

April 15, 2021

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Regular Session on Thursday, April 15, 2021 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, Deputy Superintendent
Missy Ruddle, Asst. Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction
Mellow Lee, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary
Amon Gilliam, Assistant Superintendent, Middle & Alternative Schools
George Aulenbacher, Assistant Superintendent, High Schools, Technical & Adult Education
Lindsey McIntosh, General Counsel
Leah Sparks, Executive Director, Technology
Melanie Meadows, Treasurer, Budget & Finance
Briana Warner, Communications Director
Elaine Gayton, Director, Staff Development/ESL
Ron Pauley, Executive Director, Human Resources
Alicia Warden, Health Services

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mrs. Becky J. Jordon-At this time we will observe a moment of silence for all of the Kanawha County School Students who have passed away this year, most recently K. J. Taylor, a senior at Capital High School, who we lost on April 7, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. March 15, 2021 - Statutory Session
- B. March 15, 2021 - Statutory Session
- C. March 16, 2021 - Statutory Session
- D. March 16, 2021 - Special Session
- E. March 18, 2021 - Regular Session
- F. March 30, 2021 - Special Session

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Kanawha County Schools Teacher of the Year

Dr. Williams-Alexa Morton is a special education teacher at Ruffner Elementary School. Ms. Morton graduated with honors from George Washington High School in 2014, and she is also a graduate of The University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a degree in special education, Autism. Ms. Morton realized her career goal, which was to major in and teach special education, when she was still in high school while volunteering in a special needs classroom at GW. As a fairly new teacher, Alexa has already earned a reputation among her colleagues, at both the school and district levels, as an expert in the field of Special Education and Autism. Her colleagues at Ruffner nominated her and said that she is the most hard-working, professional, inspiring teacher they have had the pleasure of working with. She is able to provide challenging and appropriate lessons to meet the needs of every learner. It is her goal to make sure that her students reach their highest potential. She utilizes her classroom therapy dog, Forest to help reinforce, calm and educate her students. It is with great pleasure that we recognize her at the 2021 KCS Teacher of the Year. She will also be Kanawha County's candidate for WV Teacher of the Year.

PRESENTATIONS (continued)

Alexa Morton-I am really overwhelmed and nervous but I am really thankful to all of you who said all of these wonderful things about me and make my job easier every day. I wouldn't be able to do it without the amazing team of people that I work with at Ruffner and Rachel who comes to visit us and others in this room who shaped me and my love of Special Ed at GW. I am very honored. Thank you so much.

REPORTS

A. Kanawha County Travel Reimbursement for March, 2021 (Enclosure 98)

B. Monthly Financial Report (Enclosure 99)

C. Legal Reports

None

D. Board Reports

None

PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Agenda for April 15, 2021 (Enclosure 100)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Revised Personnel Agenda as included in Enclosure 100. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

B. Termination of Employee Contracts (Enclosure 101)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the employee termination of contracts/transfers as listed in Enclosure 101 effective at the end of the current school year. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Mr. White-How many of these do you think we will be able to hire back in the fall? Dr. Williams-Hopefully, we will get some more retirements in and maybe with some of the ESSERF money we will get most of them. That's the hope.

The above motion unanimously carried.

PERSONNEL (continued)

C. Renewal of Probationary Contracts (Enclosure 102)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Superintendent's recommendation for Renewal of Probationary Contracts as indicated in Revised Enclosure 102 for the ensuing school year 2021-22 be approved (WV §18A-2-8A). Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

D. Employment of Substitute Personnel (Enclosure 103)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Superintendent's recommendation for Employment of Substitute Personnel as included in Revised Enclosure 103 for the ensuing school year 2021-22 be approved (WV §18A-2-3). Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

E. Transfers and Subsequent Assignments (Enclosure 104)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Superintendent's recommendation that the employees being considered for transfer and subsequent assignment as included in Enclosure 104 for the ensuing school year 2021-22 be approved (WV §18A-2-7). Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

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 March, 2021 (Enclosure 105)

Approval of the payment of bills for the month of March, 2021 in the amounts of \$25,291,349.39 for the Current Expense Fund, Special Revenue Fund and Federal Stimulus Funds; \$468,318.18 for the KCS Public Library Excess Levy Fund; \$1,909,281.38 for the Permanent Improvement Fund; and \$625,041.57 for the Public Library Fund as reflected in Enclosure 105.

B. Budget Supplements & Transfers (Enclosure 106)

Approval of budget supplements and transfers as reflected in Enclosure 106.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT (continued)

C. Out of State Travel Requests (Enclosure 107)

This item was deleted from the agenda.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment of Treasurer

Mrs. Tracy White moved: Pursuant to the provisions of West Virginia Code 18-9-6, I move the Board approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Melanie Meadows as the Treasurer for the Board for the 2021-22 school year. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

B. Elementary English/Language Arts Textbook Adoption (Enclosure 109)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Elementary English/Language Arts Textbook Adoption as shown in Enclosure 109. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Missy Ruddle-This is the Elementary English/Language Arts Adoption Committee. Both our secondary and elementary committees have been working since the beginning of January once a week in the evenings reviewing different textbooks and meeting with textbook companies. I want to thank Cindy Hamilton, who worked with the elementary, and Rosie Rhodes, who worked with the secondary and Kathy Stout who made sure the technology was going to work with the recommendations that they are going to tell you about tonight. One thing that is a positive is that elementary and secondary both decided on the same company and that will give us a lot of consistency. The company that they chose, the representative is a former teacher at Piedmont Elementary for several years and we are excited to be working with her.

