

June 17, 2021

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Regular Session on Thursday, June 17, 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
Paula Potter, Secretary

Debra J. Lewis, Recording Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Leah Sparks, Executive Director, Technology
Melanie Meadows, Treasurer, Budget & Finance
Briana Warner, Communications Director
Amon Gilliam, Assistant Superintendent, Middle & Alternative Schools
George Aulenbacher, Assistant Superintendent, High Schools, Technical & Adult Education
Mellow Lee, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary
Ron Pauley, Executive Director, Human Resources
Missy Ruddle, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction
Megan McCorkle, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education & Student Support Services
Lindsey McIntosh, General Counsel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. April 26, 2021 - Statutory Session
- B. May 3, 2021 - Special Session
- C. May 13, 2021 - Regular Session
- D. May 18, 2021 - Statutory Session

REPORTS

- A. Kanawha County Travel Reimbursement for May, 2021 (Enclosure 165)
- B. Monthly Financial Report (Enclosure 166)
- C. Legal Reports
None
- D. Board Reports
None

PERSONNEL

- A. Personnel Agenda for June 17, 2021 (Enclosure 167)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Revised Personnel Agenda as included in Enclosure 167. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ric Cavender.

Mr. Jim Crawford recused himself from the vote due to having a family member on the agenda.

The above motion carried 4-0.

DELEGATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the following CONSENT Items A-C.
Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

Approval of Bills for May, 2021 (Enclosure 168)

Approval of the payment of bills for the month of May, 2021 in the amounts of \$27,332,582.05 for the Current Expense, Special Revenue and Federal Stimulus Funds; \$106,631.46 for the KCS Public Library Excess Levy Fund; \$4,120,467.34 for the Permanent Improvement Fund; and \$424,201.16 for the Public Library Fund as reflected in Enclosure 168.

A. Budget Supplements & Transfers (Enclosure 169)

Approval of budget supplements and transfers as reflected in Enclosure 169.

C. Out of State Travel Requests (Enclosure 182)

Approval of the Out of State Travel Requests as contained in Enclosure 182.

OLD BUSINESS-SECOND READING

A. Series C55-Volunteers in the School Policy (Enclosure 170)

Lindsey McIntosh-This policy covers any person that comes into a school to volunteer. One thing that I want to make a distinction of is that volunteers have to be under the immediate supervision of a staff member in the school but it doesn't necessarily mean that they will have eyes on them all the time. They are coming in under a teacher's supervision but the teacher may run to the bathroom or somewhere else so the reason we have the background checks is there may be times when the volunteer is left alone with the child but not unsupervised in the sense that they still have someone they are reporting to. Mr. Cavender-So the volunteer will be left alone with the child? Lindsey McIntosh-Yes, but they are still supposed to be with somebody else but the person may not be looking at them the whole time, as opposed to a Read Aloud where a person comes in and reads the book and the teacher is there all the time. Mrs. Jordon-These are people that we would do a background check on? Lindsey McIntosh-Yes. If you are a parent answering phones but you aren't left alone with kids this wouldn't apply to you. We've made that clear and clarified what they need to do in order to get approval by the principal. This will go out for comment for a period of 30 days.

FIRST READING

A. Series I01-Programs of Study Policy (Enclosure 171)

Missy Ruddle-There is not much of a change. It's just a change in language. We now have college/career readiness standards so we are making the policy meet up with what the State calls our content standards at this time.

B. Series I04-Homework Policy (Enclosure 172)

There is not much of a change. We did take out the part that says homework should be assigned daily. The committee that met doesn't think that homework should always be assigned daily. In a middle school you have teams that meet and decide when it is appropriate. We really talk to teachers and say that we want to get away from busy work and it needs to be relevant if it is homework. It should reinforce the skills taught in the classroom. We did say if you are in an Honors, IB or AP Class, the minutes that are suggested there could be longer. That's at the high school level.

C. Series I05-Promotion and Classification of Students-Secondary Policy (Enclosure 173)

This one didn't change a lot. Grades 6, 7 and 8 have to have 6 of 8 credits to move on. The biggest change with this one is at one time we were promoting 8th graders to the 9th grade halfway through the school year. It did not work. When we were on a block schedule you could do that because classes started in January and you could get a full credit from January to May, but most of our schools don't do that now. We just clarified the credits that students can get if they take World Languages, Algebra I or any higher math course and Earth and Space Science before the 9th grade. When our students take those courses in the middle school we make sure the parents sign off and they know it is a high school credit. It goes on the transcript and it can't come off that transcript. There are some skill-based courses that we are allowed to give and this is at the teacher's discretion. This is a not a change, just a change in the wording. If a student fails the 1st semester of Math or a Foreign Language but passes the 2nd semester a teacher can change the 1st semester grade to a passing grade at their discretion. They feel like those are courses that you build on.

D. Series I22-Graduation Requirements Policy (Enclosure 174)

This was a little bit of change in language. It says students are required to earn 24 credits in order to graduate and we follow the State policy for that. Mr. Cavender-You brought this policy to us a couple years ago and you had proposed that we lower the

FIRST READING (continued)

credits right? Missy Ruddle-Actually we required 25 credits at that time and we had a technology credit that was in there and we dropped it. We took out the technology credit because obviously with our 1:1, the technology is more than most other places and keeping it at 24 gives kids the opportunity to take some courses they wouldn't be able to take. A lot of our fine arts kids run into problems because they want to take Band for 4 years in a row and it's hard for them to do that when they have all those other courses they have to take. Mr. Crawford-Another thing about this policy is that sometime back many years ago we let kids walk across stage if they were short ½ credit or a credit and they would go to summer school and the Board voted not to allow that and I think that should be stated in this policy. Missy Ruddle-I don't know if it is stated in another policy. I will check on that.

