

The Pocahontas County Board of Education met on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, for a regular Board Meeting at the Board of Education Conference Room, Buckeye, WV, with the following members present:

Sue E. Hollandsworth, President

John Burns)	
H. Samuel Gibson)	Members
Jarrett McLaughlin)	
Morgan McComb)	

Call to Order.

IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES, AND THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, PLEASE LISTEN TO THE BOE MEETING BY JOINING THE SCHEDULED ZOOM MEETING SEPTEMBER 22, 2020, AT 6:00 PM. IN-PERSON PUBLIC ATTENDANCE WILL BE PERMITTED.

(the audio link will also be provided on County Website at <http://pocahontas-k12.wvnet.edu/boe/>)

Audio link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81873683921?pwd=VS9GM0JWOGIzVFJXR3p6ZVZrL0IBZz09>
Meeting ID: 818 7368 3921 Password: 8t729n

Open with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES...

On the motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes from the Board of Education meeting held on September 01, 2020.

AGENDA...

On the motion of Mr. McLaughlin and seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the agenda. Item #11 Approval of Preliminary 2020 Unaudited Financial Statement will be moved to Item #3 on the agenda in order to meet the newspaper printing deadline. Remaining agenda items will follow in sequential order. Mr. Burns requested an Executive Session after the new Item #19 on a personnel matter.

APPROVAL OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the Preliminary 2020 Unaudited Financial Statement.

DELEGATIONS...

Mr. Berry, Agriculture Teacher at Pocahontas County High School, representing the PCHS teachers, addressed the Board concerning substitute teachers and the lack thereof. During trying times, maintaining adequate substitute coverage deems difficult. Mr. Berry proposed a plan to allow compensation for other classroom teachers covering additional classes not on their roster. The plan would alleviate the concern for professionals coming to school sick, teachers would receive pay for the additional workload and the Board would save money.

Mr. Beam explained that in the past, the Board had purchased planning periods from teachers willing to work the additional time. Mr. Berry's plan appeared plausible. It would be taken into consideration.

Mr. Morgan, President of the Pocahontas County Education Association and Music Instructor at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School, thanked the Board of Education for providing ample personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies. Students at Green Bank are able to maintain the six by six distancing. Thank you for keeping us safe.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT & SPECIAL RECOGNITION...

Mr. Beam opened his report by thanking both Mr. Berry and Mr. Morgan for their input. We will continue keeping staff and students safe by following the social distancing guidelines.

Mr. Beam explained we received approval of the 2010-2020 CEFP amendment. Unfortunately, we failed to secure the SBA funding for the Marlinton Sprinkler System. Mr. Beam has requested why the funding was refused. He will share his findings.

The upcoming West Virginia School Board Association webinar will cover County Board roles and responsibilities. Meetings with West Virginia Systems of Support and Accountability will also be offered.

Mr. Beam shared a letter from Pat Browning of the Pocahontas Prevention Coalition as they are working with our Parent Involvement Coordinators by engaging family time activities to strengthen the family bond and reduce substance abuse in our youth. This may become a board item should the activities be in-person.

As a reminder, the Re-Entry Plan will be revisited tonight and will remain as a continuing agenda for the Board to discuss each meeting thereafter, at least for the first semester. Revisions will be made when necessary. A special meeting will be Tuesday October 6, 2020, at 6:00 PM. for the public hearing of the 2020-2030 CEFP. We would like to have meeting early in case changes are needed as it has to be finalized by the end of October.

Mr. Beam offered three special recognitions. West Virginia Wesleyan College donated 24 microscopes to the PCHS Science Program. Wood County Schools donated welding equipment for the CTE program and tomorrow is West Virginia Service Appreciation Day. Mr. Beam will have Mrs. Bland send out an all-call to thank them for their services. They are a valuable part of our school system.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/CENTRAL OFFICE UPDATES...

- a. Jacob Kinnison, Student Representative, informed the Board that the students at PCHS are as happy as can be expected with the various COVID changes. They are following the new arrows in the hallways and maintaining the social distancing guidelines. Seniors are excited that they will still have Senior Night during the sporting events—some traditions prevail. Mr. Kinnison is honored to be the Student Representative for PCHS.
- b. Andy Cocina, Wendle Representative and Energy Savings Specialist provided the Board with a powerful, detailed presentation on how the county can save money on energy efficient designs involving but not limited to, lighting and solar projects. He described taking what we spend on utilities today and improving it to meet our needs—subsequently increasing our funds with the energy resources available. The PowerPoint provided before, during, and after project savings. No need to pass levy. The county is already spending this money each month. As stewards of the tax payers' dollars, it deems a better value. Financing, grant assistance, and energy savings are guaranteed and backed by Wendle Corporation, an 80-year-old energy savings company. The project will be discussed further.

APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF VENDOR LISTING OF CLAIMS...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved to authorize payment of vendor listing of claims in the amount of \$37,123.11.

APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF VENDOR LISTING OF CLAIMS (LOCAL GOVERNMENT PURCHASING CARD)...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved to authorize payment of vendor listing of claims (Local Government Purchasing Card) in the amount of \$148,934.82.

APPROVAL OF GRANTS...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the grant awards.

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the following employee payroll:

September 08, 2020 --\$231,799.83

APPROVAL TO NOT PARTICIPATE IN DEFERRING PAYROLL TAX OBLIGATIONS...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved not to participate in the "Memorandum on Deferring Payroll Tax Obligations in Light of the Ongoing COVID-19 Disaster."

APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL FUNDING GROUP, INC. LOA...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the Letter of Agency (LOA) between the Board of Education and Educational Funding Group, Inc. to represent all matters involving our E-rate funding applications for school years 2021, 2022, 2023, and all other open E-rate Funding Years, as necessary, retroactive September 14, 2020.

APPROVAL OF M3T NOYCE FELLOWSHIPS PROJECT MOU...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Pocahontas County Schools and the M3T Noyce Fellowships Project related to Jennifer Nail-Cook as the Cohort, in supporting improvement in the mathematics teaching and learning as a five-year program to be revisited/approved each subsequent year, retroactive to August 2020 through July 2021.

APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY CARE OF WEST VIRGINIA, INC. MOU...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. McComb, the Board unanimously approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Pocahontas County Board of Education and Community Care of West Virginia, Inc., to provide healthcare services in the School Based Health Care Center facilities at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School and Pocahontas County High School for the 2020-2021 school year.

REVIEW OF RE-ENTRY PLAN...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board entered a Review of re-entry plan (action to be taken, if necessary) with possible recommendations and/or revisions.

We would like to give the schools latitude to make individual changes and have received State approval to make modifications on a school to school basis without revising the entire Re-Entry Plan.

Each school responded:

PCHS—no changes at the present time, social distancing would be difficult.

MMS— no changes at the present time, cannot maintain 6 feet apart.

HES— Can abide by the social distancing guidelines and want to bring students back immediately.

GBEMS— no changes at the present time, social distancing would be difficult.

MES—no changes at the present time, social distancing cannot be achieved.

After lengthy discussion, Dr. Hollandsworth made a motion to approve the return to a four-day week for low-functioning Special Education students as identified by their teachers and the return of all students to a four-day week if the classroom can fit them in and still maintain social distancing, contingent upon parent and school approval, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin. The Board unanimously approved Dr. Hollandsworth motion.

APPROVAL TO OBTAIN SURVEYS AND APPRAISALS...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved to authorize the superintendent to obtain surveys and appraisals of Board of Education's Green Bank Property, otherwise known as the Slaven Property, in whole and/or part thereof (98.78+/- total acreage), in preparation for possible future determination that whole or part of the property is not necessary for school purposes.

APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT'S GOALS...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved the Superintendent's goals for the 2020-2021 school year.

APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER COACHES...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved the following individuals as Volunteer Coaches for the 2020-2021 season, pending certification.

James "Bo" Casteel—7th & 8th Grade Football
Robert A. Cummings—PCHS Football

EXECUTIVE SESSION...

On the motion of Dr. Hollandsworth, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved a call for Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The Board went into Executive Session at 8:26 PM and at the conclusion of the Executive Session, on the motion of Dr. Hollandsworth, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously agreed to return to the agenda at 8:36 PM.

PERSONNEL...

On the motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McComb, the Board agreed to remove the recommendation of employment of Curtis Murray as Substitute Custodian for Pocahontas County Schools from the agenda at a 4-1 vote, with Mr. Gibson casting the only descending vote.

On recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. McComb, the Board unanimously approved the Service and Professional Personnel as listed:

Green Bank Elementary-Middle School:

EMPLOYMENT: ANNE M. SMITH, as Teacher of Science at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School, at state minimum salary based on degree and experience plus equity, effective September 21, 2020 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, term of employment is 175 days, (in addition to days already worked) NOTE: Term of employment shall be 200 days each year thereafter.