Cindy Hamilton-We have worked very hard for several weeks and we have studied the program to make sure it matched up with the college and career readiness standards. I want to introduce two of the committee members, Paige DeHart and Kami Lucas.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Paige DeHart-We ask that you consider our recommendation for Savvas myView Literacy for the new reading curriculum for Kanawha County Schools. Kami Lucas-I would like to recognize the other members of the committee: Whitney Bender, Kathryn Dunlap, Kaci Atha, Brie Carr, Lindsay Coleman, Rachel Weaver, Jaci Grigsby, Kristen Viewag, Julie Miller, Kristi Walters, Jerry Comer, Kelly Haynes, Lisa Brown, Kathy Stout, Judy Shively, Cindy Hamilton and Rosie Rhodes. Paige DeHart-As a committee we feel our review of these textbook options have been thorough and complete. Our recommendations strongly support the five pillars of reading phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Mrs. Jordon-We really appreciate everything you have done. Dr. Williams-I know this isn't an easy task. My hats off to all of you. Thank you all for all of your hard work.

The above motion unanimously carried.

C. Secondary English/Language Arts Textbook Adoption (Enclosure 110)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Secondary English/Language Arts Textbook Adoption as shown in Enclosure 110. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Missy Ruddle-We are equally excited with the secondary also. They have chosen Savvas as well as a supplemental which includes grammar and writing.

Rosie Rhodes-I would like to introduce two members of the committee at this time, Cassie Allara and Susie Garrison. Cassie Allara-I am the Lead ELA Teacher at Sissonville Middle School and for the county grades 6-8. Susie Garrison-I am the Lead ELA Teacher at Capital High and for the county grades 9-12. Cassie Allara-At this time we would like to acknowledge the other members of the committee: Jodi Grimm, Robyn Hagerman, Bridget Ward and Brandi Emch, Emily Patterson, Amanda Legg, Sarah Redd, Jake Ruddle, Melissa Agee, Sarah Carper, Ketta Hanson, Nicholas Hudson, Jessica Workman, Cindy Hamilton and Kathy Stout. Cassie Allara-We are now submitting to you the final recommendations for the English/Language Arts adoption. This adoption will address every curriculum need which will drive our students to the next level. Susie Garrison-The Savvas resources will be supplemented by the intensive grammar program Saddler.

The above motion unanimously carried.

Dr. Williams-Thank you all very much, I appreciate your hard work.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Employee Discipline Policy (Enclosure 80)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Employee Discipline Policy as shown in Enclosure 80. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Lindsey McIntosh-Basically what this does is just to update us to the current statutory guidelines from the Omnibus bill as they added a couple other reasons why you can suspend and terminate so we added those same reasons to our policy.

The above motion unanimously carried.

B. Homeschool Policy (Enclosure 81)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Homeschool Policy as shown in Enclosure 81. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Lindsey McIntosh-I did this policy in conjunction with Mrs. Ruddle. We received a sample policy from the State Department, however we already had a homeschool policy so we combined the sample from the State Department with what we already had.

Missy Ruddle-We were required to redo our policy but we were able to be a little more specific. Our biggest issue is that we are always required to provide textbooks if available to people that are homeschooled. But what we deal with the most is when students return to public schools, so we clarified the language about what our expectations would be. We don't accept credits once kids are in high school from homeschool. We work with them and try to get the credits made up. We do accept credits from a private school if they are accredited by the West Virginia Department of Education. It also talks about the fact that once every 3 years homeschool students are required to take some type of assessment.

Mrs. Jordon-Why do Kanawha County students have to be tested every year? Missy Ruddle-That's the Legislature. Mrs. Jordon-The playing field is so unfair.

FIRST READING

A. Administrative Selection Policy (Enclosure 108)

Lindsey McIntosh-We are cleaning up a lot of our policies and changing the format in them. We actually have the most robust administrative selection policy that I can find in West Virginia. These changes have been made in order to conform to the law. The biggest change is that we have taken out the selection committee that currently existed. Before there was some confusion with the interview committee versus the selection committee. We've cleared up that by just having an interview committee. The second biggest change is at the end of the policy we had added an Exhibit A that weighted the statutory categories that we have to consider when making an administrative selection. It's not required by law and we are one of the few counties that actually weights them, so we are statutorily required to consider all of these categories. For whatever reason we assign point values so we are taking out the point values, however it is very clear in the policy that we will still consider all of the categories that are required by law.

DELEGATIONS

None

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Mrs. Jordon-Could we get an update soon on what is going on at the Collaborative Program at WV State? Dr. Williams-Yes.

Mrs. White-Do we have guidelines right now about who can attend supporting events? Dr. Williams-Yes we do and the principals are aware who can and who can't be there. Basically it is family and grandparents.

Mr. Cavender-Do our policies apply when it's not being held on a KCS property? Dr. Williams-Yes, because it is still a KCS event. Mr. White-So the policy doesn't differentiate whether it's inside or outside? Dr. Williams- No, not that I am aware of.

Mrs. White-As far as graduation goes do we know who can attend those? George Aulenbacher-It's all at the Civic Center and we were told that they can have up to 5,000 people socially distanced I'm anticipating that there won't be an issue with graduation.

Mr. White-Can we get an update on the Clendenin/Hoover project? Mrs. Jordon-We will get it on the property on Tuesday afternoon.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

- A. Thursday, April 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- B. Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Reconvening of March 16, 2021, Meeting to Enter all Levies)
- C. Monday, April 26, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Statutory Session (Public Hearing on Proposed Budget)
- D. Monday, May 3, 2021, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- E. Thursday, May 13, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- F. Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Approval of the Proposed Budget)
- G. Monday, June 7, 2021, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- H. Thursday, June 17, 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 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 6:43 p.m.

President

Secretary

djl

4/26/2021

