

The Pocahontas County Board of Education met on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, for the PCHS Local School Improvement Council immediately followed by a Regular Board Meeting at Pocahontas County High School, Dunmore, West Virginia, 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, YOU MAY LISTEN TO THE BOE MEETING BY JOINING THE SCHEDULED ZOOM MEETING OCTOBER 13, 2020, AT 3:30 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/85039091233?pwd=QnFhalVwUUUYweGo2SHB0UTFoYnJsdz09>  
Meeting ID: 850 3909 1233 Password: 8k201b

Open with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA...**

On the motion of Mr. McLaughlin and seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the agenda with the following changes: additional course, Computer Applications I and II, added to Item #16, faculty senate allocation revisions and Sondra Fowler will be added to the (blank) on Item #20, the Professional and Service Personnel.

**PCHS LSIC...**

The Board of Education met with the Pocahontas County High School Local School Improvement Council followed by a meeting with staff.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT & SPECIAL RECOGNITION...**

Mr. Beam, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Doolittle, and Mrs. Tritapoe met virtually with Mr. Jacob Green, Superintendent of West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition, about the Youth Report Concept coming back to Pocahontas County. Documentation should be presented shortly.

The 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan will be an agenda item at the next board meeting.

Mr. Beam explained staff at the high school will be working from home October 14, 2020 due to the scheduled power outage.

Lastly, we are still eagerly awaiting the results of the technology grant in which one-to-one devices would be provided to all students. Mr. Beam expects to hear something in the next few weeks as to whether we will receive the funding.

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/CENTRAL OFFICE UPDATES...**

- a. Jacob Kinnison, Student Representative, announced that exciting and busy times are happening at PCHS for the student body. Homecoming Week is approaching and the morale seems to be up. Teachers and staff are working diligently to bring a positive impact on a difficult year. Seniors are seeking transcripts from the Guidance Counselor as they apply to colleges and technical schools. Mr. Kinnison was very thankful that he had not personally encountered device failure or classroom difficulty with the blended learning as his teachers have been quite focused.
  
- b. Peggy Stull—Youth Health Services, gave a brief overview of the expanded mental health program offered in four of the five schools in the county. Though Hillsboro Elementary School has the Rainelle Mental Health Clinic, they too can receive services from Youth Health whenever needed.

Expanded School Mental Health is a collaboration of all the resources in the county and throughout the state that can help Pocahontas County students, families and schools be successful.

**APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF VENDOR LISTING**

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 in the amount of **\$113,749.05**.

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

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 (Local Government Purchasing Card) in the amount of **\$40,529.18**.

**APPROVAL OF GRANT AWARDS...**

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 17, 2020 – \$236,507.82  
October 05, 2020 – \$243,760.40

**APPROVAL OF EXTRA DUTY PAY...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the Extra Duty Pay for the month of September 2020, in the amount of **\$16,100.86**.

**APPROVAL OF THE POCAHONTAS COUNTY SCHOOLS SUMMARY OF SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the Pocahontas County Schools Summary of Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures on a Cash Basis for the month ended September 2020.

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS FOR CARRYOVER...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the Budget Adjustments for Carryover.

**APPROVAL TO INCREASE TREASURER BOND...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved for the Treasurer Bond to be increased to \$800,000, estimated amount covering responsibilities within 2-month period, per WV Code 18-9-6.

**APPROVAL OF YOUTH HEALTH SERVICES, INC. MOU...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Youth Health Services, Inc. (YHS) and Pocahontas County Schools, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, wherein YHS will provide access to mental health services, behavioral and emotional, to the students of Pocahontas County.

**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.

After lengthy discussion, Mr. McLaughlin made a motion that all students in blended learning are to return to school four days a week, still following social distancing guidelines, starting October 26, 2020 with parent permission, and pending Pocahontas County Health Department approval. Mr. McComb seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved having blended learning students return to school four days a week.

**APPROVAL FOR POCAHONTAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL TO OFFER TWO CREDIT COURSES...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved for Pocahontas County High School to offer the following courses, wherein the students will receive two graduation credits:

- Physical Education/Health
- Agriculture/Natural Resources I/Horticulture
- Computer Applications I/Computer Applications II

**APPROVAL OF MUTUAL AGREEMENT TO COMPENSATE TEACHERS FOR PLANNING PERIODS...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the Mutual Agreement between Pocahontas County Schools and Teachers to compensate for additional coverage during scheduled planning periods.

