

WYOMING COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, January 2, 2018

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF WYOMING, TO-WIT:

A call for a regular meeting of the Wyoming County Board of Education was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the Wyoming County Career and Technical Center. Those in attendance were Michael R. Prichard, President; Allan R. Stiltner, Vice President; Morgan K. "Mike" Davis and Betty F. England, Members. Douglas E. Lester, Member, joined the meeting at 6:19 p.m. Deirdre A. Cline, Superintendent, was also in attendance. The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Individuals or Groups of the Community at Large Wishing to Address the Board
4. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes - Board of Education Meeting, December 18, 2017
 - B. Extracurricular, Special, and Bus Requests
 - C. Budget Supplements and Transfers
5. School Safety and Security
6. Special Education Update
7. Consideration of Renewal of Contract with Educational Funding Group (E-rate Consulting)
8. Personnel
 - A. Personnel List
9. Items for Future Agendas and Announcements

Mr. Prichard called the meeting to order, and asked Ms. Rebecca Cooke, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary and Middle Schools, to give the invocation.

The Board, along with those in attendance, then recited the Pledge of Allegiance, lead by Ms. Robin Hall, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools.

Individuals or Groups of the Community at Large Wishing to Address the Board: Mr. Prichard asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board.

There were no Individuals or Groups of the Community at Large Wishing to

Address the Board.

Consent Agenda: A. Minutes - Board of Education Meeting,

December 18, 2017: Mrs. Cline recommended the minutes as presented, with the noted changes.

B. Extracurricular, Special, and Bus Requests: Mrs. Cline presented the Extracurricular, Special, and Bus Requests as follows:

1) A request from Lauren L. Manning for three professional days to chaperone the 2018 Ohio-WV YLA Youth and Government Seminar in Charleston on January 22-24, 2018;

2) A bus request from Herndon Consolidated Elementary and Middle School to take 6th - 8th grade students who are basketball players or cheerleaders to the following games: Road Branch Elementary and Middle School on January 10, 2018; Glen Fork Elementary and Middle School on January 16, 2018; and Sandy River Middle School on January 29, 2018, with funding from sports funds to cover the cost;

3) A request from Anthony Dunn for a professional day to chaperone Westside High School students as they serve as Pages for the House of Representatives at the Capitol Building in Charleston on February 5, 2018;

4) A request from R.J. and Christina Toler for their son to transfer out of district, from Berlin McKinney Elementary and Middle School to Glen Fork Elementary and Middle School;

5) A request from Patricia Criss for her daughter to transfer out of district, from Herndon Consolidated Elementary and Middle School to Mullens Middle School;

6) A bus request from Pineville Middle School to take 5th - 8th grade students who are in RAZE to an anti-tobacco rally in Charleston on January 26, 2018, with funding from the American Lung Association to cover the cost;

7) A request from Lori Leather for three professional days to chaperone the 2018 Ohio-WV YLA Youth and Government Seminar in Charleston on January 22-24, 2018; and

8) A request from Darlene Richards for a professional day to attend the Secret Stories Conference at the Chuck Mathena Center in Princeton on January 2, 2018.

C. Budget Supplements and Transfers: Mrs. Cline said Mrs. Kim Cook, Chief School Business Official, did not have any Budget Supplements and Transfers to present at this time.

After a thorough discussion, Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. England, to approve the Consent Agenda, Items A. and B., as presented and as recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 4-0 vote.

School Safety and Security: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding School Safety and Security.

Mrs. Cline said she had three items to discuss. She said there was a three hour delay this morning due to the frigid temperatures. She said everything had gone really well. She said there were two buses that gelled up, so to speak. She said all buses were started and allowed to warm up every day during the break, but there were two that still had problems because of the temperatures.

Mr. Stiltner asked if the new buses were on the road yet.

Mrs. Cline said they should be anytime. She said Angel Trax came down and installed the biggest part of their equipment of the break, and are planning to finish up the installation this week.

Mrs. Cline said all of the safety backpacks have been delivered. She said Mr. Hylton, Director of Safety and Transportation, was going to address the principals at the next principals meeting, regarding the safety backpacks. She said the Stop the Bleed

kits still have not arrived.

Mrs. Cline said the county is very close to having a notification app in place. She said this app wouldn't be for regular updates, or celebrating successes, just the notifications regarding school delays, dismissals, and closings. She said Facebook would still be used to celebrate accomplishments. She asked Mr. Terry Shumate, Director of Technology and Information Systems, to address the Board regarding the app.

Mr. Shumate said he is working with the company to get the app up and working. He said he has had a training regarding the app, and still has another planned. He said it would be used simply for notifications, much like the phone messenger.

There was a brief discussion regarding School Safety and Security.

Special Education Update: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding the Special Education Update.

Mrs. Cline said Mrs. Christine Snuffer, Special Education Specialist, and Mr. Stephen Walls, Director of Special Education and Special Services, were in attendance tonight. She said the needs of students have always been varied, and important, but she feels as though the needs are getting more varied. She said the Special Education Department does a tremendous job providing services for the students of Wyoming County. She asked Mr. Walls to address the Board.

Mr. Walls said technology was a huge part of Special Education. He said new laptops have been purchased. He said new iPads have also been purchased this year as well. He said 19 new smart boards have been added this year. He said instructional support teachers were needed this year, and all are retired teachers. He said another area where technology is going to be used more is with the Talented and Gifted Program. He said this will help with time spent traveling between the schools. He said there is a large number of students currently in the preschool program with disabilities of

various sorts. He said every effort is made to keep children in school, and out of alternative, but sometimes that's not the case. He said those in alternative school will have a plan to help integrate them back into the classroom.

