

January 4, 2021

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Special Session on Monday, January 4, 2021 at Piedmont 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

Jim J. Crawford, Sr.

Ryan White

Thomas E. Williams, Secretary

Debra J. Lewis, Recording Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mellow Lee, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary

LSIC REPORT

Ashley Grogg-Thank you all for coming. We have a new school logo that was created by our staff this year which is Piedmont Panthers are Prepared, Productive, Proud and Positive. Our focus at Piedmont is rigorous curriculum PBIS and mental health. We recently had two Professional Development sessions, one was led by a staff member and one by Mr. Comer our Transformational Specialist. It was on Nearpod and PlayPosit.

LSIC REPORT (continued)

These are two programs that can up the engagement for students. I challenged the staff in the next month to start using these programs. Tomorrow I will be doing a walk through with a 1st grade teacher who will be using Nearpod. We have a PBIS expectation model. This matrix was created by our staff over months of us putting together ideas and what we want our students to look like in the building and what are our expectations. Our focus right now is making sure all of our language is the same. This matrix is posted in the classrooms and also large paw prints are all over the building and they say these things on them, so when the students are in the cafeteria they know what being prepared looks like and when they are in the classroom they know what being productive looks like. Everything is positive. There's no taking things away and you earn points throughout the day. The next thing is mental health. We felt like that is very important this year based on everything that is happening, not only for the students but for the staff as well. Some of the things we have done is we have Harmony Mental Health Services that comes into our building. Right now they are doing all of the appointments by telehealth. Our school counselor and social worker have been facilitating those appointments. We did a needs assessment at the beginning of the year with our families and then we made a prioritized chart of targeted families so between our social worker and the counselor they are now providing services to those families based on their needs. We have had staff that have led us in professional development with mindfulness. We do daily meditation in the morning and afternoon on the intercom for students. We do team building for the staff to make sure that they are doing some self-care. I recently did a professional development on self-care and one of the easiest habits to do is to drink water. We talked with the PTO and they were in support of it so all of the staff is going to start it this week. They will get a water bottle and we are going to hold each other accountable. One of the things that keeps Piedmont together is the leadership team. We have 5 sub committees. They meet monthly and then they go back and meet with their teams then we all collaborate together. We've been doing home visits and have done Schoology training with the parents. Our face-to-face numbers are going to increase some and we are happy about that because we want our students back in the building. Piedmont doesn't have any walls and we have been able to move the dividers and furniture to make the spaces larger so we can spread our students out more. We will have less than 100 students out of the building and almost 200 in the building. We created a Google Doc that everyone can access where we can check on students that aren't in the building. It's an ongoing document that we keep adding to with columns that says the students name and what the problem is and what the social worker is doing to support that family. We have a Google Docs with data that I call data on steroids. We meet monthly and the teachers go in and fill in the data. This is something that I wanted to end with. We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now.

LSIC REPORT (continued)

Mrs. White-What is the percentage of students that aren't participating? Ashley Grogg-We have less than 10 kids right now that we are concerned about. We have about 6 that we are really concerned about. Ms. Lee gave us an assignment today and we are going to come up with a plan for each one of those kids. We have been very fortunate. Mrs. White-What is the biggest challenge? Ashley Grogg-Honestly, it's the parents understanding what they need to do at home and having the internet capabilities to do it. We've worked with the King Center and City Park to provide internet at their locations which has helped. They are running a program at the King Center every day for our eLearners. It's ran by the PACK Program, which is the Partnership for African American Churches.

Mr. Cavender-Is your total enrollment around 280? Ashley Grogg-Yes, with preschool we are around 300. Mr. Cavender-Is that up or down from previous years? Ashley Grogg-It's pretty steady. Mr. Cavender-Has the transient issued changed? Ashley Grogg-Most of our transient are because of the shelters that feed into our school and the two recovery programs that feed into here.

