

April 5, 2021

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Special Session on Monday, April 5, 2021 at the Board of Education Building, Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Board President Becky J. Jordon at 4:00 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

Paula Potter, Deputy Superintendent

Mellow Lee, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary

Amon Gilliam, Assistant Superintendent, Middle & Alternative Schools

Missy Ruddle, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction

Megan McCorkle, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education & Student Support Services

Leah Sparks, Executive Director, Technology

Ron Pauley, Executive Director, Human Resources

Lindsey McIntosh, General Counsel

Jon Duffy, Director, Counseling & Testing

Briana Warner, Communications Director

PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Agenda for April 5, 2021 (Enclosure 94)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the personnel agenda as included in Enclosure 94. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

PRESENTATION

A. American College Application Campaign-School of Excellence 2020

Heather McChesney, WV Higher Education Policy Commission Coordinator of Curriculum Professional Development-Sixteen years ago I was an English teacher at Riverside High School where Paula Potter gave me a job. One of the very first teachers to welcome me in the building was the theater instructor, Mr. Reedy. I'm very excited to be here today to give him and his team this award. This year, in the middle of a global pandemic, we had close to 47,000 students participate in our College Application Exploration Week. Kanawha County rocked it out and I have to give a round of applause to Jon Duffy for that. He really rallied everyone behind this initiative and emphasized how important it was to explore careers and to explore any type of training beyond that high school diploma. We've been watching Sissonville for years and all the work that you guys have done and we are so incredibly pleased that when we were given the opportunity to nominate someone, Sissonville High School was the first school that came to our minds. I would like to take a minute and read the paragraph that was part of the nomination that we gave. Sissonville High School, one of the smaller, more rural high schools in the largest school district in the state of West Virginia, has made active strides to improve their college and career readiness culture among their students, feeder schools, and community. They have substantially improved their previous year's percentage of seniors completing a post-secondary application during CAEW. Student participation in college readiness preparation programs has increased leaps and bounds with the use of tools like CFVV.com, readiness assessments, initiatives like CAEW and FAFSA completion events, and dedicated staff and faculty. Recently, Sissonville's Student Body President was nominated and participated in the inaugural convening of the WV Student Success Leadership Council where he virtually met with high school and collegiate peers and college access professionals to discuss the barriers young people and their families face when planning for college and how they can begin to influence positive change among their peers and communities. Together, the students and faculty of Sissonville very much deserve to be recognized as the West Virginia 2020 ACAC School of Excellence. They are leading the way in West Virginia. There were only 22 schools in the nation that reserved this award.

PRESENTATION (continued)

Mr. Reedy-I am honored to accept this on behalf of the students, faculty and staff at Sissonville High School. I have for many years shouted from the rooftops that our students and faculty are the finest anywhere, but the real rock stars of this award obviously are our counselors, Dickie Lanham, Heidi Woody and Shanna Casto.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Rock Ensemble Course Description (Enclosure 95)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the elective course Rock Ensemble at Riverside High School as shown in Enclosure 95. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Missy Ruddle-This is a new elective course that one of the teachers at Riverside High School has developed. Policy 2510 gave teachers the opportunity to create new courses, so this teacher decided that they wanted to put together a rock ensemble because it might interest some kids that are not interested in traditional band classes. He put together a syllabus and the class looks really exciting. I'm hoping it will spread to some other schools. Mark Davis, our Fine Arts Curriculum Specialist, said he took a course like this in high school and it changed the trajectory with what he did with the rest of his life.

The above motion unanimously carried.

B. English 12 Focused: Mystery, Crime and Thriller Course Description (Enclosure 96)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the elective course English 12 Focused: Mystery, Crime and Thriller at George Washington High School as shown in Enclosure 96. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Missy Ruddle-This is another one that kind of came out of policy 2510. English 12 has always prescribed exactly what we have to teach, but with this new policy we are allowed to create a thematic course that kids might be more interested in taking. Nick Hudson at GW developed the syllabus and I think there will be a lot of kids that are excited to take it. This is an opportunity for our teachers to get creative.

