

The Pocahontas County Board of Education met on Tuesday, January 26, 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 26, 2021, 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/86378697048?pwd=Yi8ycHYxTUtsSVhmWXVMMc9GTENGdz09>

Meeting ID: 863 7869 7048 Password: 6y409t

Open with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES...

On the motion of Mr. McLaughlin and seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved of the Minutes from the Board of Education meeting held on January 05, 2021.

MINUTES...

On the motion of Mr. McLaughlin and seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes from the Special Board of Education meeting held on January 14, 2021.

AGENDA...

On the motion of Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved the agenda. Dr. Hollandsworth requested an Executive Session to be held after Matters of the Board on personnel issues, no action taken.

DELEGATIONS...

No delegations were requested.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT & SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Superintendent Beam received a telephone call on January 6, 2021, from Tim Liptrap about our interest in the ROTC program being offered at the high school. Schedules are being arranged to allow Mr. Liptrap an opportunity to present the program at an upcoming Board Meeting. Mr. Beam shared

concerns with a smaller high school student population. Hopefully, it will not hinder the 6 CTE courses already established at the high school but be an asset.

The next two board meetings, February 6th and March 9th, will start at 5:30 pm to allow for the public hearings and discussion on the 2021-2022 proposed school calendar. Mr. Beam and Mrs. Bland are preparing a survey that will be posted on the county website for public comment.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the two missed Local School Improvement Council meetings have been rescheduled. March 30th will be the Green Bank Elementary-Middle School LSIC Meeting starting at 3:00 pm followed by a regular Board Meeting. May 11th will be the Hillsboro Elementary School LSIC Meeting starting at 3:30 pm also followed by a regular Board Meeting. Times may be adjusted to meet the needs of the school.

Mr. Beam updated the Board on the Pfizer vaccines dispersed in the county. Instead of the Pocahontas County High School, the Pocahontas County Health Department will be using the Wellness Center the next two Thursdays to administer approximately 200 doses each week.

Trish Collett from Community Care contacted Mr. Beam this week. She expressed that her nursing staff was needed with the vaccination process. They may not be present in the school-based clinics for the remainder of the year as a normal schedule would permit. Mr. Beam believed the county is fortunate to have Nurse Jenny and the three full-time LPN's in the school system. Behavior Health Services will continue through Tele-a-Health.

Lastly, Mr. Beam addressed that with little face-to-face instruction over the past eleven months, a June summer program is being designed for as many K-12 students as possible, tentative schedule being 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. This is in addition to summer Credit Recovery program for high school students. Attendance is not mandatory for students or staff but being offered as extra help for missed instruction. Employees will be financially compensated for working outside of their normal contracts.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/CENTRAL OFFICE UPDATES...

- a. Kristy Tritapoe, Julie Shiflet, Nebraska Scotchie—Athletics. Administration voiced their concerns about basketball and spring sports with the continued COVID-19 restrictions. Since basketball is an inside sport, it requires additional planning to maintain the CDC guidelines. Only 20 percent capacity may be currently housed in the gym which converts to two spectators per player for home and visiting teams alike. These constrains and extra demands make it difficult for Athletic Directors/Principals who cannot be checking temperatures, verifying tickets, and making sure individuals are wearing their masks properly.

Board members inquired if staff or community members can volunteer to assist the Athletic Directors. Nurse Jenny specified that in order to prevent exposure, the community cannot be used as volunteers. The local policy providing only 10-day paid Covid-19 leave puts volunteer staff members at risk. Mrs. Radcliff will look into the financial obligation of having the Security Team that provided assistance to the fall sports to continue the same support for basketball and the spring sports.

Basketball practice will begin February 15, 2021. Games commence the first week of March. Answers will be forthcoming in order to meet the needs of Administrators' concerns.

APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF VENDOR LISTING...

On the motion of the superintendent and motion Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved to authorize payment of vendor listing of claims in the amount of \$126,040.87.

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

On the motion 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 \$267,815.01.

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:

January 06, 2021 – \$230,357.31
January 19, 2021 – \$231,634.95

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 January 2021, in the amount of \$1,851.63.

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 December 2020.

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

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved the Pocahontas County Schools Summary of Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures on a Cash Basis for the month ended December 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 LOCAL POLICY PROVIDING PAID COVID-19 LEAVE...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the Board unanimously approved to accept Local Policy Providing Paid COVID-19 Leave, up to 10 days, retroactive to January 1, 2021.

APPROVAL OF FRONTIER INTERNET SPEED UPGRADES...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved Approval of Frontier Internet speed upgrades, as part of Frontier METRO ETHERNET LAN/WAN SCHEDULE, Amendment Number 1, effective July 1, 2021.

RE-ENTRY PLAN...

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

Mr. Beam updated the Re-Entry Plan from the last Board Meeting to reflect the 4.5-day face-to-face instruction instead of a 4-day face-to-face instruction as plan indicated. Additionally, Remote Learning will only be permitted when incriminate weather dictates school closings. Mrs. Bostic will update the "Pocahontas County Schools: Providing Education to all Students" chart to reflect said changes. Once the WVSSAC releases the current color coded map, it will be included in the Re-Entry Plan. No other revisions, changes, or recommendations are necessary at the present time.

