

WYOMING COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, June 29, 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 Monday, June 29, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., by telephone conference, due to the current Executive Order of the Governor of West Virginia regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Those participating via conference call originated at the Wyoming County Board of Education Central Office were Michael R. Prichard, President; Allan R. Stiltner, Vice President; and Betty F. England, Morgan K. "Mike" Davis, and Douglas E. Lester, Members. Deirdre A. Cline, Superintendent, was also in attendance at the Central Office. The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Individuals or Groups of the Community at Large Wishing to Address the Board: This meeting will be held on conference call, as previously stated. If you wish to address the Board, **please call 304-732-6262, ext. 1101, to participate by phone.**
2. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes, Board of Education Meeting: June 18, 2020
 - B. Extracurricular, Special, Fundraising, and Bus Requests
 - C. Budget Supplements and Transfers
 - D. Payment of Invoices
3. School Safety and Security
4. Consideration of Workers Compensation Premium Renewal 2020-2021
5. Consideration of Purchase of New School Buses
6. Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar
7. Wyoming County Schools COVID-19/Coronavirus Plan of Action/Update
8. Review of Re-entry Survey Results
9. Consideration of Re-entry Plan
10. CARES Funds Review
11. Consideration of Prevention Resource Officer Grant Application
12. Personnel List
13. Superintendent's Report
14. 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.

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, in person or by telephone.

Consent Agenda: A. Minutes, Board of Education Meeting: June 18, 2020: Mr.

Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding Consent Agenda.

Mrs. Cline said the Minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held June 18, 2020, will be presented at a future Board Meeting.

Extracurricular, Special, Fundraising, and Bus Requests: Mrs. Cline

recommended the Extracurricular, Special, Fundraising, and Bus Requests as follows:

1) A request from Amanda Blevins for her daughter entering 6th grade to attend school Out of County, transferring from McDowell County to Pineville Middle School, for the 2020-2021 school year.

Budget Supplements and Transfers: Mrs. Cline asked Mrs. Kim Cook, Chief

School Business Official, to address the Board regarding Budget Supplements and Transfers.

Mrs. Cook reviewed all Budget Supplements and Transfers with the Board Members.

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

After a brief discussion, Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stiltner, to approve Consent Agenda, Items B., C., and D., 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 asked Mr. Jeffrey Hylton, Director of Safety and Transportation, to address the Board.

Mr. Hylton said he is working to get quotes to install camera systems in all special education classrooms. He said this requirement comes from Senate Bill 632. He said House Bill 4497 requires the Board to have an AED at any secondary schools sporting event. He said the County already had approximately 90 percent of those AEDs in place, prior to HB 4497. He said he is working to get the others installed.

There was a thorough discussion regarding School Safety and Security.

Consideration of Workers Compensation Premium Renewal 2020-2021: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding Consideration of Workers Compensation Premium Renewal 2020-2021.

Mrs. Cline asked Mr. Hylton to address the Board.

Mr. Hylton said the Board received three quotes for Workers Compensation for the 2020-2021 school year. He reviewed the quotes with the Board. He said the quotes were Travelers Insurance \$211,899, State Auto Insurance \$230,016, and Church Mutual Insurance \$312,994. He said Travelers Insurance is who the Board has had for several years and they provide a great service.

Mr. Prichard asked why there was such a large increase in premiums.

Mr. Hylton said there were four large claims this past year. He said this is the first time in many years that the premium has gone up.

After a thorough discussion, Mr. Lester made a motion, seconded by Mrs. England, to approve the Workers Compensation Premium Renewal 2020-2021 through Travelers Insurance, as presented and recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

Consideration of Purchase of New School Buses: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding the Consideration of Purchase of New School Buses.

Mrs. Cline asked Mr. Hylton to address the Board.

Mr. Hylton reviewed the list of proposed new school bus purchases. He said the proposed purchase is for 4 school buses totaling \$407,073. He said the funds to cover the cost will come from the funds allowed through the State to purchase new buses. He said that budget amount is \$414,000, allowing all of the purchase price to be covered through the State funds.

