

September 7, 2021

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Special Session on Tuesday, September 7, 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
Ric Cavender
Jim J. Crawford, Sr.
Ryan White
Thomas E. Williams, Secretary

ABSENT

Tracy White, President Pro Tem

Debra J. Lewis, Recording Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Paula Potter, Deputy Superintendent
Mellow Lee, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary
George Aulenbacher, Assistant Superintendent, High Schools, Technical & Adult Education
Missy Ruddle, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction
Ron Pauley, Executive Director, Human Resources
Alicia Warden, Health Services
Briana Warner, Communications Director
Lindsey McIntosh, General Counsel
Elaine Gayton, Director, Staff Development/ESL
Kayla Donathan, Communications Specialist
Jeremy Gladwell, Coordinator of Operations
Chuck Smith, Executive Director, Facilities & Planning
Andrew Crawford, Director, Facility & Planning
Alan Cummings, Executive Director, Purchasing & Supply Management
William Clark-Coordinator of Maintenance
Keith Vititoe, Executive Director, Safety & Security

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mrs. Jordon-Before we begin this meeting, I would like for us to observe a moment of silence for the three folks that we have lost in our Kanawha County Schools family, Navaeh Summers, a St. Albans High School student, Myra Thomas a Kindergarten student at Elk Center and Mr. Rusty Parks a teacher at Nitro High School.

PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Agenda for September 7, 2021 (Enclosure 34)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the revised personnel agenda as included in Enclosure 34. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan White and carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Out of State Travel Requests (Enclosure 35)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the Out of State Travel Requests as contained in Enclosure 35. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and carried 4-0.

B. Cedar Grove Elementary CEFPP (Enclosure 36)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the submission of Cedar Grove Elementary as the priority project on the CEFPP Needs list, FY 2021, to the School Building Authority. The project would include renovation and additions to the Cedar Grove facility to better accommodate the elementary students as shown in Enclosure 36. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Dr. Williams-This is the same thing we did last year when we had the closure hearing, it's just that we had to get that approval again because we will be taking it back to them. It is due this week, but I think we present in November and we will hear in December.

The above motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

C. Handheld Radio Bundles (Enclosure 37)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve a contract to provide handheld radio bundles in the amount of \$149,862.80 to the lowest responsible bidder, Discount Communications & Electronics, Inc. per bid 22-106 as shown in Enclosure 37. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Keith Vititoe-We have taken advantage of some ESSERF funding to implement three different projects, the handheld radios, camera intercoms for the main entrances and updated license readers at the main entrances so we can implement some better visitor and access control. My intent is to put a radio in most staff member's hands. We will buy 800 radios with this first batch. Dr. Williams-This is a local company out of Alum Creek.

The above motion carried 4-0.

D. Enhancing Collaboration with Military Organizations Resolution (Enclosure 38)

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the resolution for enhancing collaboration with military organizations and providing support to military families as shown in Enclosure 38. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford.

Dr. Williams-The Department of Education came up with the Purple Star Award. It's things that we already do for our military families when kids transfer in and out.

Missy Ruddle-We want to become a Purple Star District. Each one of our schools are identifying a point of contact in their schools who will be there for military families when they transfer in and out. We will be able to provide resources to help our students if their parents are deployed or if they are moving. We do a lot of these things anyway, but in order to become a Purple Star District, we have to have the Board pass this proclamation.

The above motion carried 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Williams-There were no comments on any of these policies.

Mr. Ric Cavender moved: The Board approve the following UNFINISHED BUSINESS items A-C. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and carried 4-0.

A. KCS Series I02 Instructional Materials and Resources Adoption (Enclosure 10)

Approval of KCS Series I02 Instructional Materials and Resources Adoption as shown in Enclosure 10.

B. KCS Series I03 School-Library Materials Policy (Enclosure 11)

Approval of KCS Series I03 School-Library Materials Policy as shown in Enclosure 11.

