

## **WYOMING COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, March 12, 2020**

**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 Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at Glen Fork Elementary and Middle School. Those in attendance were Michael R. Prichard, President; Allan R. Stiltner, Vice President; and Betty F. England and Morgan K. "Mike" Davis, Members. Douglas E. Lester, Member, participated by phone. Deirdre A. Cline, Superintendent, was also in attendance. The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Expulsion Hearings
2. Individuals or Groups of the Community at Large Wishing to Address the Board
3. 2020-2021 School Calendar: Hearing #1
4. Consent Agenda
  - A. Board of Education Meeting Minutes: February 13, 2020, February 24, 2020, and March 2, 2020
  - B. Extracurricular, Special, Fundraising, and Bus Requests
  - C. Payment of Invoices
5. School Safety and Security
6. Consideration of Proposed Levy Rates for 2020-2021
7. WVU Extension Program Report 2019
8. Consideration of Energy Express Sites for Summer 2020
9. Consideration of Removing High School Credit from 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish
10. Consideration of Wyoming County Schools COVID-19/Coronavirus Plan of Action
11. Personnel List
12. Superintendent's Report
13. 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, led by Ms. Robin Hall, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools.

**Expulsion Hearings:** Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding Expulsion Hearings.

Mrs. Cline asked the guardian of student #980016027 if they would like an open or closed Hearing.

The guardian requested a closed Hearing.

All in attendance, not directly involved in the Expulsion Hearing, exited the room.

Mrs. Cline introduced all Board Members, Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Keith Stewart, Principal of Westside High School, and Deputy Bill Toler, Prevention Resource Officer at Westside High School. She asked Ms. Hall to address the Board.

Ms. Hall asked Mr. Stewart to address the Board regarding the incident.

Mr. Stewart provided the Board with the details of the incident leading to the Expulsion recommendation.

Mr. Prichard asked student #980016027 if she was in agreement with the allegations.

The student said she agreed with the statement she has signed.

The guardian and student were allowed to address the Board.

After a thorough discussion, Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. England, to approve the Expulsion of student #980016027, for 365 days, as presented and recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Prichard said the second Expulsion Hearing is regarding student #980015051. He asked the parents if they would like an open or closed Hearing.

The parent requested a closed Hearing.

All in attendance, not directly involved in the Expulsion Hearing, exited the room.

Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding the second Expulsion Hearing.

Mrs. Cline introduced the Board Members, Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Keith

Stewart, Principal of Westside High School, and Deputy Bill Toler, Prevention Resource Officer at Westside High School. She asked Ms. Hall to address the Board.

Ms. Hall asked Mr. Stewart to address the Board regarding the incident.

Mr. Stewart provided the Board with the details of the incident leading to the Expulsion recommendation.

Mr. Prichard asked student #980015051 if he was in agreement with the allegations.

The student said he did agree.

The parent and student were allowed to address the Board.

After a thorough discussion, Mr. Stiltner made a motion, seconded by Mrs. England, to approve the Expulsion of student #980015051, for 365 days, as presented and recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

**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.

**2020-2021 School Calendar: Public Hearing #1:** Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding the 2020-2021 School Calendar: Public Hearing #1.

Mrs. Cline said four sample calendars have been sent to all employees for feedback and concerns. She said the calendars that have been sent out were not for employee vote, only feedback. She said once both required Public Hearings are held, all feedback will be taken into consideration, and revisions to the sample calendars will be made, if needed. She said after all feedback is received and processed, several calendars will be sent to employees for vote. Mrs. Cline said once the voting is complete, the calendar with the most employee votes will be presented to the Board for consideration. She asked Ms. Hall to address the Board.

Ms. Hall reviewed the sample calendars that have been released to the employees with the Board. She explained the differences in the number of paydays and other pertinent information, including starting and ending dates.

Mrs. Cline said Ms. Jordan Manning, Teacher at Road Branch Elementary and Middle School, is in attendance and would like to address the Board.

Ms. Manning said she had three questions regarding the calendars, on behalf of the faculty and staff of Road Branch Elementary and Middle School. She said she spoke with Mrs. Kim Cook, Chief School Business Official, about the possibility of changing the pay dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of each month, and if that would allow time to process 24 paydays for both calendars. Ms. Manning said that Mrs. Cook said it would not change the number of pays for the sample calendars. She said her next question was in regard to which calendar would be most in line with benchmark scheduling and State testing. Ms. Manning said this year's school calendar doesn't allow ample time for iReady benchmarks. She said the State testing schedule also ends approximately three weeks prior to the end of this school year. She said student attendance drops dramatically after testing is complete.

Mrs. Cline said the State Department does not release testing schedules prior to the deadline of having the County calendar approved. She said unfortunately, this is something that cannot be planned when deciding on a calendar for next school year.

Ms. Manning said she and other teachers at Road Branch were excited to see the Professional Learning days were listed as half days on the draft calendars, so they don't lose a full day with students. She said the concern with that is having time to travel if the trainings were not held at each school.

