

WYOMING COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, January 4, 2021

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF WYOMING, TO-WIT:

A call for a meeting of the Wyoming County Board of Education was held on Monday, January 4, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at the Wyoming County Board of Education Central Office, 155 Park Street, Pineville, West Virginia. Those in attendance were Michael R. Prichard, President; and, Allan R. Stiltner, Vice President. Richard A. "Richie" Walker, Douglas E. Lester, and Morgan K. "Mike" Davis, Members, participated by phone. Deirdre A. Cline, Superintendent, was also in attendance. The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Individuals or Groups of the Community at Large Wishing to Address the Board
2. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes, Board of Education Meeting: December 21, 2020
 - B. Extracurricular, Special, Fundraising, and Bus Requests
 - C. Budget Supplements and Transfers
3. School Safety and Security
4. Permission to Request Proposals from Non-profit Organizations for the Guyan Valley Property
5. iReady School Celebrations
6. Technology Department 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. 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 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.

Consent Agenda: A. Minutes, Board of Education Meeting: December 21,

2020: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding the Consent Agenda: A. Minutes, Board of Education Meeting: December 21, 2020.

Mrs. Cline recommended the Minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held December 21, 2020.

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

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

Mrs. Cline said there were no Extracurricular, Special, Fundraising or Bus Requests.

Consent Agenda: C. Budget Supplements and Transfers: Mr. Prichard

asked Mrs. Cline to present regarding Consent Agenda: C. Budget Supplements and Transfers.

Mrs. Cline said Mrs. Kim Cook, Chief School Business Official, will present Budget Supplements and Transfers at a future Board Meeting.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Stiltner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the Consent Agenda, Item A., 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 Mr. Jeffrey Hylton, Director of Safety and Transportation, has asked principals to personally check COVID supplies in each school. She said Mr. Hylton is also visiting each school to check inventory of supplies. She said all schools will be visited prior to January 19, 2021. She said there is still a good stock of COVID supplies to be distributed, as needed. Mrs. Cline said all CARES funds received have been spent; however, there is another round of funding coming soon.

There was a brief discussion regarding School Safety and Security.

Permission to Request Proposals from Non-profit Organizations for the Guyan Valley Property: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding Permission to Request Proposals from Non-profit Organizations for the Guyan Valley Property.

Mrs. Cline said Appalachian Service Project, a non-profit organization that does community work in the area, is no longer using the building. She said when the Board gave ASP the property many years ago, there was a reversionary clause that said if the building was ever not being used for the intended purposes by Appalachian Service Project, then the Board would regain ownership of the property. She said ASP will no longer be working in the area. Mrs. Cline said that there has been interest in the building from the local fire department, but to be fair to all non-profit organizations in the area, she recommends requesting proposals from all interested parties. She said that she is not opposed to the fire department using the building, at all, but feels it is in the Board's best interest to advertise that property is available to non-profits.

Mr. Prichard asked if the building was insured.

Mrs. Cline said ASP had insurance on the building, and she would make sure that the Board had current coverage, as well.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Walker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lester, to approve the Request for Proposals from Non-profit Organizations for the Guyan Valley Property, as presented and recommended by Mrs. Cline, Superintendent. Passed with a 5-0 vote.

iReady School Celebrations: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding iReady School Celebrations.

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

Mrs. Mitchell said the current iReady data shows a lot of gains that need to be made this school year. She said this program is very beneficial to students and teachers, alike. She said Ms. Ashley Francis, Coordinator of Academic and Assessment Programs, goes in the program at 3:00 p.m. each Friday to see the participation rates and percentage passed for each school. She reviewed the data for each school with the Board.

Mr. Stiltner asked why Herndon Consolidated Elementary and Middle School had such a low percentage of participation.

Mrs. Mitchell said she thinks that is due to the limited access to internet among the students in that area. She said Mrs. Janet McKinney, Principal, and the teachers at Herndon Consolidated are doing a good job encouraging students to do iReady lessons. She showed the Board some of the posts to social media that have been posted by Central Office.

Mrs. Cline said Mrs. Mitchell and her team have done a fantastic job promoting the iReady program.

There was a thorough discussion regarding the iReady School Celebrations.

Technology Department Update: Mr. Prichard asked Mrs. Cline to address the Board regarding the Technology Department Update.

Mrs. Cline said Wyoming County is now a one-to-one county, in terms of technology. She asked Mr. Terry Shumate, Director of Information and Technology Systems, to address the Board.

