work that everyone does to keep everyone safe. We hope there will be action taken to delay students in the building at least a couple weeks into the 2020-21 year.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

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

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve Enclosure 48 as the calendar for the 2021-22 school year. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Mrs. Jordon-Do they both end at the semester? Elaine Gayton-Yes, that is correct. Mrs. Jordon-So if we go with the later one tell us the difference. Elaine Gayton-There really isn't much of a difference. If they go for the 2<sup>nd</sup> one they will start a week later. They will get less days at the holiday break. I haven't received any comments or questions at all.

Mr. Cavender-I'd like to see us go back little later in August. Dr. Williams-I received one email from a parent and they wanted us to start late like we did this year but that would cause employees to skip a paycheck and I would never recommend something like that. Mr. Cavender-The current motion on the table is option 2. They get 3 less days of holiday break and they go 2 days longer at the end of the year.

Mr. White-In my opinion, we've had kids out of school for so long we need to get them in as early as possible which would be the first option. Mr. Cavender-I get that point. I guess a part of me is let's give them another week of summer. These kids have gone through a lot.

The above motion failed 2:2 with Mrs. Jordon and Mr. White voting no.

Mr. Ryan White moved: The Board approve Enclosure 47 as the calendar for the 2021-22 school year. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon and carried 3:1 with Mr. Crawford voting no.

## **QUESTIONS/ANSWERS**

Mr. Cavender-I would like at some point to have a discussion about what we are going to do after the holidays.

Mrs. Jordon-I was going to ask if we can talk about the cleaning of the schools at the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dr. Williams-We can talk about it, but because that's an LSIC Meeting you all have asked that we keep that pretty strictly for LSIC but we can put it on the agenda if you want us to. Mrs. Jordon- I was hoping that we can meet sometime during the day on January 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss Dr. Williams' contract and maybe we could have him give us an update on COVID. Could we do maybe 3:00 p.m.? What are your feelings

## **QUESTIONS/ANSWERS (continued)**

about going back to school? Dr. Williams-We have the map and we don't know what it's going to say on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January. If we still see that the numbers are going up I can talk to you all about what I think we should do and we can make that decision.

Mrs. Jordon-I would like to put on the February Curriculum Agenda how things are going at Chandler. I'm concerned about how those students are doing through all of this.

Mr. White-How is the survey going? Dr. Williams-There have been lots of questions we don't have answers to yet. We sent the State Department the email of every employee. As far as distribution it's going to those who are 50 and above first and then they will send it to the younger employees. The Health Department and Alicia and the National Guard will then determine who gets the shots and when. We are hoping that we can do it in the schools.

Mr. White-Will it be a possibility to give an incentive for employees to get the vaccine? Dr. Williams-I don't know that we would have the money to do that. We'd have to look in the budget. I'll check with Melanie.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES**

- A. Thursday, December 17, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- B. Monday, January 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Special Session at Piedmont Elementary
- C. Thursday, January 21, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- D. Monday, February 1, 2021, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- E. Thursday, February 18, 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. Ric Cavender 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 6:50 p.m.

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President

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Secretary

djl

1/7/2021