Mr. White-Kids can still take regular English 12 right? Missy Ruddle-Yes. This just gives them another option. Mrs. Jordon-Can another school pick it up? Missy Ruddle-Yes.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Mr. White-Will any kid be forced to take this class? Missy Ruddle-No. Mrs. White-I like both of these courses because they are kind of out-of-the-box thinking. Dr. Williams-With some of the bills that have passed in the legislature this year, as Mr. White has said often, we are going to have to sell ourselves and this is a way to sell ourselves.

The above motion unanimously carried. 5-0.

FIRST READING

A. KCS Tobacco/Nicotine Control Policy (Enclosure 97)

Lindsey McIntosh-We are working on cleaning up some of our policies and this was one that I saw that needed some general cleanup. The changes in 44.06 are just to make those citations correct with what the current regulation is called. In looking at what this policy does, it states that any where there is a tobacco violation by a student or an employee, such as smoking on the premises or giving another student a smoking device, the prohibitions and the punishments didn't totally line up. If an employee gives a cigarette to a child, I would consider that to be a bigger violation than an employee smoking on property. We wouldn't go with the 1st or 2nd offense violation with that, we could bypass those and go to the 3rd offense. We would still have to follow the law with the suspensions and terminations, but it didn't make sense that we would follow the 1st, 2nd and 3rd offense with something more severe like that, so those are the changes that were made with this policy.

Mr. White-How does this compare to our alcohol policy? Lindsey McIntosh-I haven't got to that policy yet. It's probably less severe than the alcohol policy would be. Alcohol would impair you throughout the day. I'm not even sure it exists anywhere other than J25, but per law if an employee would drink on the property or in their car off of the property and come back to work that would be more of a suspension/termination. Mr. White-So you will be cleaning that up too? Lindsey McIntosh-All of them will be getting cleaned up, it's a formatting thing that we have to do.

Mr. Cavender-Do we offer a course on cessation for students or employees that are trying to quit? Dr. Williams-We have an Employee Assistance Program that could possibly address some of that. As far as students, we have a basic health class. Paula Potter-There's a course on EVERFI that students go through to try and educate them on the harmful effects of tobacco.

FIRST READING (continued)

Mr. White-What is the punishment for students smoking? Lindsey McIntosh-That's in J25. I believe it can range from 1-3 days suspension. Mr. White-So we are suspending kids just for smoking? Lindsey McIntosh-No, it depends on the severity but it can be from 1-3 days, but it's also part of State Board Policy 4373. Mr. White-I don't have an issue with the employee violations and their punishment, but I don't think we should be suspending kids for just smoking once. Amon Gilliam-I know typically in the middle schools, the 1st offense is to call the parent then we have the tobacco cessation class with the nurse and now we have the EVERFI program that Dr. Potter was talking about. As it goes on to the 2nd or 3rd offense it could be in-school or out-of-school suspension. It just depends on the situation.

DELEGATIONS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S PRESENTATION

A. Employee Discipline

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board adopt the findings and conclusions of the hearing examiner and approve the Superintendent's recommendation for dismissal of Dennis Beasley, and Dennis Beasley shall be, and he is hereby, terminated from his employment with the Kanawha County Board of Education, effective immediately. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

REPORTS

A. Legal

The Board requested this item be discussed in an Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board enter into Executive Session to discuss legal issues with counsel. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ric Cavender and unanimously carried.

The Special Session of the Board was recessed and the Executive Session convened at 4:22 p.m.

RECONVENE SPECIAL SESSION

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board reconvene the Special Session of the Board. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried. The Special Session was reconvened at 5:56 p.m.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Mr. White-How many classrooms were closed due to COVID? Dr. Williams-I will check and get that information for you.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

- A. Monday, April 5, 2021, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- B. Thursday, April 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- C. Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Reconvening of March 16, 2021, Meeting to Enter all Levies)
- D. Monday, April 26, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Statutory Session (Public Hearing on Proposed Budget)
- E. Monday, May 3, 2021, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- F. Thursday, May 13, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- G. Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Approval of the Proposed Budget)

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. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried. The Special Session was declared adjourned by Board President Becky J. Jordon at 5:57 p.m.

President

Secretary

djl

4/12/2021