

February 17, 2022

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Regular Session on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at the Board of Education Building, Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Board President Becky J. Jordon at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Becky J. Jordon, President

Tracy White, President Pro Tem (via TEAMS)

Ric Cavender (via TEAMS)

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

George Aulenbacher, Asst. Superintendent, High Schools, Technical & Adult Ed.

Melissa Ruddle, Asst. Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction

Ron Pauley, Executive Director, Human Resources

Megan McCorkle, Asst. Superintendent, Special Ed. & Student Support Services

Alicia Warden, Health Services

Briana Warner, Communications

Leah Sparks, Executive Director, Technology

Lindsey McIntosh, General Counsel

Amon Gilliam, Assistant Superintendent, Middle & Alternative Schools

Laura Pauley, Executive Director, Accounting

Keith Vitito, Executive Director, Safety & Security

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

I would like to have a moment of silence for Tracy White's family and ask everyone to remember them in prayer.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. January 3, 2022 - Special Session
- B. January 20, 2022 - Regular Session

## **PRESENTATION**

- A. Tiffany Pace-Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Training

Dr. Williams-We are very proud this evening to recognize Mrs. Tiffany Pace, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Weberwood Elementary. She has been awarded the 2022 Presidential Award of Excellence in Mathematics and Science for her work in teaching Science at Weberwood Elementary. She has been at Weberwood for three years and this is the highest award nationally through the US Government for K-12 math and science teachers. Teachers are chosen by a panel of mathematicians, scientists and educators at the state and national level. Congratulations, what an honor. Through her years with KCS she has volunteered for a number of committees related to our district. She's part of the Cultural Diversity Cadre and she works to create Schoology courses for our students and teachers. She's a master grant writer and regularly writes grants to provide equipment, special projects and STEM lessons for her students that go above and beyond. This year her class has partnered with a class of students in Nicaragua where they share regular lessons in STEM, science and also swap stories about each other's likes and dislikes. She has published numerous articles, including three in the National Science Teaching Association Publication, Science and Children. Again, we are very proud to recognize Mrs. Pace and thank her sincerely for all the work she does in Kanawha County and your students are extremely lucky to have you.

## **PRESENTATION (continued)**

Tiffany Pace-I couldn't have done it without everybody. It's just an honor and I am so humbled. In Kanawha County, we do so many neat things here and for us to be recognized, this isn't just for me it's for everybody.

Mrs. Jordon-Congratulations and thank you.

## **REPORTS**

A. Kanawha County Travel Reimbursement for January, 2022 (Enclosure 101)

B. Monthly Financial Report (Enclosure 102)

C. Legal Reports

None

D. Board Reports

Dr. Williams-I would like to thank our Special Education Department yesterday for the Disabilities Fair that we had at the Beni Kedem Temple. We had lots of different services available for our students with disabilities and our teachers were able to go as well as the parents. Mrs. White helped organize this and I would like to thank her publicly for that. It was really good. This is the first year we have done it and our Special Ed Department did a wonderful job putting that together.

## **PERSONNEL**

A. Personnel Agenda for February 17, 2022 (Enclosure 103)

Mr. Ryan White moved: The Board approve the Revised Personnel Agenda as included in Enclosure 103. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and carried 4-0.

I would like to thank Chuck Smith for his work as Executive Director of Facilities and I look forward to his continued service in general and his work in particular on our FEMA Projects. He's a very important part of that so I just wanted to say thank you to Mr. Smith for that.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **CONSENT**

Mr. Ryan White moved: The Board approve the following CONSENT Items A-C. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and carried 4-0.

A. Approval of Bills for January, 2022 (Enclosure 104)

Approval of the payment of bills for the month of January, 2022 in the amounts of \$21,811,885.61 for the Current Expense, Special Revenue and Federal Stimulus Funds; \$62,951.75 for the KCS Public Library Excess Levy Fund; \$3,891,054.35 for the Permanent Improvement Fund; and \$587,460.71 for the Public Library Fund as reflected in Enclosure 104.

B. Budget Supplements & Transfers (Enclosure 105)

Approval of budget supplements and transfers as reflected in Enclosure 105.

C. Out of State Travel Requests (Enclosure 106)

Approval of the Out of State Travel Requests as contained in Enclosure 106.

