

The Pocahontas County Board of Education met on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, for the MMS Local School Improvement Council immediately followed by a Regular Board Meeting at Marlinton Middle School, Buckeye, West Virginia with the following members present:

Sue E. Hollandsworth, President

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

\* 3:17 PM

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 NOVEMBER 17, 2020, AT 3:00 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/83461245636?pwd=Y1VwR3lmb2t6YUdIMmttTkF4TFc4QT09>

Meeting ID: 834 6124 5636 Password: 8g045b

Open with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MMS Local School Improvement Council presentation followed by a meeting with staff.

#### **MINUTES...**

On the motion of Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes from the Board of Education meeting held on October 27, 2020.

#### **MINUTES...**

On the motion of Mr. McLaughlin and seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes from the Board of Education General Work Session held on November 02, 2020.

#### **AGENDA...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved the agenda with the following two changes: Ms. Devan Simmons representing Archery will not be presenting and approval of Extra Duty Pay is for the month of October.

#### **DELEGATIONS...**

No delegations were requested.

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

Superintendent Beam suggested to postpone the December 1, 2020 LSIC Green Bank Elementary-Middle School Meeting until later and hold a Regular Board Meeting in the Conference Room. Due to mandates from Governor Justice, remote learning will be in session and the students or LSIC will not be present.

Mr. Beam will arrange an informative Board Member Workshop with Jason Long and Howard O'Cull, date forthcoming.

Mrs. Spencer requested changing the time of the December 15, 2020 Hillsboro Elementary School LSIC Meeting to 4:00 PM instead of 3:30 PM. Due to scheduling conflicts for Mr. Beam and Mrs. Bland, Mr. Hall will be leading the December 15, 2020 Board Meeting.

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

- a. Jacob Kinnison, Student Representative, expressed the student disappointment from Governor Justice postponing winter sports this week. Though students understood the safety precautions and concerns, basketball remains a sad subject at the high school.

Mr. Kinnison revisited the early 10:30 AM lunch shift and requested a compromise. Can snacks of a granola bar or fruit be provided at 2:00 PM? With the early lunch shift, by mid-afternoon, students are famished.

Lori Doolittle, Food Service Director, graciously responded by suggesting to wrap fruit individually for students as an afternoon Grab-n-Go. Though the snack would not be a state reimbursement, it deems an important necessity for the students and their educational well-being. Both Mr. Kinnison and the Board were appreciative.

~~b. Devan Simmons, Archery~~

- c. Lori Doolittle, Food Service Director, asked the Board to consider maintaining the food distribution as it has been developed and delivered the last 8 months should remote learning be enforced. Food Distribution in the Re-Entry Plan incorporates meal distribution with all school bus drivers and 18 teachers. A more responsible plan has been established with the three food distribution sites and minimal exposure. The Board will vote on this later in the agenda.

- d. Andy Cocina, Wendle Representative, advised the Board to consider the 1.8 million dollar guaranteed Energy Savings Project designed specifically around the needs of Pocahontas County Schools as outlined in the 2020-2030 CEFP. Project includes lighting upgrades for all five schools, interior and exterior, HVAC controls with computer power management, and building envelope improvements. All projects are designed so Pocahontas County Schools will recoup our initial investment and gain financial recourse. Mr. Cocina met with Mr. Womack, Assistant Director of Architectural Services of the School Board Authority (SBA). The 1.8 million dollars is considered the local match when applying for the Needs Grant.

In order to move forward with said project, Wendle Corporation requires a signed resolution agreement. The resolution is an agenda item.

**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 **\$46,069.28**.

**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 **\$240,548.00**.

**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:

November 02, 2020 – \$250,071.31

**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 October 2020, in the amount of \$11,339.37.

**APPROVAL OF BANK RECONCILIATION...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved the Bank Reconciliation for the month of September 2020.

**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 October 2020.

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS...**

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

**APPROVAL OF WENDLE ENERGY SAVINGS PROJECT RESOLUTION...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved the resolution to move forward with a guaranteed energy savings project and apply for Needs funding from the School Building Authority.

**APPROVAL OF BASKETBALL SEASON...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved to continue participating in the 2020-2021 Basketball season in January 2021. Should school bus transportation be available during away games, it will be utilized accordingly, otherwise, parents will be responsible for transportation. Instead of 20% capacity, the availability to purchase two tickets per athlete per game for both home and visiting teams is permissible. The media will be restricted to two individuals per team per game. Temperature checks will be monitored with athletes and all spectators. Social distancing, and mask/shield regulations will be followed as provided in the Re-Entry Guidelines. Operating concession stands is at the discretion of the school, but must be in accordance the guidelines provided by the Pocahontas County Health Department.