Mr. Walls asked Mrs. Snuffer to address the Board.

Mrs. Snuffer reviewed the number of students within the Special Education program that have already had their reevaluations, and those in which the reevaluation is scheduled. She also reviewed the number of new referrals in both elementary and middle schools. She said the high schools normally don't have many, if any, new referrals. She said the highest numbers of new referrals will be seen between March and June. She said last year there were 70 students to be evaluated during that time.

Mrs. Cline said this year, she and Mr. Walls have set the date of February 15, 2018, for new referrals to be turned into the Special Education Department. She said all SAT meetings and proper paperwork must be completed by that deadline to insure enough time for the process to be completed by the end of the school year.

Mrs. Snuffer said all high school students in Special Education have a transition plan, which is to help them be college and/or career ready. She said a teacher from the Career and Technical Center, as well as a Special Education Counselor, is present for each reevaluation of students going from 10th to 11th grade. She said this is a tremendous help in showing students all of the options available to them.

Mrs. Snuffer said autism is on the rise, not only in the county, but throughout the country. She said very few teachers in the county have the autism certification. She said the classes are normally very expensive, and often hard to find. She said Mr. Walls worked with Concord University to offer a class to local teachers for this certification. She said 14 teachers have completed the first class, and those teachers will complete a practicum this spring, working with a student with autism. She said Concord was offering these classes to our teachers at a very discounted rate. She said it would be a

total of 6 college credits for completion. She said there are currently six classrooms in the county that are Trainably Mentally Impaired (TMI). She said some of the autistic students are in those classes, as well as low functioning mentally impaired students. She said out of those six classrooms, only one teacher holds the autism certification. She said all of these teachers are doing a fantastic job, but completing the courses specifically for autism is a huge step in the right direction. She said there has been recent collaboration between the TMI teachers, and it has been very successful. She said the next meeting has already been scheduled.

Mr. Walls said the team of Special Education Specialist in the county are wonderful. He said they go above and beyond to help students, parents, and teachers.

Mrs. Cline said she would like to thank Mr. Walls and the entire Special Education staff for all of their hard work and dedication to the students of Wyoming County.

There was a thorough discussion regarding the Special Education Update.

Consideration of Renewal of Contract with Educational Funding Group (E-rate Consulting): Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding the Consideration of Renewal of Contract with Educational Funding Group (E-rate Consulting).

Mrs. Cline said the County, along with many others, utilizes a company that has been a consultant for E-rate, and its funding. She said the County has used the services many years, and it has been a tremendous help. She said she would like permission to continue working with the Educational Funding Group. She asked Mr. Shumate to review the contract with the Board.

Mr. Shumate said its very important to have a consulting firm checking all of our E-rate purchases. He said funds are on the line, and the legal issues regarding the funds are vast. He said Education Funding Group (EFG) also takes care of the E-rate audits that are held. He said this company is used by multiple districts in many states.

He said the E-rate documents have to be retained for 10 years, and this is also a service this company provides. He said EFG also looks at every technology purchase prior to, to make sure we are getting the greatest percentage of reimbursement. He said the people he has worked with so far have been phenomenal.

Mr. Shumate reviewed the details of the proposed contract with Education Funding Group with the Board Members. He said the renewal, if approved, would be for a 2 year contract.

Mrs. Cline said this has been a system that has worked and helped the County for a long time. She said the services offer by EFG are well worth the money.

After a thorough discussion, Mr. Lester made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stiltner, to approve the Renewal of Contract (2 year) with Educational Funding Group (E-rate Consulting), as presented and as recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

Personnel: A. Personnel List: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present the Personnel List.

Mrs. Cline recommended the Personnel List as presented.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stiltner, to approve the Personnel List as presented and as recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

PROFESSIONAL

CENTRAL OFFICE

A. Change in Effective Date:

Kara Halsey-Mitchell, Director of Academic Programs, from effective January 8, 2017, to January 8, 2018

SERVICE PERSONNEL

COOKS

A. Retirement:

Linda L. Tolliver, Cook, Mullens Elementary School, effective
December 31, 2017

SUBSTITUTES

Teachers

Donald E. Adkins, Non-education

Items for Future Agendas and Announcements: Mr. Prichard asked for any
Items for Future Agendas and Announcements.

Mr. Prichard asked when the consideration of the Superintendent's contract
needed to be completed.

Mrs. Cline said the Board must act between January 1 and May 1, 2018. She
said the evaluation must be completed by March 1, 2018.

Mrs. Cline advised the Board that the QZAB loan had been approved, and
everything had gone very smooth.

Ms. Hall said the Superintendent's Student Council was started last year. She
said it includes one representative from each school, excluding K-8 schools, which have
two representatives. She said the next meeting will be held on January 17, 2018. She
said this year, the superintendents would also like for the Superintendent's Student
Council to attend a Board meeting. She said students could observe a meeting, and
have a question and answer session between the representatives and Board Members.
She said transportation would be provided by a county bus on each side of the county.
She said she plans to have them attend the Board meeting scheduled March 26, 2018,
at Wyoming East High School.

Ms. Cooke provided members with a NEOLA policy folder to review, and a chart showing accrued instructional time for each school, and the minutes used to date.

Mr. Prichard reminded members the next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., at Herndon Consolidated Elementary and Middle School.

Mr. Stiltner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lester, to adjourn. Passed with a 5-0 vote.