

The Pocahontas County Board of Education met on Tuesday, July 20, 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
Morgan McComb)

*7:23 pm—Jarrett McLaughlin joined by telephone

Call to Order.

Open with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES...

On the motion of Mr. McComb and seconded by Mr. Burns, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes from the Board of Education meeting held July 06, 2021.

AGENDA...

On the motion of Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. McComb, the Board unanimously approved the agenda with the following change: adding Dottie L. Chestnut in the blank under the personnel section. Dr. Hollandsworth requested an Executive Session concerning personnel issues to be held after Matters of the Board, no action taken.

DELEGATIONS...

- a. Mr. J. L. Clifton, Marlinton Elementary School Local School Improvement Council representative spoke concerning the lack of air conditioning at Marlinton Elementary School. He expressed much frustration for not being slated to receive air conditioning at the said school. Mr. Clifton reiterated that he nor the LSIC wanted to take anything away from another school but requested a plan of action be in place for air conditioning for Marlinton Elementary School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT & SPECIAL RECOGNITION...

Superintendent Beam expressed that we are spending most of our time getting the high school ready for the first day of school and trying to find quality teachers to fill the numerous open positions.

Mr. Beam updated the Board on the survey to the American Rescue Plan that was placed on the county website for comments. Fourteen comments were received in which at least twelve responses depicted the unfairness of Marlinton Elementary School not getting air conditioning.

The Board of Education was awarded approximately \$3.5 million in the American Rescue Plan. Academic expenditures must include recovery learning loss, after school programs, and summer school. Though the State Superintendent would like all the funds expensed on recovering learning loss and hiring qualified individuals to aid in the recovery process, the remaining funds are discretionary and may be spent on improving air quality in the school buildings. We are committed to spend some \$2.3 million on improving our school buildings as outlined in the active CEFP. American Rescue Plan expenditure proposal will be submitted by August 1, 2021.

Mr. Beam explained he will be returning to the School Board Authority this fall in order to secure additional funding to continue to improve the school buildings in which Marlinton Elementary School is listed as a prospective recipient.

With the recent resignation of a Green Bank teacher, the need for an additional third grade teacher is not essential at the moment. Mr. Beam suggested saving that position to fill the middle school CTE Instructor for the 7th and 8th grade students in the county. Feeder Program would start the 2022-2023 school year.

Though the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics suggest a mask mandate, Mr. Beam explained that our local health department has not made that a requirement yet. We will still adhere to the 3 feet social distancing guidelines. Should requirements change after the Superintendents' Meeting, Mr. Beam will share the new procedures.

Lastly, Mr. Beam outlined the hiring guidelines with service and professional applicants.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/CENTRAL OFFICE UPDATES...

- a. Ruth Bland, Substitute School Bus Drivers—Three candidates are currently in training to be substitute school bus drivers. This may alleviate some difficulties in finding qualified substitute drivers. Trainers are Mr. McQuain and Mr. McNeel. Mr. McNeel is one of the top ten finalists for the West Virginia Service Personnel of the Year.
- b. Ruth Bland, Multicultural Update—Committee wants to poll the parents to determine what issues are of main concern in the school system. New topics of concern over the state are drug culture and human trafficking. The Multicultural Committee felt the schools were doing a better job with diversity, inclusion, and tolerance. Mrs. Bland addressed policy 2240, Controversial Issues Policy. Critical Race Theory is not part of the West Virginia standards and curriculum.
- c. Ruth Bland, Technology Update—FCC has an emergency broadband benefit that parents can apply for assistance in subsidizing internet services. Through Erate, Mrs. Bland is applying for additional 520 devices to secure a 1:1 match for all students K-7th grades. The request will also include Surface laptops for teachers and internet services for families that do not have access.
- d. Cammy Kesterson, Summer Sole/Credit Recovery Update—Summer Sole and Credit Recovery was a great success due to the enthusiastic staff, transportation, and meal preparation. 14 students needed to recover one credit, 9 students needed two credits, 8 students needed three credits, and 7 students needed assistance with all four core classes.

Summer school lasted four weeks. Staff was amazing as they worked with the elementary students. Weekly themes included a farm theme, sports theme, West Virginia theme, and finally Beach Week. Reading and math skills focused around each themes. Though the enrollment was not large, it was a huge benefit to those students that participated. Students were excited about coming to school.

APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF VENDOR LISTING...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McComb, the Board unanimously approved to authorize payment of vendor listing of claims in the amount of **\$83,099.89**.

