

WYOMING COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DECEMBER 18, 2017

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 Monday, December 18, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. at Road Branch Elementary and Middle School. Those in attendance were Michael R. Prichard, President; Allan R. Stiltner, Vice President; Morgan K. "Mike" Davis and Betty F. England, Members. Mr. Davis left the meeting at 12:10 p.m. Douglas E. Lester, Member, was absent. 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. Local School Improvement Council
 - A. Road Branch Elementary and Middle School
5. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes - Board of Education Meeting, December 14, 2017
 - B. Extracurricular, Special, and Bus Requests
 - C. Payment of Invoices
6. School Safety and Security
7. Memorandum of Understanding, Renaissance Learning
8. Consideration of QZAB Funding
9. Consideration of a Traditional Schedule for High Schools
10. Personnel
 - A. Personnel List
 - B. Recommendation to Ratify and Extend Employee Suspension
11. 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 Megan Lusk, student at Road Branch Elementary and Middle.

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.

Local School Improvement Council: Road Branch Elementary and Middle

School: Mr. Prichard welcomed all in attendance and asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding Local School Improvement Council: Road Branch Elementary and Middle School.

Mrs. Cline said she was very pleased to be at Road Branch Elementary and Middle School. Mrs. Cline introduced Mrs. Kara Halsey-Mitchell, Principal of Road Branch Elementary and Middle School, and asked her to address the Board.

Mrs. Halsey-Mitchell said she was happy to host the Board members today, and welcomed them to the school. She said the whole school is excited about the Board's visit.

Mrs. Halsey-Mitchell then asked the Board to join the Kindergarten and first grade students as they demonstrate the phonics program used. She said this phonics program has provided not only an increase in test scores, but also added confidence to the students. Board members watched the demonstrations.

Mrs. Halsey-Mitchell introduced Mrs. Christie Dameron, teacher, and asked her to address the Board regarding celebrating student success.

Mrs. Dameron said she would first like to thank the Board members and Central Office staff for the school's new cafeteria tables. She said they were much needed. She said the school had a first place winner in the county reading fair. She said there were two students from the school who placed in the county Math Field Day. She said

she has introduced stability balls to her classroom this year. She said the students love them, and some have even purchased their own to bring. She said the students are able to hold their attention longer, and she has also seen a decrease in behavior issues. She said the 5th grade class recently brought in the most shoe boxes for Christmas. She said they also brought in \$235 in coins for Christmas projects. She said the school held a Winterfest at the beginning of December. She said it was similar to the Fall Festival the school also holds, and both were a huge success. She said they also take a field trip with students who have shown growth with General Summative Assessment scores.

Mrs. Halsey-Mitchell introduced two students, Cameron Lester and Brianna Paynter, who are members of the school's LSIC. She asked them both to present to the Board.

Mr. Lester said he is glad to have had the opportunity to attend Road Branch Elementary and Middle School. He said the teachers at the school are wonderful, and look out for the best interest of all students. He said it will be hard to leave the school next year as he goes to high school.

Miss Paynter said she will miss her school next year as well, as she too will be going to high school. She said she likes the small class sizes at the school. She said they may be a small school, but they are full of heart.

Mrs. Halsey-Mitchell said she would like to discuss data. She said Road Branch Elementary and Middle School has always been a school using data analysis to drive instruction. She said math seems to be the mountain as far as the student growth is concerned. She said they are working daily to increase math scores, and students' understanding of the subject. She said the hard work is paying off as some growth is being charted. She thoroughly reviewed the testing and benchmark scores for the school. She asked students show the Board Members their data notebooks, and how

they chart their growth, and identify areas that need improvement. She said the notebooks are used by students, as well as teachers, throughout the day. Students shared their data notebooks with Board Members.

Mrs. Halsey-Mitchell said she would like to thank the Board for allowing teachers to attend conferences and other staff development workshops. She introduced Amy Mitchell, teacher, and asked her to address the Board regarding Secret Stories.

Mrs. Mitchell discussed the Secret Stories program, and all of the positive effects it is having on children. She said the teachers and students were both loving the program. She said all of these positive benefits stem from a professional development day spent at the State Reading Conference.