Mrs. Cline said the trainings would be a mix of in-school and centralized locations.

Ms. Hall said the Professional Learning days are not listed on the drafts as half

days. She said those days will remain as full days, regardless of the calendar.

Ms. Manning asked if the start dates were the issue for payroll on draft calendars 1 and 2.

Mrs. Kim Cook said some of the calendars, if paying 24 payrolls on each, would have the Board paying employees for work that has not been completed yet, which cannot take place, due to legality.

Mrs. Cline thanked Ms. Manning for attending the Hearing. She said it is nice to have discussion regarding the calendars.

There was a thorough discussion regarding the 2020-2021 School Calendar Hearing #1.

**Consent Agenda: A. Board of Education Meeting Minutes: February 13, 2020, February 24, 2020, and March 2, 2020:** Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding Consent Agenda: A. Board of Education Meeting Minutes: February 13, 2020, February 24, 2020, and March 2, 2020.

Mrs. Cline recommended the Minutes from the Board of Education Meetings held February 13, 2020, February 24, 2020, and March 2, 2020, as presented.

**B. Extracurricular, Special, Fundraising, and Bus Requests:** Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding Consent Agenda, A. Extracurricular, Special, Fundraising, and Bus Requests.

After a very thorough discussion regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic the State is facing, the Board decided to not approve any Extracurricular, Special, Fundraising, and Bus Requests at this time.

Mrs. Cline made a recommendation to move Item 4, Consent Agenda, to later in the Meeting, after Item 10.

Mrs. England made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stiltner, to move Item 4, Consent

Agenda, to after Item 10, Consideration of Wyoming County Schools COVID-19/Coronavirus Plan of Action, as presented and recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

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

Mrs. Cline said the only topic in School Safety currently was the COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic, and it would be fully discussed under Item 10, Consideration of Wyoming County Schools COVID-19/Coronavirus Plan of Action.

**Consideration of Proposed Levy Rates for 2020-2021:** Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding the Consideration of Proposed Levy Rates for 2020-2021.

Mrs. Cline asked Mrs. Kim Cook, Chief School Business Official, to address the Board.

Mrs. Cook provided all Board Members with a copy of the Proposed Levy Rates. She said the assessed evaluations are from the Assessor's Office. She said the assessed values in the County have gone down \$21 million. She said much of this downturn is from the decline of businesses and the reduction in population. She reviewed all Proposed Levy Rates with the Board. She said this meeting will stay open and reconvene at the Statutory Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

There was a thorough discussion regarding the Proposed Levy Rates and the counts of students and personnel.

**WVU Extension Program Report 2019:** Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding the WVU Extension Program Report 2019.

Mrs. Cline asked Ms. Stephanie Lusk, Coordinator of the WVU Extension Service in Wyoming County, to address the Board.

Ms. Lusk said the Extension Program is currently undergoing some changes

throughout the State. She said the program is going through many changes in regard to personnel, as well. She reviewed all of the programs and services offered to the communities in Wyoming County.

There was a thorough discussion regarding the WVU Extension Program.

Mrs. Cline said the Wyoming County Board of Education and the WVU Extension Service have a long, positive history together. She said she looks forward to continuing to work together for Wyoming County. She thanked Ms. Lusk for her hard work and dedication.

**Consideration of Energy Express Sites for Summer 2020:** Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding the Consideration of Energy Express Sites for Summer 2020.

Mrs. Cline asked Ms. Lusk to address the Board.

Ms. Lusk said she recommended Energy Express Sites to be Baileysville Elementary and Middle School, Glen Fork Elementary and Middle School, and Mullens Elementary School.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Lester made a motion, seconded by Mrs. England, to approve the Energy Express Sites for Summer 2020, as presented and recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

**Consideration of Removing High School Credit from 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish:** Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding the Consideration of Removing High School Credit from 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish.

Mrs. Cline said there have been several changes recently to West Virginia Department of Education Policy 2510, which is the governing document for curriculum in West Virginia Schools. She said for many years, high school credit has been offered to students who take 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish. She said the County still has to provide the

opportunity for a foreign language for those students, but giving a high school credit is not required. She asked Mrs. Kara Halsey-Mitchell, Director of Academic Programs, to address the Board.

Mrs. Mitchell reviewed the changes to Policy 2510, which says a County Board may continue to offer these type of courses, but it is not required. She said the foreign language courses for middle school students are basically an independent study course. She said Spanish is currently offered to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Glen Fork Elementary and Middle School, Road Branch Elementary and Middle School, Oceana Middle School, Herndon Consolidated Elementary and Middle School, Mullens Middle School, and Pineville Middle School. She said out of all the students enrolled in Spanish, only 6 were on track to pass at the semester.

Mr. Stiltner asked if not offering the high school credit would decrease enrollment in the course.

Mrs. Mitchell said she felt like there would be a decrease in the number of students enrolling in the course if a high school credit was not available.

