

July 15, 2021

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Regular Session on Thursday, July 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, Secretary

Debra J. Lewis, Recording Secretary

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Leah Sparks, Executive Director, Technology  
Melanie Meadows, Treasurer, Budget & Finance  
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  
Megan McCorkle, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education & Student Support Services  
Lindsey McIntosh, General Counsel  
Alicia Warden, Health Services  
Chuck Smith, Executive Director, Facilities, Planning & Management

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. June 7, 2021 - Special Session
- B. June 14, 2021 - Special Session

## **PRESENTATION**

- A. Community Pool

This item was deleted from the agenda.

## **REPORTS**

- A. Kanawha County Travel Reimbursement for June, 2021 (Enclosure 2)
- B. Monthly Financial Report (Enclosure 3)
- C. Legal Reports
  - None
- D. Board Reports

Mr. Crawford-I want to mention that the Activities Commission has notified the Principals that we will have a normal schedule of athletics in the fall. If they have a quarantine and the team can't play or they can't work out the team that couldn't play will have to forfeit.

## **PERSONNEL**

- A. Personnel Agenda for July 15, 2021 (Enclosure 4)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Revised Personnel Agenda as included in Enclosure 4. 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.

#### Approval of Bills for June, 2021 (Enclosure 5)

Approval of the payment of bills for the month of June, 2021 in the amounts of \$50,464,219.43 for the Current Expense, Special Revenue and Federal Stimulus Funds; \$51,885.27 for the KCS Public Library Excess Levy Fund; \$6,152,868.84 for the Permanent Improvement Fund; and \$917,801.37 for the Public Library Fund as reflected in Enclosure 5.

#### A. Budget Supplements & Transfers (Enclosure 6)

Approval of budget supplements and transfers as reflected in Enclosure 6.

## **OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

#### A. Mountaineer Gas Easement (Enclosure 7)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Easement and Right-of-Way with Mountaineer Gas for the new Clendenin Elementary Site as shown in Enclosure 7.  
Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Chuck Smith-This easement is the first in the process on getting utility service at the new Clendenin Elementary.

The above motion unanimously carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### A. KCS Series C59 "Animals on School Property" Policy (Enclosure 144)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the KCS Series C59 "Animals on School Property" Policy as shown in Enclosure 144. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued)**

Mr. White-I think we should leave it up to the schools. If we are leaving the dress code up to the schools then this should be left up to the schools. The school should have their own policies on this.

Dr. Williams-My main concern is liability. We have had kids bitten before and we had a Principal lose his job because of it several years ago because he had a dog at school. We also have kids and teachers who are afraid of dogs and other animals. Unless it is a service dog or one of the others in my opinion, it should not go.

Lindsey McIntosh-That is generally the concern. This, just to be clear, has always been a policy. Service dogs and therapy dogs that are approved through the system are the only dogs that are allowed. This has always been our policy. This change isn't adding anything new, it's just making it clear that emotional support animals are not permitted even though they weren't technically allowable under the policy in the first place. To completely delete it would be a bigger policy change. I agree with Dr. Williams about the liability aspect. One of the bigger questions that I usually get from Principals is about this policy. It does provide guidance in a way that I think that Principals need.

Lindsey McIntosh-Just a clarification, we still do have a county-wide dress code. Mr. White-I've been approached by Assistant Principals and they think the dress code needs to be brought back up to what it was. I told them they have the ability to change it at the school level. Mrs. Jordon-We can bring that one back up.

Mrs. Jordon-What is your opinion on the dogs? Lindsey McIntosh-The emotional support animals could be anything which is why they aren't allowed. That's why this policy is being edited was to prevent anyone from bringing any old animal onto school property. Of course, if it is being used for an educational school purpose, then the animal would still be allowed on school property. Mrs. Jordon-I love my dogs but I don't think they should be on school property.

Mr. Crawford-I'm okay with service dogs, but bringing your dog to a football game and if they bite someone that is a liability. That can be a serious problem for us.

Mr. White-I'm okay with keeping animals off the school property but I think the school should write their own policy. Different communities require different things. Having said that if the School Board doesn't want to get rid of it I'm probably going to vote for this because I think it is giving more flexibility to it.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued)**

Mr. Crawford-If the school writes their own policy then we have 60 policies out there and they aren't all going to be the same. Everybody should follow the same rules. Mrs. Jordon-We are keeping the administrators at the local schools from being the bad guys. They are just reinforcing what the policy is. Mr. White-I'm just telling you that they want us to do the same thing for the dress code. Mrs. White-I wouldn't be against that either. Mrs. Jordon-We can talk about dress code later and we will if you want. Mr. White-I personally think that schools should do their own because I think we should give more level control.

The above motion unanimously carried.

## **DELEGATIONS**

Lisa Brammer-I am here to talk about the mask mandates. That is something that I think should strictly be up to the parents to decide what's best for their children. I've personally seen my children negatively affected by the masks. My son's asthma has gotten worse, he's using breathing treatments a lot more, and I know my daughters are getting the sores around their mouth. It has affected them mentally. It shouldn't be mandatory, it should be up to the parents. As far as I know Cabell County and the Governor has lifted the mandate. The majority of the people who choose to be vaccinated have already had that opportunity to be vaccinated and if you believe in the vaccine why is it so important for someone else to wear a mask.

Tiffany Steele-I am also here in regards to the mask mandate. The teachers, if they chose to, have been vaccinated. It does negatively impact the kids. The Governor has said let's take the masks off and he's offering incentives, the kids are saying why do I still have to wear it. Children experience lower infection rates accounting for less than 10% of cases in the United States. They found that kids are half as susceptible to COVID than adults. I do understand that all elementary kids will have to wear them because they are under the age of 12 and can't receive the vaccination, but I think it should be up to the parents in this aspect.

Petra Monroe-A group of parents from Gainesville, Florida sent masks for research and they found that several pathogens were in the masks which can cause sepsis, pneumonia, staph, etc. There was a study done in Germany that showed that wearing masks caused the level of carbon dioxide to be 6 times higher than the acceptable range. Children should not be forced to wear face masks. For anybody under the age of 20, COVID has a 99.997% survival rate unless they have an underlying health condition. Making them wear those masks is almost criminal.

## **QUESTIONS/ANSWERS**

Mrs. White-I've been getting a lot of calls from the community and other elected officials regarding the masks. Can you go over what our guidelines are now for sports? We do have a lot of kids practicing and they are being affected. Dr. Williams-We are in the three week period now and with athletics they are not being masked. We have called the Health Department to ask for a meeting for one day next week so that we can see what their recommendations would be.

Mrs. Jordon-Every August when you do the back to school thing in the newspaper, maybe we can remind parents that animals are not allowed on school property unless it's a service animal. Dr. Williams-Yes, we can do that.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES**

- A. Thursday, July 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- B. Monday, August 2, 2021, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- C. Thursday, August 19, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- D. Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- E. Thursday, September 16, 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 6:21 p.m.

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President

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Secretary

djl  
8/2/2021