After a thorough discussion, Mrs. England made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lester, to approve the Purchase of New School Buses, as presented and recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding the Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar.

Mrs. Cline said the WVDE is giving the counties a lot of latitude regarding school calendars for next school year. She asked Ms. Robin Hall, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools, to address the Board.

Ms. Hall said the two professional learning days have been moved from within the school calendar to the start of the school year. She said this will move the first day for students from August 20, 2020, to August 24, 2020.

Mrs. Cline asked Mrs. Kara Halsey-Mitchell, Director of Academic Programs, to address the Board.

Mrs. Mitchell said moving the two professional learning days to the start of the school year will allow additional time and training for teachers to load assignments onto the students' devices. She said this will be new to teachers for the upcoming school year and additional training will be beneficial.

After a thorough discussion, Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stiltner, to approve the Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar, as presented and recommended by Mr. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

Wyoming County Schools COVID-19/Coronavirus Plan of Action/Update: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding Wyoming County Schools COVID-19/Coronavirus Plan of Action/Update.

Mrs. Cline said Mr. John Henry, Director of Student Services and Attendance, continues to do a great job in navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, as related to the Board of Education issues. She asked Mr. Henry to address the Board.

Mr. Henry said last week the County Health Department provided free testing last week. He said 272 tests were completed during the free testing clinics. He said he is happy to report that all tests came back negative.

There was a thorough discussion regarding the Wyoming County Schools COVID-19/Coronavirus Plan of Action/Update.

Review of Re-entry Survey Results: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding the Review of Re-entry Survey Results.

Mrs. Cline said an online survey was established to get the thoughts and concerns of all stakeholders regarding re-entry to schools in August. She asked Mrs. Mitchell to address the Board.

Mrs. Mitchell said there were 14 questions on the survey. She said 1498 people completed the survey and of those, 1474 have at least one student in Wyoming County Schools. She said she was very pleased with the amount of participation, considering the number of families that have more than one child in the County. Mrs. Mitchell reviewed the results of the survey with the Board. She said the three scenarios given by the West Virginia Department of Education were explained in Question 5 of the survey. She said

45% of responses were in favor of students returning four days per week. She said 21% favored the blended model, allowing students to be in the school buildings two days a week and remote learning three days a week. She said 34% of those completing the survey were in favor of the remote learning option. Mrs. Mitchell said she feels this survey provides an accurate representation of how parents feel about moving forward with the next school year.

There was a thorough discussion regarding the Re-entry Survey Results.

Consideration of Re-entry Plan: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding the Consideration of Re-entry Plan.

Mrs. Cline said a team was compiled of a variety of stakeholders, totaling 114, to act as a taskforce for re-entry. She said 104 taskforce members participated in the ZOOM meeting held on June 22, 2020, at 6 p.m. She said eventually programmatic groups will be established, but a common consensus had to be made regarding which model would be best county-wide. She asked Mrs. Mitchell to address the Board regarding the scenarios provided by the State.

Mrs. Mitchell said the State Department has provided three scenarios to use as models of re-entry. She said the Safer at School/Safer at Home model allows students to attend school four days per week, with the fifth day to be remote learning to allow for deep cleaning of the school buildings. She said the next scenario is a blended model, which allows students to attend in the building two days per week, and complete remote learning three days per week. She said this model is set up to allow two groups to attend two days each. Mrs. Mitchell said the last scenario is only to be used in the event of an outbreak. She said in that case, the County can do remote learning five days per week until the outbreak subsides.

Mrs. Cline said a large portion of the ZOOM meeting was used for questions, comments, and ideas for the re-entry. She said much discussion occurred regarding the

models. She said the stakeholders on the County Re-entry Taskforce unanimously voted to return to the school buildings four days a week, and close on Wednesdays for remote learning to allow for deep cleaning. She said it is her recommendation that the County approves plans for two month intervals, allowing time to reevaluate for the next two month time frame.

After a thorough discussion, Mr. Stiltner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lester, to approve the 2-1-2 Safer at School/Safer at Home scenario for the first two months of school, as presented and recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

CARES Funds Review: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding the CARES Funds Review.