Before continuing with the next agenda item, Mr. Gibson stressed the importance of consistency with school closures. Instead of cancelling due to weather the evening prior, he would like verdicts to be made the morning of. It was determined that Mrs. Bland confers daily with her direct supervisor, the National Weather Service, along with weather briefings, and other localities to govern the best possible avenue for the safety of 11-ton, dual wheel buses with drop-down chains on secondary roads.

PERSONNEL...

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

Marlinton Elementary School:
REQUESTED TRANSFER:

MARK D. WALTON, as Custodian III/Truck Driver/ Groundsman/General Maintenance/Sanitation Plant Operator for Pocahontas County Schools to Custodian IV at Marlinton Elementary School, at state minimum salary, effective January 28, 2021 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, term of employment is 108 days, (in addition to the days already worked) shift being 6:00 am – 2:00 pm (Monday – Friday). Note: Term of employment shall be 261 days each year thereafter.

EMPLOYMENT:

JAY MILLER, as Academic Interventionist for Pocahontas County Schools, assignment Marlinton Elementary School, effective January 28, 2021, through end of the 2020-2021 school year, at \$22.00 per hour, as needed, not to exceed 19 hours per week or \$7,106.00 total contract.

EMPLOYMENT:

VIRGINIA L. SHAW, as mentor for Melissa S. Murphy, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, at \$22.00 per hour, not to exceed 50 hours or \$1,100.00.

UNPAID MEDICAL
LEAVE:

ELISA J. WEBER, as Teacher at Marlinton Elementary School, effective January 27, 2021 (or upon exhaustion of personal leave) for a period of up to 12 weeks, as needed.

Pocahontas County Schools:

RESIGNATION:

JANET L. COLE, due to retirement, as Itinerant Special Education Classroom Aide/Bus Aide for Pocahontas County Schools, assignment Pocahontas County High School, effective at the end of the day February 04, 2021.

RESIGNATION:

RICKY L. McCARTY, due to retirement, as School Bus Operator for Pocahontas County Schools, effective at the end of the day February 19, 2021.

EMPLOYMENT:

TINA L. JACKSON, as Cook III, Afternoon Meal Distribution Preparation, extracurricular, at \$14.00 per hour, up to 3 days a week (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday), two hours per day, shift being 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm, beginning February 01, 2021. Note: This is an as needed, extracurricular position and contingent upon continued COVID-19 restrictions. Position is only needed when virtual and/or remote students return to an increased, face-to-face, educational setting. Position may be delayed, postponed, or abolished, depending on the need. Wages are contingent upon actually working the Afternoon Meal Distribution Preparation position. Paid holidays are not part of this contract.

EMPLOYMENT:

VALERIE H. LAMBERT, as Cook III, Afternoon Meal Distribution Preparation, extracurricular, at \$14.00 per hour, up to 3 days a week (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday), two hours per day, shift being 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm, beginning February 01, 2021. Note: This is an as needed, extracurricular position and contingent upon continued COVID-19 restrictions. Position is only needed when virtual and/or remote students return to an increased, face-to-face, educational setting. Position may be delayed, postponed, or abolished, depending on the need. Wages are contingent upon actually working the Afternoon Meal Distribution Preparation position. Paid holidays are not part of this contract.

EMPLOYMENT:

JANET L. COLE, upon acceptance of retirement, as Substitute Special Education/Classroom Aide/Bus Aide, Substitute Cook, and Substitute Secretary/Accountant for Pocahontas County Schools, effective February 05, 2021, as needed for the 2020-2021 school year, at state basic pay.

EMPLOYMENT:

ALYSSA NOTTINGHAM, as Substitute Teacher for Pocahontas County Schools, effective January 28, 2021, as needed for the 2020-2021 school year, at state basic pay.

VOLUNTEER COACH:

AARON L. PUGH, as a part-time, volunteer assistant coach, for the Pocahontas County High School Boys' and Girls' Track and Field teams for the 2020-2021 season, as needed.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD...

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

Mr. Burns expressed his gratitude that we are all still healthy and can now attend meetings in person.

Mr. Gibson articulated a few concerns. He questioned if all homebound students were covered with instructors. Mr. Hall addressed the issue by explaining we only have one homebound student at the present time and all needs are being met accordingly. Mr. Gibson requested an update at the next Board Meeting from the high school counseling department and constituents about how they are keeping students on track with graduation and future endeavors, be-it college, trade school or the workforce.

Lastly, Mr. Gibson expressed an interest in pursuing a levy for the 2022 election and made concerns with the SBA funding. Mr. Beam said a successful levy would have a better opportunity with community involvement and support rather than just Board leadership. The current SBA funding application being submitted to the state includes the MES sprinkler system and PCHS doors/windows projects. Mr. McComb made mention of the Energy Savings Project and the matching SBA funds. He indicated that a levy may not be required at the present time to complete the necessary assignments.

Dr. Hollandsworth thanked the Central Office for their hard work and diligence in maintaining stability. Kudos to the teachers and staff members for giving 100 percent, daily, whether it be working with students remotely or in person.

EXECUTIVE SESSION...

On the motion of Dr. Hollandsworth, the Board unanimously approved a call for Executive Session to discuss personnel issues, no action taken. The Board went into Executive Session at 7:55 PM, and at the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Board unanimously agreed to return to the Agenda at 8:08 PM.

NEXT BOARD MEETING...

Next Board of Education Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, beginning with a calendar hearing at 5:30 PM immediately followed by regular agenda items at the Board of Education Conference Room, Buckeye, WV.

ADJOURN...

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


Secretary


President