C. KCS Series I11 Promotion and Classification of Students K-5 (Enclosure 12)

Approval of KCS Series I11 Promotion and Classification of Students K-5 as shown in Enclosure 12.

DELEGATIONS

None

DISCUSSION

A. Facilities/Maintenance Reorganization

Dr. Williams-Mr. Cavender had some questions at the last meeting and I said we would give you all an update about where we are with the reorganization and some of the issues this summer and some of our successes. At the end we will have a six minute video that really will explain what we have done thus far with the levy.

Andrew Crawford-Currently we are responsible for maintaining 80 facilities. Sixty-eight of those facilities are schools with the average age of 57 years old. With 68 schools, we are heating and cooling 4.2 million square feet. The average life expectancy of a rooftop unit is 15 years. The average life expectancy of a chiller and a boiler is 20 years. Ninety-five of our HVAC equipment is 15 years or older. After 15 years we have to start retrofitting parts for the older units to keep them running. The oldest roof top unit that

DISCUSSION (continued)

is still functioning in the county is 35 years old at the South Charleston High School Auditorium. Our HVAC Department consists of 14 people in the HVAC shop.

Bill Clark, Coordinator of Maintenance-We are currently undergoing a reorganization. Our goal is to improve our efficiency, our effectiveness and to demonstrate a positive attitude while maintaining the conditions and environment of our schools. We are examining our past performances to analyze where we have excelled, as well as how we can improve. Moving forward our department shall provide a swift and more reasonable response time, less equipment downtime and better consistency of the indoor temperatures to avoid school closings. We shall provide clarity in our communication with our staff, better updates and additional explanations when faced with circumstances beyond our ability to control. Our team is currently working together to develop an updated preventative maintenance program designed to service and maintain our facilities.

Mrs. Jordon-How do you plan to communicate with staff? Bill Clark-My plan is to communicate with them via email and then follow up and inspect what has been done. Dr. Williams-We also have iPads that we will be giving to the workers so they can get their work orders and they can communicate right then with the school administration.

Mr. White-What percentage will be upgraded after the levy and ESSERF? Chuck Smith-At the end of the project you will have 28 facilities that will have been upgraded. It's a start. A lot of systems have a longer shelf life. Some are geo-thermal based as opposed to forced-air base. If we can keep up with our preventative maintenance program we will be able to stretch those years out a little bit further. With that being said, we still have to make an investment in what is there for future replacement 15-20 years down the road. Mr. White-You said the average age of our facilities is 57 years old. That seems like it is a very old average considering we have two or three schools that are a couple years old. What is the average life expectancy of a school facility? Chuck Smith-50 years. Mr. White-We have not been building new schools when we should have been building new schools. Dr. Williams-We haven't been consolidating schools when we should be consolidating schools. Mr. White-A lot of other counties around us are building new schools all the time. Chuck Smith-Our 10 year CEFP addresses some of those issues and gets the ball rolling. If you remember on the CEFP plan, there were no additions or renovations there were closures and consolidations and that's really the steps we need to take. Mr. White-We have buildings that over 80 years old don't we?

DISCUSSION (continued)

Dr. Williams-You are sitting in one that is 107 years old. Chamberlain is 100 years old. Chuck Smith-Based upon the life expectancy that is out there and the amount of funding that we have put in these schools, I think the Maintenance Department has done an outstanding job with what they have. There's just way too many buildings and facilities to maintain and our resources consistency become smaller. Mr. White-So basically you are saying that we were grossly underfunding our building in the last 20 years? Chuck Smith-I would say anyone could say that. Mr. White-It's not the best fiscal way to do things in the long run. Chuck Smith-I would say so.

Mr. Cavender-Did you say that only 28 will be updated after the levy funds and ESSERF?
Dr. Williams-Yes, 28 of the most needy.

Mr. Crawford-That means at the next excess levy we need to put that in there. Mr. White-We have to do more than that.