After a thorough discussion, Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. England, to approve the Removal of High School Credit from 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish, as presented and recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

**Consideration of Wyoming County Schools COVID-19/Coronavirus Plan of Action:** Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding the Consideration of Wyoming County Schools COVID-19/Coronavirus Plan of Action.

Mrs. Cline said Mr. John Henry, Director of Student Services and Attendance, has been facilitating stakeholders to work on this plan of action. She said he has done a wonderful job in researching and retrieving correct and pertinent information. She asked Mr. Henry to address the Board.



Mr. Henry provided a handout of the proposed COVID-19/Coronavirus Plan of Action, which had also been sent to Board Members electronically prior to the meeting. He said it has been very important for the information in the Plan of Action to be factual and not fearful. He reviewed the letter from Mrs. Cline, Superintendent, the Plan of Action, and flyer. Mr. Henry said he has been working with the Wyoming County Health Department and other stakeholders for nearly two weeks regarding COVID-19.

Mrs. Cline said the packet provided is going home with each student and employee today. She said a call would go out on messenger, as well, letting homes knowing this information is coming. She said the information is also being posted on Facebook, Twitter, and the County website.

There was a very thorough discussion regarding the Wyoming County Schools COVID-19/Coronavirus Plan of Action and extracurricular activities, including sports, field trips, and professional leave.

Mrs. Cline announced Governor Jim Justice would be having a press conference at 1:30 p.m. in regard to COVID-19. She said it is her recommendation that the Board move to Item 11, Personnel List, at this time, and return to the COVID-19/Coronavirus Action Plan for further discussion after the Governor's Press Conference.

Mrs. England made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to move to Item 11, Personnel List, and return to Wyoming County School's COVID-19/Coronavirus Action Plan for further discussion after the Governor's Press Conference, as presented and recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

**Personnel List:** Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding Personnel List.

Mrs. Cline recommended the Personnel List as presented.

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

**PROFESSIONAL:**

**CENTRAL OFFICE**

A. Recommended for Appointment:

Keith A. Stewart, from Principal, Westside High School, to Director of Federal and Learning Enrichment Programs, effective July 1, 2020

**PRINCIPALS**

A. Recommended for Appointment:

Jeffrey W. Simmons, from Elementary Education Teacher, Mullens Elementary School, to Assistant Principal, Wyoming East High School, effective March 16, 2020

**EXTRA DUTIES**

A. Recommended for Appointment:

Jeffrey A. Prichard, Volunteer Softball Coach, Westside High School, effective March 3, 2020

B. Resignation:

James R. Cook, Assistant Softball Coach, Wyoming East High School, effective March 5, 2020

**WYOMING COUNTY EXTRACURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS**

**Interventionist**

A. Recommended for Appointment:

Lori S. Blankenship, Alternative Education Interventionist, Central Office, Two Days per Week; Total of Four Hours per Week - AS NEEDED; Pay Pending Certification, effective March 16, 2020

## **SERVICE PERSONNEL**

### **BUS OPERATORS**

#### A. Recommended for Appointment:

Jaqueta Starr Dalton, Bus Operator, Extracurricular Run, Pineville Elementary School and Pineville Middle School, AS NEEDED, Tutoring/Activity Run, Tuesdays & Thursdays, Pineville Area, effective March 16, 2020

### **MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**

#### A. Resignation:

Christopher W. McGraw, Roofing/Sheet Metal Mechanic/General Maintenance, Maintenance Department, effective April 14, 2020

## **SUBSTITUTES**

### **Cooks**

Lorraine Monroe, Remove per her Request, effective March 10, 2020

### **Custodians**

Ronnie L. Browning

### **Mechanics**

Christopher J. L. Sizemore

**Superintendent's Report: School Activities Report:** Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding the Superintendent's Report.

Mrs. Cline shared recent meeting agendas and dates of upcoming events with the Board.

**Consent Agenda: C. Payment of Invoices:** Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding Item C. Payment of Invoices.

Mrs. Cline recommended the Payment of Invoices as presented.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. England, to approve Consent Agenda, Item A. and C., as presented and recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

Item B. Extracurricular, Special, Fundraising, and Bus Requests will be considered after the Governor's Press Conference.

**Wyoming County Schools COVID-19/Coronavirus Plan of Action Update**

**(Continued):**

The Board Members and Central Office staff present watched the Governor's Press Conference.

After a thorough discussion regarding the Governor's actions, Mrs. Cline recommended to the Board that all field trips, interscholastic extracurricular activities, and anything that would take students or employees away from their respective schools, be postponed indefinitely, due to the seriousness of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic.

Mrs. England made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the indefinite suspension of all field trips, interscholastic extracurricular activities, and anything that would take students or employees away from their respective schools, as presented and recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

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

Mr. Prichard reminded members of the next scheduled Board Meeting, which will be held on Monday, March 30, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at Wyoming East High School.

Mr. Prichard reminded Board Members the meeting will not be adjourned, but will be reconvened at the Statutory Meeting scheduled Tuesday, April 21, 2020.