Mrs. Cline said she was pleased to see so many positive, encouraging things go on in a school. She said Road Branch Elementary and Middle School is a great place to work and learn.

Mr. Prichard thanked Mrs. Halsey-Mitchell, teachers, and students for their presentations.

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

December 14, 2017: Mrs. Cline recommended the minutes as presented, with one noted change.

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

1) A bus request from Denisa Thomas to take 4th-12th grade students on the Superintendent's Student Council from the west side of the county to a meeting at the Wyoming County Career and Technical Center on January 17, 2018, with funding from county funds to cover the cost;

2) A bus request from Ashley Pavlik to take 4th - 12th grade students on the Superintendent's Student Council from the east side of the county to a meeting at the

Wyoming County Career and Technical Center on January 17, 2018, with funding from county funds to cover the cost;

3) A request from Katheryn Prussia for four professional days, February 6-9, 2018, to attend the Marine Corps Educator Workshop in Parris Island, South Carolina;

4) A request from Amy Mitchell for a professional day on January 2, 2018, to attend the Secret Stories Conference in Princeton;

5) A request from Janet Gibson for a professional day on January 2, 2018, to attend the Secret Stories Conference in Princeton; and

6) A request from Sandra Milam for a professional day on January 2, 2018, to attend the Secret Stories Conference in Princeton.

C. Payment of Invoices: Mrs. Cline recommended the Payment of Invoices as presented.

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

After a brief discussion, Mr. Davis made a motion to move Agenda item 9, Consideration of a Traditional Schedule for High Schools, up to take place before item 6, School Safety and Security. Mrs. England seconded the motion. Passed with a 4-0 vote.

Consideration of a Traditional Schedule for High Schools: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding the Consideration of a Traditional Schedule for High Schools.

Mrs. Cline asked Ms. Hall to address the Board. She said she is asking for both high schools to move back to a traditional schedule. The Career and Technical Center would remain the same. She said a lot of collaboration has been done in regards to the transition to a traditional schedule.

Mr. Prichard asked if the proposed schedule would change start times.

Mrs. Cline said it would not have any effect on start times, only the time spent in each class daily.

Ms. Hall said she would like to thank Mr. Keith Stewart, Principal of Westside High School, and Mrs. Kimberly Sibb-Runion, Principal of the Wyoming County Career and Technical Center, for their presence and support. She provided the Board members with a handout. She said the main goal of secondary schools is to have students graduate and be college/career ready. She said both county high schools continue to do very well with graduation rate. She said a lot of research has been done concerning the pros and cons of both the block and traditional schedules. She said the question remains, "Which is best for the academics of students?" She said in West Virginia there are 44 counties on a traditional schedule, leaving only 11 counties, including Wyoming, still using the block schedule. She said she has made contact with each county to get feedback concerning their schedules, and she said out of the 10 other counties on block schedule, 5 were also considering changing to a traditional schedule, as well.

Ms. Hall thoroughly reviewed all aspects of the block and traditional schedule. She said having worked with both schedules, she feels as if teachers are able to get to know students better on a traditional schedule, and students are able to pay better attention in a shorter class. She said there is currently 46% of high school graduates having to take remedial courses in college, after leaving high school. She said nothing is going to change, as far as test scores, and students being college and career ready when leaving high school, if nothing is changed.

Mrs. Cline said she too has taught using both schedules, and you just don't get the same outcome with block schedules. She said she feels a traditional schedule is

truly the best decision for students. She said the valedictorians from both high schools have also presented information to the Central Office supporting the traditional schedule last year, and how it would help students taking AP classes. She said the Valedictorians, last year, saw the need for it to be done for the good of the students still in high school, and those yet to start.

There was a thorough discussion concerning secondary schools schedule, and the best decision for students.

Mr. Stiltner made a motion, seconded by Mrs. England, to approve converting to a traditional schedule for secondary schools starting the 2018-2019 school year, as presented and as recommended by the Deirdre A. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Davis had to leave the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

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

Mrs. Cline said things were running very smoothly. She said Jeffrey Hylton, Director of Safety and Transportation, wanted her to let the Board know that the camera systems are currently being installed in the new buses, and they are expected to be on the road in early January. She said there have been several occasions where the cameras have been very helpful. She said they provide a tremendous amount of information concerning student safety and discipline.

