

January 29, 2020

The Board of Education of the County of Kanawha met in Special Session on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at the Board of Education Building, Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Board President Ryan White at 12:00 Noon.

**PRESENT**

Ryan White, President

Ric Cavender, President Pro Tem

Jim J. Crawford, Sr.

Becky J. Jordon (via phone)

Tracy White

Ronald E. Duerring, Secretary

Debra J. Lewis, Recording Secretary

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Briana Warner, Communications Director

Lindsey McIntosh, General Counsel

## SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

This meeting has been called to continue our discussion on the superintendent search. We have been provided material from Dr. Howard O’Cull from the School Board Association with regard to searches and how we may be able to do that. Dr. O’Cull will come and talk to us now.

Mr. Jim J. Crawford-I would like to make a statement here. I have reviewed all of Dr. O’Cull’s proposals, they are very good and well put together, but in my opinion I think we need to appoint a Superintendent for this position.

Mr. Jim J. Crawford moved: That the Board appoint a superintendent. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon.

Mr. White-Appoint a superintendent right now? Mr. Crawford-Right now. Mr. White-Do you have a name? Mr. Crawford-First of all there is a motion on the floor. Mr. White-There is a motion and a second. We are in discussion. We can appoint a superintendent but we have to have a name to appoint a superintendent. Mr. Crawford-If this motion passes, I’ve got a name. Mr. White-Do we have to have a name in the motion? Lindsey McIntosh-I cannot provide you legal advice in an open meeting. Mr. Crawford-There is no set procedure for this. I made a motion that we appoint a superintendent. Dr. Duerring-You would have to vote on that motion first. Mr. White-So you want to appoint a superintendent right now? Okay, is there any further discussion?

Mr. Cavender-I just don’t understand. So the motion is to appoint just a superintendent? Mr. Crawford-Yes, for one year. Mr. Cavender-Not knowing who it is? Mr. Crawford-We can make a motion then and appoint somebody and name a name. Mr. White-So if this motion passes it is your intention that we do not do any search? Mr. Crawford-Absolutely.

The above motion carried 3-2 with Mr. White and Mr. Cavender voting No.

Mr. Jim J. Crawford moved: The Board appoint Dr. Tom Williams as Superintendent of Kanawha County Schools for the ensuing year beginning on July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 and that his compensation be \$150,000. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Becky J. Jordon.

Mr. White-I think we should do a search. I think it’s important that we have a search. It’s been 22 years since we have appointed a superintendent. I believe that if we do not do a search we are not looking everywhere like we should.

## SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Mrs. Jordon-I know what you are saying that we have had Dr. Duerring in this position for 22 years, but Dr. Williams has been Deputy Superintendent for 6 years and has worked in the school system for 35 years. I don't think we could find a better superintendent at this time and I think he would keep the stability of the school system the way Dr. Duerring has set it up and continue on and that's how I would like it to go.

Mr. Crawford-I want to remind the board that we've had a past history of looking outside of the county for superintendents and we've had three in previous years from outside of West Virginia and they were never successful. One lasted 1 year, one lasted four years and one lasted three years. I was in the system all that time and there was nothing but turmoil. I think we have people within our system that can do the job. That's my opinion.

Mr. Cavender-My no vote and my subsequent no vote has nothing to do with my confidence in Dr. Williams. It's been wonderful to work in whatever capacity that we have as board members with Dr. Williams, but I'm sure we've worked much closer with Dr. Duerring and know what he has done in this system and anyone that he is going to hire would be qualified, so any opposition I have is certainly not a no vote of confidence for Dr. Williams or anyone else that is being proposed in this open meeting right now. This is more about the process for me and making sure that we are as any public agency or organization should do their due diligence to make sure that no stone has been left unturned. I certainly understand the value of uplifting folks who have served here locally. I think it makes a lot of sense to heavily consider people that are here in the local system but that doesn't mean we shouldn't be looking everywhere, so just to be sure there is a comprehensive and holistic process for this that's why I don't support just automatically appointing someone for this position. I think the search process is important.

Mrs. White-I think Dr. Williams is quite capable of doing the job. I think putting a superintendent in, not necessarily in place today, but knowing who that person will be will give Dr. Duerring the chance to work side by side. Our biggest issue and concern is that we have two multi-million dollar schools we are getting ready to build and we have FEMA involved and we need someone who will take that role over and be ready to step in July 1<sup>st</sup> and get these schools built for the Hoover and Elkview communities. I think we should absolutely, if we have qualified people, should be promoting from within.

Mr. Crawford-If we do this, we have a 5 month transition period which gives Dr. Duerring an opportunity to fill in Dr. Williams on all the information and everything that is going on in Kanawha County Schools. I think it's a win-win situation.

## **SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**

Mrs. White-You did say it was a one year contract right? Mr. Crawford-Yes, one year.

The above motion carried 3:2 with Mr. White and Mr. Cavender voting No.

Mr. White-I'm sorry Dr. O'Cull to get you over here, but with what has occurred we don't need your services. Thanks for the work you have done.

Mrs. Jordon-Congratulations Dr. Williams.

Mr. White-Congratulations to Dr. Williams.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES**

- A. Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 12:00 Noon-Special Session
- B. Monday, February 3, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- C. Thursday, February 20, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- D. Monday, March 2, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- E. Monday, March 16, 2020, 3:00 p.m. & 3:05 Budget Workshop-Statutory Session (Presentation of Schedule of Proposed Levy Rates) (Budget Workshop to Follow)
- F. Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Approval of the Schedule of Proposed Levy Rates)
- G. Thursday, March 19, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- H. Monday, April 6, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-Special Session
- I. Thursday, April 16, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Regular Session
- J. Tuesday, April 21, 2020, 12:00 Noon-Statutory Session (Reconvening of March 17, 2020, Meeting to Enter all Levies)
- K. Monday, April 27, 2020, 6:00 p.m.-Statutory Session (Public Hearing on Proposed Budget)

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 Ryan White at 12:09 p.m.

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President

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Secretary

djl

2/3/2020