

**WYOMING COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, December 17, 2020**

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**COUNTY OF WYOMING, TO-WIT:**

A call for a meeting of the Wyoming County Board of Education was held on Thursday, December 17, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Wyoming County Board of Education Central Office, 155 Park Street, Pineville, West Virginia. Those in attendance were Michael R. Prichard, President; Allan R. Stiltner, Vice President; and, Richard A. "Richie" Walker. Douglas E. Lester and Morgan K. "Mike" Davis, Members, participated by phone. Deirdre A. Cline, Superintendent, was attending a West Virginia Department of Education Meeting, and joined the meeting late. Rebecca Cooke, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary and Middle Schools, presented on Mrs. Cline's behalf in her absence. The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Individuals or Groups of the Community at Large Wishing to Address the Board
2. Local School Improvement Council: Baileysville Elementary and Middle School
3. Consent Agenda
  - A. Minutes, Board of Education Meeting: December 7, 2020
  - B. Extracurricular, Special, Fundraising, and Bus Requests
4. School Safety and Security
5. I-Ready Beginning of the Year Data
6. Re-entry Toolkit Update
7. Wyoming County Schools COVID-19/Coronavirus Update
8. Personnel List
9. Items for Future Agendas and Announcements

Mr. Prichard called the meeting to order and asked Ms. 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. Cooke.

**Individuals or Groups of the Community at Large Wishing to Address the**

**Board:** Mr. Prichard asked if there were any Individuals or Groups of the Community at Large 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 phone.

**Local School Improvement Council: Baileysville Elementary and Middle**

**School:** Mr. Prichard asked Ms. Cooke to present regarding Local School Improvement Council: Baileysville Elementary and Middle School.

Ms. Cooke introduced Mrs. Christie Dameron, Principal of Baileysville Elementary and Middle School. She said Mrs. Dameron would be presenting through ZOOM and asked her to address the Board.

Mrs. Dameron said the COVID pandemic has taken a lot from the students this year, but there are still great things happening at Baileysville Elementary and Middle School. She shared best practices that are utilized, including the Rider Retreat, which is a monthly gathering of the facility outside of the school. She said they have not been able to hold this activity this school year, but it will be continued when things return to normal. She said the community and parents are very supportive of the school and participate with all activities and fundraising the school holds. Mrs. Dameron shared highlights of last school year and this school year, so far. She said while this year has been very different, with masks and social distancing, the staff and students have adjusted well. She reviewed the extra steps that have been taken to insure the safety of everyone in the building during the pandemic. Mrs. Dameron said the students have only attended in the building 12 days this year, thus far. She said the teachers are doing a tremendous job teaching students remotely. Mrs. Dameron said the staff and students at Baileysville Elementary and Middle School are a family.

Mr. Davis asked how the teachers are communicating with parents during this time of remote learning.

Mrs. Dameron said Livegrades is the main form of communication between the teachers and parents. She said Livegrades is also used to communicate with students and they can get assignments and submit work through the program, as well.

Mr. Walker asked if there were any internet issues in the area with students trying to attend classes through ZOOM, or other virtual classrooms.

Mrs. Dameron said there have been some issues with families with multiple students trying to attend online classes at the same time. She said they have been working with all families experiencing internet issues, whatever they may be. Mrs. Dameron reviewed the process of evaluating students' reading and math level and addressing any deficiencies. She said that while it is different this year, teachers are working diligently to make sure students are getting the instruction and resources they need. She said she is proud of the staff and students for their hard work during this trying time. Mrs. Dameron thanked the Board for the opportunity to present.

The Board Members thanked Mrs. Dameron for the presentation and her dedication to the students and staff of Baileysville Elementary and Middle School.

**Consent Agenda: A. Minutes, Board of Education Meeting: December 7,**

**2020:** Mr. Prichard asked Ms. Cooke to address the Board regarding the Consent Agenda: A. Minutes, Board of Education Meeting: December 7, 2020.

Ms. Cooke, on behalf of Mrs. Cline, recommended the Minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held December 7, 2020.

**Consent Agenda: B. Extracurricular, Special, Fundraising, and Bus**

**Requests:** Mr. Prichard asked Ms. Cooke to present regarding Consent Agenda: B. Extracurricular, Special, Fundraising, and Bus Requests.

Ms. Cooke, on behalf of Mrs. Cline, recommended the Extracurricular, Special, Fundraising, and Bus Requests as follows:

1) A request from Melissa Queen for her son, who is currently homeschooled, to attend school out of county, transferring from Raleigh County to Wyoming East High School, for the 2020-2021 school year.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Walker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lester to approve the Consent Agenda, Items A. and B., as presented and recommended by Ms. Cooke, on behalf of Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

**School Safety and Security:** Mr. Prichard asked Ms. Cooke to present regarding School Safety and Security.

Ms. Cooke asked Mr. Jeffrey Hylton, Director of Safety and Transportation, to address the Board.

