

**RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE
HARRISVILLE, WV
JANUARY 11, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Ritchie County Board of Education was called to order on Monday, January 11, 2021, at 6:00 PM by President Dr. Torie Jackson.

ROLL CALL

Present: Dr. Torie Jackson, President
Mrs. Betsy Wells, Vice-President
Mrs. Misty Ingram-Keen
Mr. Ryan Reed
Mr. Denver Nelson

Administrative Staff Present: Mr. James G. Brown, Superintendent

*All Board Members, Administrative Staff and Newspaper Representatives remained six feet apart to meet social distancing requirements.

CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH WV CODE §18-5-45 OF THE WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOL LAWS

Mr. Brown presented the Board with two options of a proposed school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. Option I being a more traditional calendar with an earlier start date and Option II having a later start date. He reviewed specific items on the calendars such as:

- Beginning and ending dates for students and staff
- Four Professional Development Days (professional development in the morning with faculty senate in the afternoon)
- Traditional Thanksgiving, Christmas and spring breaks
- Graduation date

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE TABLED OR REMOVED

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, to table the following agenda items. Motion passed unanimously.

- L.2e Approve Licensed Practical Nurse at Ritchie County Middle / High School
- L.2f Approve Substitute Licensed Practical Nurse at Ritchie County Middle / High School
- L.2g Approve Assistant Girls Basketball Coach at Ritchie County Middle School

MINUTES

Mrs. Ingram-Keen moved, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve the preliminary minutes of the regular meeting of December 22, 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

DELEGATIONS

Dale Lee, President of the West Virginia Education Association spoke to the Board regarding reentry to school in relation to student and staff health and safety.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Brown reviewed the following information:

COVID-19 School District Update

- Reviewed 7-Day and 14-Day Ritchie County COVID-19 Reports (January 1-14) which included Daily Infection Rate, Daily Percent Positivity Rate, Confirmed Cases, etc.
- Discussed the article "WV Board of Education President and State Superintendent Speak About the Return to In-person Instruction" released January 8, 2021
- Superintendent Brown contacted Mr. Howard Seufer, Jr, Bowles Rice LLP with questions about school reentry plans and shared with the Board the detailed response from Mr. Seufer
- Governor Justice will be issuing an executive order that students PreK-8 will attend in-person independent of a map. Students in grades 9-12 will attend school contingent on being red on the DHHR map. The State Board of Education will take action on Wednesday.
- 86 of our 208 active employees indicated they will take the vaccine (42%)

Submission of Needs Project to the School Building Authority of West Virginia

- Mr. Brown will meet with Mr. Weekley tomorrow to finish two appendix pages
- Will meet next Wednesday with the architects to compile a professional document including pictures of both schools
- Final document will be ready to submit soon after next Wednesday.
- The School Building Authority requests that the Board approval the financial obligation of the Needs Project

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE FOR ISSUANCE OF SERIES 2021 BONDS

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, to approve the Preliminary Schedule Prepared in Connection with The Issuance of The Board of Education of the County of Ritchie's Public-School Bonds, Series 2021, in the Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$5,630,000. Motion passed unanimously.

BOND RESOLUTION AND ORDER FOR ISSUANCE OF SERIES 2021 BONDS

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mrs. Ingram-Keen moved, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve the Resolution and Order Authorizing and Directing the Issuance of the Board of Education of the County of Ritchie's Public-School Bonds, Series 2021, in the Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$5,630,000. Motion passed unanimously.

POLICIES

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Reed to approve the following policy as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

- Waive Reading and approve Policy 5330 Leave for Illness or Other Causes During COVID-19 Pandemic

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mrs. Ingram-Keen, that the Board enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Motion passed unanimously and the Board entered executive session at 7:06 p.m.

Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, that the Board re-enter regular session. Motion passed unanimously and the Board resumed regular session at 7:33 p.m.

PERSONNEL

Resignations

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mr. Nelson moved, seconded by Mrs. Ingram-Keen, to approve the following resignation. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve resignation of Kathleen White, Substitute Teacher effective January 11, 2021
- Approve resignation of Clayton McBrayer, Assistant Football Coach at Ritchie County Middle School effective January 11, 2021

Employments or Transfers and Rescissions

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Mrs. Ingram-Keen, that the Board approve the following employments or transfers and rescissions. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve job description for Extracurricular Assignment English as a Second Language Teacher effective January 11, 2021
- Approve Brittany Reed, Multi-Subject Classroom Teacher Grades 5-6 at Ritchie County Middle School effective January 11, 2021 subject to stay put provision until January 15, 2021
- Approve Jamie Molina, School Nurse Countywide effective January 11, 2021 pending meeting all requirements
- Approve Nathan Houser, Social Studies Teacher at Ritchie County Middle School effective January 11, 2021
- Approve Kathy Roby, Extracurricular Assignment Special Education Transition Coordinator Countywide effective 2020-2021 school year

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, to approve the following employee to be considered for termination due to lack of need, insufficient funding and/or displacement by a more senior employee for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion passed unanimously

- Approve Rory Stanley, Custodian, for termination due to lack of need, insufficient funding and/or displacement by a more senior employee for the 2021-2022 school year.

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mr. Nelson moved, seconded by Mrs. Ingram-Keen, to approve the Service Personnel Job Classification Review 2020-2021, as of January 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

ALLOWED AND AUTHORIZED PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, that the Board approve and authorize payment of the following bills. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve payment of bills in the sum of \$364,524.45

FINANCIAL REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mr. Nelson moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, that the Board approve the following financial requests. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve opening Ritchie County Schools checking account with Union Bank for School Cash Online and Gate Receipting

- Approve revised mileage reimbursement rate in accordance with IRS regulations to \$0.56 per mile to be effective January 1, 2021
- Approve Budget Revision Requests: Transfers in the amount of \$339,534 and \$177,172 Supplement in the amount of \$152,891 Carryover Supplement in the amount of \$375,282
- Approve Needs Grant 2021 submission to the School Building Authority of West Virginia

DISTRICT REENTRY TO SCHOOL PLAN

Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mrs. Ingram-Keen, to conditionally approve the District Reentry to School Plan effective January 19, 2021 absent a Governor's Executive Order and/or Directive from the West Virginia State Department of Education prohibiting said action. Motion passed unanimously.

- Ritchie County Schools 2nd Semester 2021 Reentry Plan: The Infection Rate, based on the number of new cases on a 7-day average, will be the determining factor for in-person learning. Orange or Red = distance learning countywide (Orange 24 – 33.99 cases, Red 34+ cases)

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

President Jackson requested that the Superintendent's Contract be included as an agenda item for the next Board Meeting.

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE

The Next Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Ritchie County Board of Education Office.

Individuals who wish to attend this meeting virtually must request a link by emailing rscboardmeeting.ritchie@k12.wv.us by Friday, January 22, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mr. Nelson moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:47 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.