

The Pocahontas County Board of Education met on Tuesday, January 05, 2021, 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, YOU MAY LISTEN TO THE BOE MEETING BY JOINING THE SCHEDULED ZOOM MEETING JANUARY 05, 2021, AT 6:00 PM. IN-PERSON PUBLIC ATTENDANCE WILL NOT 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/82500639927?pwd=VS9sem9pZXdOYWd1TE9Lb0F1N3YzUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 0063 9927      Password: 7b708i

Open with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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 December 15, 2020.

**AGENDA...**

On the motion of Mr. McLaughlin and seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the agenda.

**DELEGATIONS...**

No delegations were requested.

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

Superintendent Beam opened the report by specially recognizing the artwork on display in the Conference Room from the talented students of Marlinton Middle School. Mr. Beam continued by welcoming the new Student Representative for the second semester, Alan Gibson. It should be an interesting time to serve on the Board and we look forward to Mr. Gibson's impute.

Next, Superintendent Beam updated the Board on Needs Project application in progress. The Energy Savings Project with Wendle Corporation is well on the way. Two upcoming agenda items will focus on that, should they be approved. The plan is to use the money that we are borrowing to complete the Energy Savings Project as the local match for the Needs Project application. Part of the project will allow for the replacement of Marlinton Elementary School's sprinkler system and doors, windows and

electrical upgrades at Pocahontas County High School. Should the State not honor the Needs Grant Project due to lack of funding, we will proceed forward by using the money from the Energy Savings Project.

Mr. Beam asked the Board to be mindful when deliberating the Re-Entry Plan. Two weeks remain before face-to-face instruction may commence. He is in daily contact with the State and Governor's Office seeking definitive directives and attempting to obtain more local control on decision making. We continue working diligently with our county Health Department. A special board meeting may deem necessary next Thursday to revisit the January 19, 2021, expected return date.

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

- a. Alan Gibson, Student Representative, eagerly addressed the Board for the first time. Mr. Gibson polled some of his peers and teachers. Students really appreciated the break. With being back in school for two days, he has heard no real complaints. It seems business as usual—virtually.
- b. Sherry Radcliff, Treasurer, prepared the Board that the 2021-2022 school year includes less funding for transportation, maintenance, and state aide. The new ELA textbook adoption will be roughly \$100,000. A budget meeting will be scheduled later to discuss the reduced funding.

Mrs. Radcliff also informed the Board of the five bids on the maintenance truck—one local, three in West Virginia, and one in Ohio. We chose Mitchell's Chevrolet at \$31,900.

- c. Lori Doolittle, Director of Food Service, acknowledged that we will remain a feeding site for children 18 and under, even if we return to 5-day, face-to-face instruction. Two, as needed, extracurricular positions consisting of 2 hours a day, 3 days a week are necessary for preparing the feeding site meals. In addition to our traditional and virtual students, we feed approximately 115 non-school aged children. This will continue until the end of the school year.
- d. Ruth Bland, Technology and Integration Specialist, announced that the Microsoft Surface Go's, keyboards, and cases have been purchased for the eighth, ninth, and tenth grade classes with grant funds. Mr. Beverage and Mr. Chaney are inventorying and configuring them now.

### **APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF VENDOR LISTING...**

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 **\$40,283.16**.

### **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 **\$3,054.39**.

### **APPROVAL OF GRANT AWARDS...**

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

**APPROVAL OF PAYROLL...**

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

December 22, 2020 – \$236,975.15

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

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved the Extra Duty Pay for the month of December 2020, in the amount of \$14,205.88.

**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 November 2020.

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS...**

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

**APPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved the Management Representation Letter-Single Audit as of June 30, 2020 Agreement.

**APPROVAL OF BANK DEPOSITORY ACCOUNT...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved to accept Pendleton Community Bank as the Pocahontas County Board of Education Bank Depository Account agency for fiscal year 2021-2022.

**APPROVAL OF TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT RATE...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved to change travel reimbursement rate from 57.5¢ per mile to 56¢ per mile, retroactive to January 1, 2021.

**APPROVAL OF TRAVEL EXPENSE POLICIES ON 30-DAY COMMENT...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved to place the Pocahontas County Schools' Travel Expense Policies (Policy 3440, 4440, and 6550) on 30-day public comment for the purpose of revising current policies.

**APPROVAL OF COUNTRY ROADS LEASING, LLC RESOLUTION...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved Country Roads Leasing, LLC Resolution to finance lease purchase of energy savings equipment, and to select Pendleton County Bank as lender.

**APPROVAL TO APPOINT TEACHER-IN-RESIDENCE...**

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved to appoint Melissa Murphy as a Teacher-in-Residence with Davis & Elkins College, per TIR Agreement, performing duties in the Marlinton Elementary School fifth grade classroom.

**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.

The Board was informed of the updated procedures mandated from the Governor's Office on returning to a 5-day, face-to-face instructional period beginning January 19, 2021. Social distancing guidelines will remain in place. Pocahontas County Health Department would follow the Governor's guidelines.

The Board entertained a lengthy discussion of the upcoming return. Lines of communication were opened to the public in which staff and community members voiced their concerns. Mrs. Rebecca Spencer, principal of Hillsboro Elementary School, requested the Board permit HES to eat lunch in the cafeteria, while maintaining the social distancing guidelines, instead of the classroom as the current Re-Entry Plan depicts. When returning to a full, face-to-face instructional week, her teachers will not receive a duty-free lunch unless utilization of the cafeteria, in three lunch shifts, be permitted.

The Board appreciated the community input and would take it into consideration when deciding to return to a face-to-face educational setting. A Special Meeting scheduled closer to the January 19, 2021 return mandate deems necessary.

On the recommendation of Dr. Hollandsworth and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved to permit Hillsboro Elementary School to eat lunch in the cafeteria, maintaining social distancing per three lunch shifts, should school return to 5 days a week.

**MATTERS OF THE BOARD...**

Mr. McLaughlin questioned the Green Bank property survey. Mrs. Radcliff informed the Board that with the holidays, the survey has not been completed yet.

Mr. Burn, Mr. McComb, and Dr. Hollandsworth voiced no concerns for Matters of the Board at the present time.

Mr. Gibson commended our staff, students and families during these trying times. With over 50-60 emails, texts, and phone calls that Mr. Gibson received, no one favored the Governor's new mandate. Hopefully, the State will offer additional guidelines in the next two weeks.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING...**

Next Board of Education Meeting, a Special Meeting, will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2021, beginning at 10:00 AM 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