**APPROVAL OF PRO-START COVID-19 WAIVER...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved the Pro-Start Covid-19 Waiver.

**APPROVAL OF FACULTY SENATE ALLOCATIONS...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the following faculty senate revised allocation for the 2020-2021 school year:

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Hillsboro Elementary School | \$3,802.14 |
|-----------------------------|------------|

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Green Bank Elementary Middle School | \$8,741.48  |
| Marlinton Elementary School         | \$7,174.93  |
| Marlinton Middle School             | \$5,701.43  |
| Pocahontas County High School       | \$11,900.02 |

**PERSONNEL...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the Service and Professional Personnel.

**Green Bank Elementary Middle School:**

**REQUESTED TRANSFER:** TESSA M. HIMELRICK, as Itinerant Teacher of Special Education (Multi-categorical)/Autism) for Pocahontas County Schools, assignment Pocahontas County High School to Itinerant Teacher of Special Education (Multi-categorical/Autism) for Pocahontas County Schools, assignment Green Bank Elementary Middle School, at state minimum salary based on degree and experience plus equity, effective October 5, 2020 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, term of employment is 165 days, (in addition to days already worked) NOTE: Term of employment shall be 200 days each year thereafter.

**Hillsboro Elementary School:**

**RESIGNATION:** KEVIN A. THOMPSON, as Evening Custodian III, extracurricular, at Hillsboro Elementary School, effective October 10, 2020.

**Pocahontas County Schools:**

**EMPLOYMENT:** SONDRA FOWLER, as Evening Custodian III, extracurricular, at Hillsboro Elementary School, at \$14.00 per hour, one day per week (Friday), 3.5 hours per day (5:00 PM – 8:30 PM), effective September 11, 2020. Note—This is an as needed, extracurricular position and contingent upon continued COVID-19 restrictions. Should all virtual or remote learning be enforced, this position will be delayed until students are present inside the school environment with face-to-face instruction. Paid Holidays are not part of this contract. Wages are contingent upon actually working the Evening Custodian III, extracurricular shift, contingent upon accepting resignation of Kevin A. Thompson.

**MATTERS OF THE BOARD...**

Mr. McComb voiced no concerns for Matters of the Board at the present time.

Mr. McLaughlin was glad to hear that we are moving forward on obtaining an appraisal and survey of the Green Bank property.

Mr. Burns expressed much gratitude to the Board for coming together and making difficult decisions on the well-being of the educational needs of the students. He hopes the community will be receptive.

Mr. Gibson had many concerns. He was relieved to discover that staff receive annual training on seizures and epileptic occurrences and will relay the information to a concerned parent. Mr. Gibson inquired about lockers and whether students could use them. Though this is delegated by the principal per school building, it deems lockers are being used by students.

Mr. Gibson questioned if we are tracking the student progress in West Virginia Virtual Schools. Mrs. Bostic reassured him we have a Virtual Facilitator in place to monitor student activity.

Mr. Gibson wondered why the concession stand is not in operation at ball games. Mr. Beam explained that it was a staffing issue. The Health Department mandates the same individuals work the entire shift, from beginning of the day to end of the day.

Mr. Gibson, representing Mr. David Moore, Jr., brought attention to sports funding. He would like to pursue other avenues for funding and budgeting. Mr. Gibson was informed that as non-academic, extra-curricular activities, athletics supports themselves. We are a single A county with triple A sports. Unfortunately, we cannot afford to financially support the athletics programs.

Lastly, Mr. Gibson stressed the importance of better communication and transparency.

Dr. Hollandsworth had one item of concern. She requested to schedule a general work session as it deems necessary for lengthy discussion on budgets, personnel, Re-Entry, CEFP, and property issues. A tentative date of November 2, 2020 at 8:00 AM at the Board Conference Room was noted.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING...**

Next Local School Improvement Council/Board of Education Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 beginning at 3:00 PM at Marlinton Elementary School, Marlinton, WV.

**ADJOURN ...**

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



Secretary



President