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. McComb, the

Board unanimously approved to authorize payment of vendor listing of claims (Local Government Purchasing Card) in the amount of \$41,667.36.

APPROVAL OF GRANT AWARDS...

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

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL...

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

July 2, 2021 – \$237,634.79

APPROVAL OF BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS...

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

APPROVAL OF SPORTS GENDER CLASSIFICATIONS...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. McComb, the Board unanimously approved the following the 2021-2022 sports gender classifications, per West Virginia Department of Education:

<u>Boys' Sports</u>	<u>Girls' Sports</u>	<u>Co-Ed Sports</u>
Baseball	Basketball	Band
Basketball	Soccer	Cheerleading
Soccer	Softball	Football
Track and Field	Track and Field	

APPROVAL TO FINALIZE PRELIMINARIES OF THE SALE OF SLAVEN PROPERTY...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McComb, the Board entered into a discussion with possible action on finalizing the preliminaries of the remaining 96.4 acres, more or less, Tract A, Green Bank (Slaven) Property for public bid. Mr. McLaughlin was able to join the meeting by telephone for said agenda item.

After lengthy discussion, Mr. Gibson made the motion to sell the remaining 96.4 acres, more or less, Tract A, Green Bank (Slaven) Property through public auction with a minimum bid of \$250,000 which includes fees, auction date to be determined, seconded by Mr. McComb. The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Mr. McLaughlin remained on the telephone for the duration of the meeting.

RE-ENTRY PLAN...

On the recommendation of the superintendent and motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McComb, the Board unanimously approved making no changes to current Re-Entry Plan.

PERSONNEL...

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

Green Bank Elementary-Middle School:

RESIGNATION: ANGELA D. VANDEVENDER, as Teacher of Multi-Subjects at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School, effective August 1, 2021.

Marlinton Elementary School:

RESIGNATION: SARAH C. BROWN, as Teacher of Multi-Subjects at Marlinton Elementary School, effective August 1, 2021.

EMPLOYMENT: MICHELLE R. MURPHY, as Teacher of Multi-Subjects at Marlinton Elementary School, at state basic salary based on degree and experience, effective for the 2021-2022 school year. Term of employment is 200 days.

Hillsboro Elementary School:

EMPLOYMENT: DIANE L. ARBOGAST, as Cafeteria Manager at Hillsboro Elementary School at state basis pay, effective for the 2021-2022 school year, shift being 6:00 AM – 2:00 PM, (Monday – Friday). Term of employment is 200 days.

Pocahontas County Schools:

REQUESTED TRANSFER: DOTTIE L. CHESTNUT, as Itinerant Special Education Classroom Aide/Bus Aide for Pocahontas County Schools at Pocahontas County High School to Itinerant Special Education Classroom Aide/Bus Aide for Pocahontas County Schools, assignment being Green Bank Elementary-Middle School at state basic pay, effective for the 2021-2022 school year, shift being 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM, (Monday – Friday). Term of employment is 200 days.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD...

Mr. Gibson first discussed the safety issues with the Marlinton Elementary School playground having glass from the windows of the old Board Office. He questioned if the windows can be boarded up or a fence be installed. Mr. Anderson will look into it.

Additionally, Mr. Gibson reported two funding requests. The Marlinton Middle School LSIC wants two soccer goals and Luci Mosesso wants two picnic tables, one for Marlinton Elementary and one for Marlinton Middle. The requests are to be submitted to the principals.

Mr. Gibson reiterated having the Guidance Counselor more proactive with motivating the high school students' future career plans. Parents want to see the school more productive. Mr. Beam explained the roles of the Graduation Coach and said he would share the ideas with Mr. Riley.

Mr. McComb requested the Fire Marshall's report to be shared with the Board members. He wants to revisit why portable air conditioners cannot be used at Marlinton Elementary School. If it is an overloaded breaker issue, a more compatible breaker may need to be installed. Mr. McComb also requested a certified electrician give an amperage report to prove if the electrical system is overloaded when running these air conditioners.

Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Burns and Dr. Hollandsworth had no additional items to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION...

On the motion of Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. McComb, the Board unanimously approved a call for Executive Session to discuss personnel issues, no action taken. The Board went into Executive Session at 8:13 PM, and at the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Board unanimously agreed to return to the Agenda at 8:28 PM.

NEXT BOARD MEETING...

Next Board of Education Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, beginning at 6:00 PM at the Board of Education Conference Room, Buckeye, WV.

ADJOURN...

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



Secretary



President