

May 2, 2022

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Statutory Session on Monday, May 2, 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
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
Ron Pauley, Executive Director, Human Resources
Alicia Warden, Health Services
Leah Sparks, Executive Director, Technology
Lindsey McIntosh, General Counsel
Amon Gilliam, Assistant Superintendent, Middle & Alternative Schools
Melanie Meadows, Treasurer, Budget & Finance
Keith Vititoe, Executive Director, Safety & Security
Briana Warner, Communications Director
Mellow Lee, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary
George Aulenbacher, Assistant Superintendent, High Schools, Technical & Adult Education

PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Agenda for May 2, 2022 (Enclosure 145)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Revised Personnel Agenda as included in Enclosure 145. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Out of State Travel Requests (Enclosure 146)

Mrs. Tracy White moved: The Board approve the Out of State Travel Requests as contained in Enclosure 146. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried.

B. Public Hearing on Preliminary Operating Budgets for Fiscal Year 2022-23.

Melanie Meadows-At the last hearing, I didn't have much information for you but I have more information for you tonight. We didn't receive final comps from the WVDE, this is another year where they send us a second set of preliminary comps and they don't anticipate any major changes between the second set of preliminary comps and our actual finals comps. Essentially they are waiting for some budget approvals at the state level and we were told that what they are showing in the preliminary comps is what it will be. It's not estimated for us to receive final comps until after this budget has been submitted in May so any minor changes will come to you all through the regular revision process in July. Our preliminary budget total for the current expensive fund is \$297,019,996. After today's public hearing you the Board will approve the preliminary budget in a couple of weeks and then we submit it to the State for approval from the state superintendent which usually happens sometime during the month of June. We are required to present a balanced budget where proposed revenues must equal proposed expenditures and we have to follow the state and federal chart of accounts. Compared to last school year, we have lost 380 students and with that will come an overall decline in state aid. Due to the decline in enrollment this year I recommended 55 staff cuts and that consisted of approximately 42 professional and 13 service. Most of these cuts will be handled through a combination of attrition, early retirement notifications and transfers to positions with other funding sources that are available and for the second year we will continue to charge 12 people previously coded to the general budget through our ESSERF Grants. When you look at the trends in basic state aid we had a drop of about \$4 million where this year it is up a little bit but that is primarily due to the net effect with the state legislative pay raise. We received funding for the pay raise but had we not lost 380 students we would have received much more in state aid. Our regular and excess levy revenue is down \$1.9 million compared to last year and if you recall the reason the assessor's office gave us was primarily due to changes in the taxation of oil

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

and gas wells combined with huge losses in industrials. Our local sources of revenue are holding steady. We had to increase our promised amount of carryover in order to fill the void that we are experiencing due to the decline in our tax revenues. Overall personnel expense is up \$1.4 million and that is due to the net effect of the legislative pay raise. Most other expenditures we had to decrease in the budget in order to balance everything out. The only substantial changes that you see going up are based on the promised excess levy projects and the cost of flood insurance. I do want to mention that this budget does include a \$3 pay increase for supplemental pay contracts. I know the Board wanted us to look at that. We couldn't do any more than the \$3 and make everything balance, but it does put us in an average with the neighboring counties.

Mr. White-On page 9, what is miscellaneous dues and fees that are down \$1,192,117?
Melanie Meadows-Primarily the decrease there is that we are allowed to charge our virtual school expenditures to our ESSERF grants so we took advantage of that this coming year. The logic behind what they said to us in the WVDE meetings is that more students may be enrolled in virtual because they feel more comfortable not being exposed to COVID so we are allowed to charge some of the expenditures that were previously charged to the general budget to the ESSERF grants.

Melanie Meadows-All schools will still have a PPE allocation. In the upcoming November election, citizens will be voting on a proposed amendment to the WV constitution regarding the taxation of manufacturing inventory, business property and motor vehicles. What it sounds like is if this passes, it gives the legislature permission to proceed with passing some laws that could affect the way these things are taxed. If all that does pass, we are looking at approximately an estimate of \$9-12 million dollars off of our excess levy each year and that is pretty substantial. If you recall, this year we are down \$1.8 and we are still good, but if we have something such as a \$9-12 million dollar decrease then we will have to look at the projects and reprioritize. I do want to mention something new that was brought to light. The way the law is written for charter schools is essentially the funding follows the student, so in October every school, including charter schools, will have their enrollment count and that affects the comps that we receive in state aid. What that means for us is right now we don't know how many Kanawha County School students have enrolled in a charter school for the upcoming school year and right now the estimate is almost 200 kids. That will be almost \$1 million off of this budget that I am presenting to you right now. What will happen with that is that it will be an adjustment to the state aid that we receive in the fall. I wasn't given an exact amount. It was basically a courtesy call to several counties because they knew we were getting ready to present our budgets. I feel like I needed to share that with you today. It's my understanding that the deadline for enrolling in charter schools has been extended so that's why we can't have final numbers yet. The good news is after this first year it will just

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

be part of the normal enrollment count in October. The bad news is that each year that there is there is a new charter school opening we will have this situation.

Mr. White-Where are they getting their estimates? Melanie Meadows-I was not told the source but I was told that there is supposed to be an email coming out today with the actual information that I am telling you. I will be glad to share it with you when I get it.

Mrs. White-Just to be clear, the money follows the student out if they go to a charter school, but say they come back it doesn't come back to us? Melanie Meadows-It would not, but that student coming back to us would be part of our next October head count.

Melanie Meadows-Currently our budgeted revenues do match our budget expenditures for a balanced legal budget.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

- A. Monday, May 2, 2022, 5:00 p.m.-Statutory Session (Public Hearing on Proposed Budget)
- B. Thursday, May 12, 2022, 5:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- C. Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Approval of the Proposed Budget)
- D. Monday, June 6, 2022, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- E. Thursday, June 16, 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

Mrs. Tracy White moved: That the Statutory Session of the Board be adjourned.
Motion was seconded by Mr. Jim J. Crawford and unanimously carried. The Statutory Session was declared adjourned by Board President Becky J. Jordon at 5:17 p.m.

President

Secretary

djl

5/18/2022