E. Series I25-Instruction/Controversial Issues Policy (Enclosure 175)

Missy Ruddle-We took out learning outcomes and changed it to WV College and Career Readiness so we just changed the language there. We did add that a classroom teacher's expression of beliefs and opinions must be identified as their own and must not be stated in any way which may negatively affect the school environment.

F. Series B01-Central Office Operations Policy (Enclosure 176)

This policy covers the Board Office and the hours which I guess some years back changed to 7:30-4:00 p.m. so this policy is being edited to reflect that. We do acknowledge some employees, such as Transportation, Crede and even the Superintendent gets here earlier than that so we added a line about that. I don't believe we have a telephone switchboard anymore so we removed that language.

G. Series B02-Public Access to Information Policy **(REPEAL)** (Enclosure 177)

This policy is redundant. We already have a FOIA policy which is B06A. We are going to repeal this policy because it's covered in another policy.

H. Series B03A-Availability of Board Policies and State Laws Related to Education Policy **(REPEAL)** (Enclosure 178)

FIRST READING (continued)

This actually didn't need to go on the agenda and I apologize. It's an A policy that doesn't need Board Approval but I can tell you we are probably going to take it off. This is a book that my office gets 6 copies off, HR gets copies and we have it in our law library. It's not necessary that every principal gets one, because they have a General Counsel. The policies are now online so that everyone has access to this information, it just doesn't require them to buy a \$150 book at each school.

I. Series C10-School Year Policy (**REPEAL**) (Enclosure 179)

This is a little confusing. C10 and I36, which is the next policy, both talked about the school year and the school calendar. We combined them into one policy. The language in C10 is being struck completely and the language in I36 is being moved into this policy. The language in I36 was better.

J. Series I36-School Year Calendar and Recovery of Lost Time Policy (Enclosure 180)

At the end of every day there are minutes added on to the end of the day at most schools. That provides banked time so that when we have inclement weather we first track how much of that banked time would make up a whole day. When we run out of banked time then we go to the OSE Days that are also built into the calendar so this year that helped us out a lot. That wasn't accounted for previously in this policy. We updated the language in order to first using banked time and then going to OSE Days. The professional development language was struck. There is a professional development policy where we talk about the Safe Schools Courses so that was more appropriate in that policy. Alternative work schedules were added in this year due to COVID and understanding that there may be a way to provide an alternative work schedule should you need it if school has to shut down for a particular reason.

K. Series A01-Meetings Policy (Enclosure 181)

This policy is about these meetings and we put in there that it's really a 3 day period for Regular Meetings and then there was some conversation at the last Board Meeting about Executive Sessions so we went back and updated it so that would be covered.

Mr. White-Should we put in there about amending the agenda? There is a provision in the law to amend the agenda. Lindsey McIntosh-I can stick that in before I put it out for comment.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Mrs. White-Kudos to our Principals and their teams for the graduations which weren't typical but they were fabulous as always. One of our schools wanted to move their graduation location and it caused a lot of controversy with parents. Can we make sure that before any changes like that occur that we involve the LSIC President in that that conversation so it's more of a team decision so that one person wouldn't be targeted for making the decision?

Mr. Aulenbacher-My plan is to have all of them at the Civic Center next year.

Mrs. White-Can we get an update on Summer Academy? Dr. Potter-Sure. I will say that all of the Assistants have worked really hard and they are going really well. We've had some students that haven't been outside of Charleston and multiple groups went to ACE Adventure. Our middle school students at the career centers are making things hands-on. We've had parents call to say their child has absolutely loved the program. I've not really heard any negativity.

Missy Ruddle-Academically we had some growing pains the first couple of weeks because we have to be able to show data from the beginning and at the end. I have to say that the company we have been working with, he drove down here and went to every school to make sure Principals knew what they were getting. They are loving the Math program that they are using.

Mr. White-Do have a sense of where we are at after this year with kids not passing due to eLearning or Virtual? Dr. Potter-We have passage rates of Virtual and eLearning students and we can give that to you. We have some really good ideas. We are waiting for the ESSERF3 Funding to be approved that would specifically state how we are going to try and close those achievement gaps. We have approximately a 17% drop in scores. With the new staff that hopefully we will be able to hire they will be able to use that data to work in small groups with those students. Our teachers and administrators have big plans to try and close those achievement gaps and get them on target.

Mr. White-I was looking for the numbers of how many kids failed because they didn't do the eLearning or the Virtual? Dr. Potter-All of our administrators have that data. We do have some students that were retained because they didn't do anything. It's not a big as number as you would expect. Our teachers and administrators and social workers did a phenomenal job. When a student wasn't getting online or wasn't coming to school we had people going to their houses and phone calls were being made. They did everything they could to get them back on track.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

- A. Thursday, June 17, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- B. Tuesday, July 6, 2021, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- C. Thursday, July 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- D. Monday, August 2, 2021, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- E. Thursday, August 19, 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 6:42 p.m.

President

Secretary

djl

7/9/2021