EMPLOYMENT: DARLA J. HUDDLE, as Academic Interventionist at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School, at \$22.00 per hour, three hours per day, as needed—not to exceed 375 hours or \$8,250.00, effective September 08, 2020 through May 14, 2021.

Marlinton Middle School:
MUTUAL CONSENT TO CHANGE: SHERRI L. HOWE, from Cook III at Marlinton Elementary School/Marlinton Middle School to Cook III at Marlinton Middle School—4 days/Hillsboro Elementary School—1 day, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, at state basic pay, term of employment is 200 days. Assignment will be reviewed after the first nine weeks.

Pocahontas County High School:
EMPLOYMENT: DARLENE D. ARBOGAST, to mentor Tessa M. Himelrick, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, at 22.00 per hour, not to exceed 50 hours or \$ 1,100.00.

Pocahontas County Schools:
EMPLOYMENT: DEREK R. TRULL, as Site Coordinator of the “Community in Schools” Program at Marlinton Middle School, at state minimum salary based on degree and experience, effective September 01, 2020 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, term of employment is 189 days. (in addition to days already worked) NOTE: Term of employment shall be 200 days each year thereafter, provided grant funding. (Salary to be paid for by the CIS grant.)

EMPLOYMENT: Of the following as Virtual School Facilitators, extra-curricular, at \$22.00 per hour, as needed, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, as needed.

Darlene Arbogast—PCHS, Special Education
Kathy Mason—PCHS, 9th - 12th grades
Teresa Rhea—MMS, 6th – 8th grades
Alison Safrit—GBEMS, 6th – 8th grades
Jeanette Wagner—MMS, Special Education

EMPLOYMENT: Of the following as Virtual School Instructors, extra-curricular, at \$22.00 per hour, as needed, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, as needed.

Darla Huddle—Marlinton Elementary School
Kimberely Shinaberry—HES/GBEMS, K-5th grades
Jeanette Wagner—HES, Special Education

EMPLOYMENT: Of the following as Teachers of Homebound Instruction for Pocahontas County Schools, at \$22.00 per hour, as needed, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, as needed.

Darla Huddle
L. Brooke Nottingham

EMPLOYMENT: Of the following as Substitute Special Education/ClassroomAide/Bus Aide for Pocahontas County Schools, effective September 24, 2020, as

needed, for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, at state basic pay, pending background checks:

- 1 Jessica Beard
- 2 Elizabeth Hefner
- 3 Kristi Dinkins
- 4 Laurie Corbin
- 5 Tomma Johnson

*Official Drawing was held to determine placement on the Substitute Aide List.

EMPLOYMENT: Of the following as Substitute Cook for Pocahontas County Schools, effective September 24, 2020, as needed, for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, at state basic pay, pending background checks:

- 1 Jessica Beard
- 2 Pippi Miller
- 3 Tomma Johnson
- 4 Kristi Dinkins
- 5 Laurie Corbin

*Official Drawing was held to determine placement on the Substitute Cook List.

EMPLOYMENT: Of the following as Substitute Custodian for Pocahontas County Schools, effective September 24, 2020, as needed, for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, at state basic pay, pending background checks:

Pippi Miller

EMPLOYMENT: Of the following as Substitute Maintenance for Pocahontas County Schools, effective September 24, 2020, as needed, for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, at state basic pay, pending background checks:

- 1 Larry Price
- 2 George Jaharias

*Official Drawing was held to determine placement on the Substitute Maintenance List.

PERMISSION: For the superintendent to post and fill positions prior to Board approval until October 13, 2020.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD...

Mr. McComb, Mr. McLaughlin, and Mr. Burns voiced no concerns for Matters of the Board at the present time.

Mr. Gibson shared teachers concerns about serving lunches in the classroom. It deems problematic. Though Mr. Beam was empathetic, it is imperative to understand that eating lunches in elementary school classrooms is part of the Re-Entry design. It will remain in effect.

Dr. Hollandsworth thanked the Central Office staff for their diligence in remaining on task with reporting and budget deadlines.

NEXT BOARD MEETING...

Next Local School Improvement Council/Board of Education Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 beginning at 3:30 PM at Pocahontas County High School, Dunmore, WV.

ADJOURN...

On the motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.



Secretary



President