Mr. Shumate said the leadership team had made the decision on which devices to purchase for each grade level. He said students K-2 will each have their own iPads, due to keyboarding skills still being developed. He showed the Board a sample device. He said 1,160 devices were purchased for K-2. He reviewed the cost and funding with the Board. Mr. Shumate said each student in grades 3-12 will be receiving a Chromebook, which is a small laptop. He showed the Board a sample of the device. He said 2,750 Chromebooks have been purchased for students in grades 3-12. He reviewed the cost of the devices.

Mrs. Cline said the older devices that have been signed out for virtual and remote learning will be returned and a new device will be assigned to those students. She said the older devices will be checked and used as replacements, as needed. She said great work is being done in regards to technology in Wyoming County.

Mr. Prichard asked if students would be taking the devices home.

Mrs. Cline said the students would be allowed to take the devices home, to be used for educational purposes only. She said teachers will be able to frontload the devices with assignments for students that do not have access to internet services.

Mr. Prichard asked if the devices have been distributed.

Mrs. Cline said the devices will be distributed very soon.

Mr. Shumate said the schools have all needed items, with the exclusion of the carrying cases, which just arrived. He said the carrying cases would be delivered to schools tomorrow, so distribution can begin.

Mrs. Cline said the schools have to inventory each device and get the documents ready for distribution. She said each student and parent or guardian must sign to get a device. She said a lot of organization and work had to be done to insure proper accountability, prior to handing the devices out.

Mrs. Mitchell said she was very excited about the County being one-to-one. She said this is a fantastic step for curriculum in the County.

There was a brief discussion regarding technology.

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, to address the Board.

Mr. Henry said the Governor's briefing over the Christmas break has caused much discussion in how to move forward. He said the Wyoming County Health Department is reporting 25 deaths, thus far. He said there are 221 active cases and the Health Department reports that cases are widespread throughout the County. Mr. Henry played a portion of the Governor's briefing stating the return of in person instruction for the Board. He said the West Virginia Department of Education Saturday map will no longer be published. He said the daily West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources map will be used. He said sports have been pushed back, again, to a start date of March 1. He said he appreciates students having the opportunity to get back in the classroom for in person instruction.

Mrs. Cline said the instructional model will be on the agenda for Board consideration on the January 14, 2021 meeting. She said she also wanted to note that the letters that State Superintendent Clayton Burch referred to was one letter that was composed and sent on behalf of all superintendents. She said she is not saying that she agrees or disagrees with the contents of the letter, but that the superintendents only saw the letter about 2 hours prior to this announcement. She said after the Governor's briefing announcing the return to in person instruction, she had a Superintendents' Teams meeting at 2:00 p.m. She said at 3:00 p.m., she held a Central Office ZOOM, followed by a ZOOM with Central Office staff and principals at 5:00 p.m. She said there was much discussion in regards to the changes made by the Governor. She said deep cleaning will continue, but may have to be done after school hours. She thanked Mr. Henry for his continued hard work and dedication during these trying times. She said she also needed to thank Ms. Hall for working so diligently with Mr. Henry regarding the vaccination clinics for Wyoming County educators this Thursday and Friday.

Mr. Henry said the cleanliness, mask wearing, and guidelines were working for Wyoming County Schools, prior to the County going red, allowing zero spread from the cases that were identified among employees and students. He said they will continue to be followed once in person instruction restarts.

Mr. Lester asked when the vaccinations would be given.

Mrs. Cline reviewed the preliminary schedule with the Board, and said further details would be forthcoming.

There was a very thorough discussion regarding the reopening of school buildings, 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:

CENTRAL OFFICE

A. Change in Title:

Misty Lyons, from Middle School Mathematics Curriculum Coach, Itinerant to Middle School English Language Arts and Mathematics Curriculum Coach, Itinerant, effective January 4, 2021

EXTRA DUTIES

A. Resignation:

Tina C. Adams, 6th - 8th Grade Cheer Coach, Baileysville Elementary and Middle School, effective December 21, 2020

Tina C. Adams, 6th - 8th Grade Golf Coach, Baileysville Elementary and Middle School, effective December 21, 2020

SUBSTITUTES:

Teachers

Pamela M. Bailey
Jacqueline Rife

After a brief discussion, Mr. Stiltner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Prichard, 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 said all Board Members need to fill out the Ethics Commission form prior to February 1, 2021. He said the training verification forms for the West Virginia

School Board Association also need to be turned in as soon as possible. Mr. Prichard reminded Board Members of the next Board Meeting scheduled Thursday, January 14, 2021, 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.