Mr. Hylton said the principals and custodians are currently completing the Board of Risk reports. He said COVID supplies continue to be sent to the schools, as needed.

There was a brief discussion regarding School Safety and Security.

**I-Ready Beginning of the Year Data:** Mr. Prichard asked Ms. Cooke to address the Board regarding I-Ready Beginning of the Year Data.

Ms. Cooke asked Mrs. Kara Halsey-Mitchell, Administrator of Curriculum and Instruction, to address the Board.

Mrs. Mitchell presented a Powerpoint to the Board with information on the iReady reading and math data. She reviewed the statistics with the Board. She said iReady is a wonderful program for students to complete lessons in reading and math. She said it also provides crucial diagnostic information, as well. Mrs. Mitchell said the difference in test scores of students testing in school and those testing at home is

significant. She said the students who tested at home generally received a higher score than those that tested at school.

Mr. Stiltner asked if parents were completing the tests.

Mrs. Mitchell said while she does not think that most parents completed the tests, she does think that if a student had trouble with a particular question or passage, then the parents would assist the student. She said if that student was at school, the teacher would not be able to give that much individual attention. She said it is important for students to complete the diagnostic testing themselves, to get a true look at students' skill levels.

Mr. Walker asked what direction the students' skill levels are going. He said some of the statistics on the chart are alarming to him. He said if 29% of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are 3 grade levels below, that is concerning.

Mrs. Mitchell said this data is from the beginning of the year diagnostic testing. She said there is always regression over the summer. She said there have also been several events that took students out of the classroom throughout the last several years, including the COVID pandemic.

Mr. Walker asked when the next testing through I-Ready will take place.

Mrs. Mitchell said it should take place in the spring. She said she does not want students to take the test at home, so accurate data can be gathered. Mrs. Mitchell reviewed additional data and statistics with the Board. She said I-Ready is a wonderful program that is very rigorous. She said the program is very beneficial to students and teachers, alike. Mrs. Mitchell said a friendly I-Ready competition on Facebook has started. She said every Friday, the schools with the top participation are awarded a certificate on the Wyoming County Board of Education's Facebook page. She said students respond well to competition with this type of program.

There was a very thorough discussion regarding the I-Ready Beginning of the Year Data.

Mrs. Cline, Superintendent, joined the meeting. She said often times, school systems lose focus on what really matters. She said no matter what else is done, everything comes back to teaching and learning. She said Mrs. Mitchell's leadership is impeccable. She said she appreciates Mrs. Mitchell and all she does for Wyoming County Schools.

**Re-entry Toolkit Update:** Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding the Re-entry Toolkit Update.

Mrs. Cline asked Mr. John Henry, Director of Student Services and Attendance, to address the Board.

Mr. Henry reviewed the latest version of the West Virginia Department of Education's Re-entry Toolkit. He said it reiterates staying home if you are not well. He said it also has guidelines for cleaning and hygiene standards. He said Wyoming County has gone above and beyond the requirements set forth in the Toolkit. Mr. Henry said feeding students is also outlined in the Toolkit. He said Virginia Martin, Director of Child Nutrition and General Wellness, and Jeffrey Hylton, Director of Safety and Transportation, have done a phenomenal job of getting students fed. Mr. Henry reviewed the process of handling positive COVID cases when students return to school. He said when a positive case is identified, the school will be closed for 2 or 3 days. He said during the closure, contact tracing and deep cleaning will take place. He said after the closure, students will return to school. Mr. Henry said the CDC has changed the guidelines for quarantine when someone has been exposed. He said the recommendation of the CDC of 7 day quarantine is acceptable, if the individual can produce a negative test. He said if the individual does not test, a 10 day quarantine is

required. He said if the individual has any symptoms of COVID-19, a 14 day quarantine is required. Mr. Henry said changing from a two week closure to a 2 or 3 day closure will help keep students in school, while still following, and exceeding, the guidelines set forth in the WVDE Toolkit.

Mrs. Cline said steps are being taken to help get students in the State back to school as soon as possible. She said she was also just notified that a 2 day closure is more than appropriate when a positive case is identified. She said the Wyoming County Health Department is a working partner through this pandemic and she is thankful for their collaboration, but the Board will follow the recommendations in the WVDE Toolkit. She said the WVDE and the State Health Officer has issued the Toolkit to be used as guidance for counties throughout the State.