There was a brief discussion regarding School Safety and Security.

Memorandum of Understanding, Renaissance Learning: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding Memorandum of Understanding, Renaissance Learning.

Mrs. Cline asked Stacey Butcher, Director of Personnel and Assessment, to address the Board regarding the Memorandum of Understanding.

Mrs. Butcher said this is an agreement between the Wyoming County Board of Education and Renaissance Learning. She said Renaissance will gather our data at the end of the bench marking terms, and report that data to the WV State Department of Education on our behalf. She said this allows Renaissance to provide that information. She said counties have flexibility to determine how they would benchmark students this year. She said the county was already using the Star benchmarks provided by Renaissance, so that is what is being used for the State Department requirements.

After a brief discussion, Mrs. England made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stiltner, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Renaissance Learning, as presented and as recommended by Deirdre A. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 3-0 vote.

Consideration of QZAB Funding: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding the Consideration of QZAB Funding.

Mrs. Cline provided handouts regarding QZAB Funding. She said she is requesting the Board to give latitude, allowing herself and other Central Office staff to pursue QZAB funding for the Wyoming East High School HVAC system and roof replacement. She said this is needed to gain funds not provided from the School Building Authority to complete the project. She said First Peoples Bank of Mullens has agreed to purchase the QZAB loan, which will be a first for them, but allowing it to help the local economy as well. She said she has been working with Eddie McLiney, from McLiney and Company, and he has been very helpful in the process, thus far. She said they are asking for consideration of, and possible action on, a resolution with the Board of Education of Wyoming County, accepting the proposal from First Peoples Bank, Inc. to purchase a Qualified Zone Academy Bond, to be issued to the Board in the amount, not to exceed \$992,000, to finance the replacement of certain HVAC equipment and other School Building Authority approved improvements at Wyoming East High School.

Thereby locking in the tax credit rate, approving and authorizing the lease purchase agreement whereby the Bank leases certain properties to the Board pursuant to the lease purchase agreement, authorizing the officers, employees and agents for the Board to proceed with such financing, and authorizing the execution and delivery of documents and the taking of other actions in connection. She said that is the full legal statement, which means, if approved, the Board would be giving her permission to pursue the QZAB funding.

After a thorough discussion, Mrs. England made a motion, seconded by Mr. Prichard, to approve moving forward with the QZAB Funding, as presented and as recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 3-0 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 thorough discussion, Mr. Stiltner made a motion, seconded by Mrs. England, to approve the Personnel List as presented and as recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 3-0 vote.

PROFESSIONAL

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

A. Recommended for Appointment:

Chelsey R. Halsey, from Elementary Education Teacher, Pineville Elementary School, Elementary Education Teacher, Oceana Middle School, effective 2018-2019 school year

Adam P. Perdue, Elementary Education Teacher, Oceana Middle School, effective December 19, 2017

SERVICE PERSONNEL

BUS OPERATORS

A. Retirement:

Joyce C. Bullins, Bus Operator, Transportation Department, Wyoming East/Herndon Area, effective December 31, 2017

B. Medical Leave of Absence:

Dina R. Duncan, Bus Operator, Transportation Department, Westside/Oceana Area, effective December 5, 2017 through January 16, 2018

Personnel: B. Recommendation to Ratify and Extend Employee

Suspension: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present information regarding Recommendation to Ratify and Extend Employee Suspension.

Mrs. Cline provided the Board with information regarding the suspension time frame, and the extension thereof.

After a thorough discussion, Mr. Stiltner made a motion, seconded by Mrs. England, to Ratify and Extend Employee Suspension, as presented and as recommended by Deirdre A. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 3-0 vote.

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

Mr. Prichard reminded members the next regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., at the Wyoming County Career and Technical Center.

Mrs. England made a motion, seconded by Mr. Prichard, to adjourn. Passed with a 3-0 vote.