Mr. White-What can the Board Office do to help? Ashley Grogg-Honestly, I feel very supported. The Title I office and Ms. Lee the services we get from Title I are amazing. We have Mr. Comer here and a reading and a math specialist. One of the things we were talking about today was reaching out to those families that we just can't get to do what they need to do. In some instances the Mom works and we need to help get some of those Moms the help they need.

Mr. White-Are you still planning on doing the year-round schedule this year? Ashley Grogg-Yes, the staff would like to do the year round calendar. I do have a proposed calendar all ready to turn in. Mr. White-I think it would be beneficial this year because we've had so much loss of learning because of COVID. A lot of our schools are having issues with kids not retaining. How bad do you think the problem is? Ashley Grogg-I know when we looked at our data that we are seeing growth with the kids that are in-person. I don't want to say that the kids doing eLearning are not growing, but you don't always know who is at home helping them with the work so we feel like some of that data can be skewed. We are going to do the middle of the year testing when kids come back in the building so I think we will get some good data there.

Mrs. Jordon-Can you request for some of the eLearners to come in for testing? Ashley Grogg-We've done that but the biggest problem is transportation.

LSIC REPORT (continued)

Mrs. White-Mental health is a huge thing for me. What's the morale of your staff?
Ashley Grogg-They are very concerned. They are scared to be here. I think before Christmas some of them were really struggling. They come and do what they are supposed to do and they don't complain. Jerry Comer-From an outsider's perspective coming in, I don't see morale being down per se, I see a collective group of people working together. They are a team. Ashley Grogg-They amaze me. I couldn't ask for a better staff. There is nobody that is not pulling their weight.

PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Agenda for January 4, 2021 (Enclosure 63)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the revised personnel agenda as included in Enclosure 63. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Mrs. White-Can we get an updated list with the comparison of eLearners versus what we had back in January? Dr. Williams-Yes, I can have Zach run the numbers that we have thus far that are tagged. The counselors know which kids haven't made a decision and aren't tagged so they know which kids to go after. Mrs. White-Are we seeing more in person students coming back? Dr. Williams-My guess is yes. Mrs. White-What is the plan for classroom sizes? Dr. Williams-If we can add teachers we can do that if there is space in the school to move. The new requirements from the Governor said social distance to the extent possible and that's pretty much all we can do. Do you want me to go through some of the changes? Mrs. White-Yes. Dr. Williams-The kids whose parents chose in person will come back on the January 19th. As of right now winter sports starts March 1st. If the county turns red on any given day at the end of that day the high schools close. Then I will have discussions with the health department and decide when high schools can open back up. Mrs. Jordon-So the other kids will be in school when it's red? Dr. Williams-Yes, K-8 stays in school. Mrs. White-Did you say it is the counties' decision? Dr. Williams-The way it reads is that it is the Superintendent in conversation with the health department that will make the decision. If it turns orange they can go back. Staff reports unless the Governor issues a stay at home order. Last year the State of West Virginia received \$78 million in CARES Money. This year the State is getting \$301 million, so we are making plans on what to do to help the kids get caught up by providing extra support for students now, providing support for students trying to get the Promise Scholarship and what we can do this summer before they move on to the next grade level.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS (continued)

Dr. Williams-The federal leave has expired so there's no more COVID leave. We are still going to track the COVID leave in case the government changes their mind and we could give them their days back. I just got an email From Michele Blatt about vaccinations. I should have that information tomorrow as well. I have put Keith Vititoe as the contact person to be in charge of that. He did a county health plan when he was with the Sherriff's Department. It will be done with military precision. The only problem is they are saying we can do it at one school, well I'm sorry we can't. We will start with staff that is 50 plus this week. Mr. White-Which version of the vaccine will it be? Dr. Williams-I think it's going to be Moderna. Dr. Williams-I would just like to thank Ashley and Jerry for all of the hard work they've done.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

- A. Monday, January 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Special Session at Piedmont Elementary
- B. Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 3:00 p.m.-Special Session
- 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

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

President

Secretary

djl

1/12/2021