There was a thorough discussion regarding the Re-entry Toolkit.

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

Mrs. Cline asked Mr. John Henry, Director of Student Services and Attendance, and Mr. Jeffrey Hylton, Director of Safety and Transportation, to address the Board. She said Mr. Henry and Mr. Hylton continue to do a phenomenal job navigating through the pandemic.

Mr. Henry said on the West Virginia Department of Education weekly Color-Coded Map Wyoming County is designated red for the week. He said he is happy to report for the first time in weeks, Wyoming County is designated gold on the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources daily map. He said there have been 6 new staff members test positive since the last meeting. He said there are 12 more in quarantine from exposure outside of the building.

Mrs. Cline said employees are following the guidelines with masks and social distancing very well. She said when a staff member tests positive, there are very few, if any, employees that have to quarantine due to exposure.

Mr. Henry said the vaccine for COVID-19 are being distributed to front line workers and individuals in medical residential areas. He said surveys are being sent to all staff members regarding the vaccine. He said it appears that staff members over 50 years old will have priority in receiving the vaccine. Mr. Henry said the vaccination is a step in the right direction. He said we are one day closer to the end of this pandemic.

Mrs. Cline provided additional information to the Board regarding the vaccine and who will be eligible to receive it. She said she appreciates Mr. Henry and Mr. Hylton. She said their hard work and dedication to the County during the pandemic does not go unnoticed.

Mr. Henry said 2 school nurses will be helping to administer the vaccine and 2 school nurses will be handling the data and paperwork for the vaccine. He said once the vaccine is available to more organizations and individuals, 2 school nurses will continue to help with administering the vaccine.

There was a thorough discussion regarding COVID-19 and the vaccine.

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

Mrs. Cline recommended the Personnel List as presented.

## **PROFESSIONAL:**

### **SECONDARY TEACHERS**

#### **A. Recommended for Appointment:**

Candice D. Bishop, from Math Teacher, Wyoming East High School, to Biology Teacher, Wyoming East High School, effective 2021-2022 school year



## **STUDENT TEACHERS**

Andrea Carter, Concord University, Elementary Education, Pineville Elementary School,  
effective February 1, 2021

## **EXTRA DUTIES**

A. Recommended for Appointment:

Christopher Scott Cook, Varsity Girls Soccer Coach, Wyoming East  
High School, effective December 21, 2020

B. Resignation:

Heather Cline, 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Softball Coach, Baileysville Elementary  
and Middle School, effective December 9, 2020

## **WYOMING COUNTY EXTRACURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS:**

### **Tutoring Teacher**

Leslie Garretson - Mullens Middle School  
Emily K. Marshall - Mullens Middle School

## **SERVICE PERSONNEL:**

### **BUS OPERATORS**

A. Recommended for Appointment:

Carla J. Osborne, from Bus Operator, Westside/Huff Area,  
Transportation Department to Bus Operator, Westside/Huff Area,  
Transportation Department, effective December 21, 2020

B. Medical Leave of Absence:

Bernard E. Brooks, Bus Operator, Wyoming East/Pineville Area,  
Transportation Department, effective November 5, 2020, through  
January 2, 2021

## **COOKS**

### **A. Recommended for Appointment:**

Melanie K. Meadows, from One Half-Time Custodian (2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.), Herndon Consolidated Elementary and Middle School, to One Half-Time Custodian (2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.), Herndon Consolidated Elementary and Middle School and One Half-Time Cook (9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.), Mullens Elementary School, effective December 21, 2020

## **CUSTODIANS**

### **A. Recommended for Appointment:**

Tiffany L. Toler, from One Half-Time Bus Aide-Itinerant, Special Needs Run, AM ONLY, Transportation Department, and One Half-Time Custodian (2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.), Berlin McKinney Elementary School, to One Half-Time Bus Aide-Itinerant, Special Needs Run, AM ONLY, Transportation Department, and One Half-Time Custodian (2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.), Berlin McKinney Elementary School, and Custodian (6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.), Glen Fork Elementary and Middle School, (This is a TEMPORARY position until the regular employee returns to work), effective December 21, 2020

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

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

Mr. Prichard asked the Board Members if they want to continue meeting in person, with those who want to participate by phone continuing to do so.

All Board Members, with the exclusion of Mr. Davis, were in favor of continuing the meetings in person.

Mr. Davis said he feels it is too dangerous to continue to meet in person. He said he respects the Members decision to continue to meet in person, and hopes they also respect his to participate by phone.

Mr. Prichard reminded Board Members of the next Board Meeting scheduled Monday, December 21, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at Central Office.

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