Jeremy Gladwell-We were looking at the possible later start date so I gave you some basic data just looking at the average temperatures in August and September. There were 11 out of 15 days that were 85 degrees or higher between August 8-22. Five out of 15 days were 90 degrees or higher, and as we get closer to September that's a lot easier on our current HVAC system. When we look at the variants in our units, 20 degrees is ideal. We are more or less looking at 10-12 degree variants when we are looking at these older units. Another thing to consider too is prep time for our building. When we look at staggering school another two weeks, we are looking at getting out of those higher temperatures and we are going to be a bit better prepped for schools and it's also going to help with custodial overtime. Those additional 2 weeks would mean a variety of things. Dr. Williams-Tell us what you have been doing since you have been with us since July. Jeremy Gladwell-We've really looked at refreshing our fleet. We have vehicles that are 17 years old. We have vehicles with 300,000 miles so we are looking at a current refresh plan for that. We have been allotted some additional funding to buy, the problem with that is the car lots have very little inventory so we are 30-60 weeks out on anything that we order. We have started those orders but it's not a quick fix. When I look at our garage, there are certainly some inefficiencies there. We want to look at work flow and holding them a bit more accountable for work orders and stream line that process. They have done the best job they could do, but I do believe it will help with safety and efficiency. We did take our COVID spraying, which was probably our biggest savings to date, we were paying a good bit of money to 3 or 4 people to spray down the buildings. We have schools with 15 custodians it doesn't make a lot of sense that they can't take that upon themselves. We've had zero negative feedback on that. I would say it's saved the county \$60,000-\$80,000 on overtime.

DISCUSSION (continued)

Mr. White-Are we looking at electric vehicles? Jeremy Gladwell-No. We need things to be able to tow 10,000 pounds. Our infrastructure alone at Crede would have to be updated with charging systems.

Mrs. Jordon-It is possible to order these vans locally? Jeremy Gladwell-It is a State contract bid. I don't have a lot of control over that.

Chuck Smith-If you look at the number of schools that we have and the number of days that were available to disrupt and divide that up, we had a 99% success rate in getting schools opened across the board. On square footage, we have 4.2 million square feet in the county that we heat and cool and out of that there was a total 114,000 square feet that was down throughout the whole process. That's not bad when you consider the age of our units. Riverside and South Charleston were handled different ways. Riverside was down for 4 days and in order to bring that school back up, we were shorthanded on our maintenance staff, our CMTA energy management partner helped us out and came to the rescue. They brought 2 engineering techs and 2 engineers to help us. We brought in Casto Technical, who was the controls contractor on the project to help, WV Heating and Plumbing had personnel on site, Nitro Mechanical had people on site and Darnold Mechanical, who wasn't involved with Riverside at all, and these people came to help at no cost to benefit our county and to help our levy projects be successful. At South Charleston High School, the chiller went down. This system is due for replacement in 2023. There are 3 separate chillers there. One was operating on two compressors, once the one compressor went down we ordered the second one. The day the second compressor arrived the number one compressor went down which means we had nothing. In order to get that system running we rented a chiller. These are old units. As far as currently where we are at, Riverside High is currently on the levy project. Wings one and two, those are the areas there were replaced as part of our levy project with geo-thermal systems. Those have worked incredibly well. The rest of the facility was where we had issues. Those areas are currently being replaced now and by the end of next summer all of Riverside will be complete. Capital is complete, we still have to do punch-list items and wrap it up. As for remaining levy projects we have, we currently have projects remaining for the completion of Riverside, Carver, Grandview, Piedmont, Kanawha City and West Side Middle all scheduled for next summer. They will start the prep work in the fall and hopefully by August 1st of next year they will be operational. In 2023 we are scheduled for Sissonville High and South Charleston High. The schools that we will target with the ESSERF funds are Shoals, Sissonville Elementary, Sharon Dawes, Ruthlawn, Chamberlain, Pratt, Bridgeview, Montrose, Elkview Middle and South Charleston Middle.