**REVIEW OF RE-ENTRY PLAN...**

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

On the motion of Mr. McLaughlin and seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the adjustment to the Re-Entry Food Service Plan, now being Remote Plan for Food Service for Pocahontas

County Schools: all cooks will remain in their own schools and prepare meals for distribution. We will continue to use Hillsboro Elementary, Marlinton Elementary and Green Bank Elementary-Middle Schools for our weekly distribution sites. This is a no-contact distribution. Staff are to place the meal package inside the trunk of the vehicle. If we cannot use the trunk, they will place the meal package on a table for the parent to place in their vehicle.

The Board spoke of the order issued by Governor Justice concerning band. Governor Justice stated that band ratings, concerts, and festivals will be cancelled for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year due to the uptick in COVID-19 cases. PCS Band Directors have questioned if Christmas programs are part of the mandated order. Said performances are a significant portion of their annual evaluations. The discussion was tabled until the December 01, 2020 Board Meeting in which the PCS Band Directors will be invited to discuss their concerns. We will also be contacting the State Department of Education for additional clarification.

**APPROVAL OF PCS PERSONNEL ACCEPTABLE USE FORM ON 30-DAY COMMENT ...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved to place the Pocahontas County Schools' Personnel Acceptable Use Form (Policy 7540.03) on 30-day public comment for the purpose of amending current policy.

**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.

**Hillsboro Elementary School:**

RESIGNATION: SONDRA L. FOWLER, due to retirement, as Custodian IV at Hillsboro Elementary School effective December 31, 2020.

RESIGNATION: SONDRA L. FOWLER, due to retirement, as Evening Custodian III, extracurricular, at Hillsboro Elementary School effective December 31, 2020.

**Marlinton Elementary School:**

REQUESTED TRANSFER: AMBER R. ARBOGAST, as Itinerant Special Education Classroom Aide/Bus Aide for Pocahontas County Schools, (assignment: Marlinton Elementary School) to Classroom Aide/Bus Aide at Marlinton Elementary School, at state basic pay, shift being 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM, Monday – Friday, effective November 19, 2020 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, term of employment is 132 days, in addition to the days already worked. NOTE: Term of employment shall be 200 days each year thereafter.

ABOLISHMENT OF POSITION: Itinerant Special Education Classroom Aide/Bus Aide for Pocahontas County Schools (assignment: Marlinton Elementary School), effective November 19, 2020, contingent upon accepting requested transfer of Amber R. Arbogast.

**Pocahontas County High School:**

REQUESTED TRANSFER: DEVAN E. SIMMONS, as Teacher of Multi-Subjects (5<sup>th</sup> grade) at Marlinton Elementary School to Librarian/Media Specialist at Pocahontas County High School at state basic salary based on degree and experience, effective November 30, 2020 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, term of employment is 129 days, in addition to the days already worked. NOTE: Term of employment shall be 200 days each year thereafter.

Pocahontas County Schools:

RESIGNATION (VOLUNTEER COACH): JENNY R. FRIEL, as Volunteer Head Cheer Coach (Basketball) at Marlinton Middle School, retroactive to November 02, 2020.

RESIGNATION: PIPPI L. MILLER, as substitute custodian for Pocahontas County Schools, per her request, retroactive November 06, 2020.

**MATTERS OF THE BOARD...**

Mr. McComb questioned if we had heard any news on the old Board Office Building. Mrs. Radcliff stated we are now waiting federal plans and timelines.

Mr. Gibson articulated his gratitude of the PCS staff. All have triumphed in this stressful time.

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

Dr. Hollandsworth confronted the directors about the communication difficulties at Marlinton Middle School. Can the WiFi be turned back on for MMS until an intercom system is purchased? Mrs. Bland instructed that indeed the WiFi was on but not for personal devices. Mrs. Bland firmly conveyed it would be problematic to open the network. Wood County is a prime example where viruses from personal devices on the network paralyzed the entire school system. She does not want that for Pocahontas County Schools.

The new county-wide phone system, one purchased for each classroom, can also double as both an internal and external source of communication, should suffice for administration, professional and all service employees. Thus, Pocahontas County Schools' Personnel Acceptable Use Form (Policy 7540.03) is out on 30-day public comment for the purpose of amending current policy to include the new phone system and all its features.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING...**

Next Board of Education Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 01, 2020, beginning at 6:00 PM at the Board of Education Conference Room, Buckeye, WV.

**ADJOURN...**

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

  
Secretary

  
President