Mrs. Cline said these funds are what have been provided through the Federal and State Government to be used during the ongoing pandemic. She asked Mrs. Mitchell to address the Board.

Mrs. Mitchell said these funds are provided to continue to serve students through the COVID-19 pandemic. She said \$1,229,258.53 has been allotted to Wyoming County Schools. She said \$32,322.66 were for direct costs; \$100,000 for nursing supplies; \$100,000 for custodial services; \$50,000 for the operation of buildings, including additional custodial supplies; \$250,000 for food service operations; and, \$697,135.87 for technology. Mrs. Mitchell said the technology allocations would be used to purchase iPads and laptops for students, in an effort to provide every student with a device for remote learning days.

After a thorough discussion, Mrs. England made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stiltner, to approve the purposed CARES Funds budget, as presented and recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

Consideration of Prevention Resource Officer Grant Application: Mr. Prichard

asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding the Consideration of Prevention Resource Officer Grant Application.

Mrs. Cline said the Prevention Resource Office program in the County has been such a blessing. She said the two PROs have been such an asset to their schools and have done so much good for students. She asked Ms. Robin Hall to address the Board.

Ms. Hall said the Wyoming County Commission has a meeting this week and will be voting on the PRO program. She said last year the Commission approved the program and asked the State for \$56,000 to help cover the costs of the PROs. She said the Commission received \$30,000 and the Board voted to cover the remaining costs, to have one at each high school. She said the full amount will be requested again this year, if Board approved.

After a thorough discussion, Mr. Lester made a motion, seconded by Mrs. England, to approve the Prevention Resource Officer Grant Application, 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 the Personnel List.

Mrs. Cline said Ms. Stacey Lusk, Director of Assessment and Personnel, was available to address the Board, if there were any questions regarding the Personnel List. She 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 recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

PROFESSIONAL:

CENTRAL OFFICE

- A. Recommended for Appointment:

Tina C. Adams, from English Language Arts Teacher, Baileysville Elementary and Middle School to Curriculum Coach English Language Arts - Itinerant, effective August 3, 2020

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

A. Recommended for Appointment:

Randall J. Cook, Itinerant Band Instructional/Choral Music, Herndon Consolidated, Mullens Middle and Pineville Middle Schools, effective August 3, 2020

Emily K. Marshall, Elementary Education Teacher, Mullens Middle School, effective August 17, 2020

SERVICE PERSONNEL:

BUS OPERATORS

A. Recommended for Appointment:

Mary E. Wykle, Energy Express Food Delivery, Westside Area, June 24, 2020 - July 29, 2020, Five (5) Hours per Day, Wednesday each Week, Pay at the Hourly Rate, effective June 24, 2020

Lola R. Marsh, Energy Express Food Delivery, Wyoming East Area, June 24, 2020 - July 29, 2020, Five (5) Hours per Day, Wednesday each Week, Pay at the Hourly Rate, effective June 24, 2020

COOKS

A. Recommended for Appointment:

Virginia D. Cook, from Cook (6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.), Road Branch Elementary and Middle School, to Cook III/Cafeteria Manager (6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.), Road Branch Elementary and Middle School, effective August 17, 2020

Recommended for Bus Operator Training

Tobie Jay Kenneda
Billy Arron Shumate
Jonathan Keith Tolliver

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

Superintendent's Report.

Mrs. Cline reviewed the Graduation Guidance Documents with the Board. She thanked the Board for their support in holding the in-person graduations. She said both graduations went well. Mrs. Cline reviewed the scholarships awarded to Wyoming County students. She said the total is nearly \$4 million, which is remarkable. Mrs. Cline asked the Board Members if they wanted to have the July 6, 2020, Board Meeting in person due to the swearing in of the new Board Member and organization of the Board.

The Board was in agreement to hold the meeting as scheduled and in-person.

Mrs. Cline asked the Board if the Board Meeting scheduled July 16, 2020, could be rescheduled on July 20, 2020.

The Board was in agreement to move the July 16, 2020, Board Meeting to July 20, 2020.

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, July 6, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., at the Wyoming County Career and Technical Center.

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