DISCUSSION (continued)

Mr. White-Are all of the roofing projects complete? Chuck Smith-We still have to do Carver. Mr. White-How are the roofs? Are they in better shape than our HVACs? Chuck Smith-They are about the same. We are catching up slowly.

Chuck Smith-I would like to show you the video presentation at this time. This is a recap of our levy projects and the work that has been completed.

Dr. Williams-Do you all have any questions? Mr. White-Not about this, but when can we go to Clendenin? Chuck Smith-It's close. I'd like to have a couple more weeks and then we will schedule something.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. 2022-23 School Calendar Options (Enclosures 32 & 33)

Dr. Williams-There are the two calendars that we brought forth just for discussion and for you all to look at. One begins schools on August 15 and ends the semester at Christmas. The other begins school on August 22nd and ends semester at Christmas. It doesn't have a week at Thanksgiving like we traditionally used to. It has two days. They will have a week and a day off at Christmas. These are the two options. The latest we can start is August 22nd and that is because of the issues that we have discussed before concerning paychecks. They will finish on May 25th. They get a week at Spring Break.

Mr. White-How many snow days? Dr. Williams-We have minutes built in. I think we have 15 days built in. Five of those can be used for snow days, 5 for full-day faculty senate days and we have OS days at the end of the calendar that we can use if needed.

Mrs. Jordon-Which meeting will we vote on this? Dr. Williams-The next meeting is the second Public Hearing, we have to have two and we could have a motion put on the agenda to vote at that meeting.

Mr. Crawford-I think we need to start as late as we can. I realize that cutting out the Thanksgiving holidays we will have a lot of absences because of deer hunting.

Mr. Cavender-Thank you for getting it retooled. Mrs. Jordon-We will be ready to vote on the 16th.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Mrs. Jordon-I do have a question. I think we have all got different emails. This one complaint does concern me. Teachers are getting overwhelmed educating the ones that are quarantined and the ones in their classrooms. What can you do to help with that?

Dr. Williams-I met with Mike Hennessey from WVEA and we had some discussion on proposals that I want to speak to AFT about. I think we have something we can do to help pay wise. Mr. Cavender-I hear it's especially a problem with elementary schools. Dr. Williams, Yes, bless their hearts they are with the kids all day and it makes a difference.

Mr. Crawford-Is there a possibility that we could give our teachers a bonus? Dr. Williams-We can't give our teachers a bonus with ESSERF money, it specifically doesn't allow that, however, we could possible give them an extra duty contract and that is something we are exploring with Melanie, our Treasurer? Mr. White-They do have extra duties. Dr. Williams-Exactly.

Mr. White-How many kids do we have out in quarantine now? Dr. Williams-The Friday before last it was just under 2,000. We don't keep that on a daily basis. Mr. White-Do we still have entire classrooms? Alicia Warden-Very few. We did get an updated guidance document from the State Department that gave us some criteria of when to close classrooms as far as outbreaks. Our new document says there has to be at least 5 cases or 10% of the entire grouping out before we consider closing a classroom. I do consult with the Health Department on every case. Mr. White-Are we seeing less quarantining since the masks were mandated? Alicia Warden-Yes, but I will say as far as elementary though we are seeing more subsequent spread than we did last year. Dr. Williams-The schools are the only place that is masked and then they go out in the community and it's not. We can't control that. Alicia Warden-Dr. Williams is right. That's more of the issue. It is community contact and it gets brought into the school.

Mr. White-We aren't quarantining people that have been vaccinated and aren't showing symptoms are we? Dr. Williams-No we are not. Mr. White-Is it true that the Health Department is not doing the contract tracing? Alicia Warden-We are doing the tracing in the schools.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- B. Thursday, September 16, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- C. Monday, October 4, 2021, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- D. Thursday, October 21, 2021, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- E. Monday, November 1, 2021, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- F. Thursday, November 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

Mr. Ric Cavender 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 4:59 p.m.

President

Secretary

djl

9/14/2021