### **DELEGATIONS**

Rick Greene-I appreciate the time to get here and get this information in front of you. I really do believe that I could walk out right now if you will look at that information that I gave you and how it affects our student athletes and will move the 3 week period to June. There are 5,000 athletes and this could affect all of them in some form or another. The recommended dates by the SSAC are in June and we've always honored those dates. There might be some confusion because last year they were in July but that was because of COVID where all the seasons were extended. The 3 weeks usually start right after spring sports finish. We've always honored that date and no one really knows why we are not at this point. It's the designated time for them to compete against other parts of the state and even other states. They are willing to give up give up their summers to work on their sport or sports. The coaches volunteered their time to do this. They are not compensated and we can't even have the 3 week period that best benefits us. That doesn't make sense to me and at this point I've never heard a reason why. That's when the college coaches set up an open period and our kids can go to that. They hold camps and shootouts. This is a recruiting period for the colleges. If we go in July then our kids won't have that privilege. I don't understand why they can't

## DELEGATIONS (continued)

have that exposure. If you start July 11th then in essence your fall sports are starting July 11th, which means they go all the way through. You are really asking a lot from your fall athletes. You are basically taking their summer away in my opinion. Most families go on vacation in July so now that interferes with that. If it is June than that is not a problem. Our own conference MSAC sets up events and opportunities in July because that's the sanctioned dates of the SSAC. The NCA designates when we can hold events and tournaments and that can only be held in WV that weekend. The SSAC has set those dates up with the 3 week practice period and now our kids can't even do those events. I checked with coaches across the county. I should have brought coaches in and filled the room. I didn't want this to be confrontational. I could fill the room if you want me to and line them out to Elizabeth Street. I don't think you have the facts. The people that have the most negative impact were never asked their opinion as far as I know. When the dates were released people approached and wrote letters about their concerns and they were told that's our decision and we are sticking with it and basically our kids don't count and our athletes don't have a voice. We haven't heard any reason, not one as to why we are going to do July and we are the only county that I know of in the state that is going in July and it's totally unfair to our kids. I don't know why. If you don't change the June date for our kids and honestly and I'm not trying to be rude or disrespectful, then I really have to question how we view our kids and our leadership. There's no logical reason why our kids can't have the normal dates that everybody else in this state has.

Mr. Cavender joined the meeting at this time.

Jennifer McCaferty-I work at the Arc of the Three Rivers. I do the grant program there. I am also the mother of a special needs student in Kanawha County which is why I am here. I don't think that it is any big secret that Special Education in Kanawha County Schools is in disarray. News reports over the last year document horrific abuse of the most vulnerable children in the school system, children with disabilities who cannot speak up for themselves. In segregated Special Education classrooms at Horace Mann and Holz Elementary, teachers and aides physically, emotionally and mentally abused children with disabilities. Although the abusers are facing criminal charges, Kanawha County Schools has not announced any plans to prevent such horrific incidents from happening again. The Superintendent must ensure that no child in the school system be subjected to this sadistic treatment and must communicate with the public about its plans. In early 2020, local families, including myself along with disability advocacy organization, the Arc of the Three Rivers WV sued Kanawha County Schools for failing to provide students with disabilities the support they need to attend school and learn with their peers. That case filed in Federal Court was recently certified as a class action,

## **DELEGATIONS (continued)**

meaning the court found evidence that the alleged failures by the Kanawha County School's Board of Education are widespread affecting children throughout the county. The case presents a perfect opportunity for the Board of Education to work with parents and the community to reform their Special Education program but instead the Kanawha County School's Board of Education is paying expensive attorney fees to appeal the case and stop it from proceeding. So basically my question to the Board is what is being done to address the crisis and why are you fighting lawsuits trying to fix the system instead of working to make those positive changes?

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S PRESENTATION**

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

## **QUESTIONS/ANSWERS**

Mrs. White-I just want to say thank you to our KCS family for continuing to support us. I greatly appreciate it.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES**

- A. Thursday, February 17, 2022, 5:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- B. Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- C. Thursday, March 17, 2022, 5:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- D. Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 3:00 p.m. & 3:05 p.m.-Statutory Session (Presentation of Schedule of Proposed Levy Rates) (Budget Workshop to Follow)
- E. Thursday, March 24, 2022, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Approval of the Schedule of Proposed Levy Rates)
- F. Monday, April 4, 2022, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session

**ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES (continued)**

G. Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Reconvening of March 24, 2022, Meeting to Enter all Levies)

H. Thursday, April 21, 2022, 5:00 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. Ryan 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 5:20 p.m.

---

President

---

Secretary

djl  
2/28 /2022