

**RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE
HARRISVILLE, WV
JANUARY 25, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Ritchie County Board of Education was called to order on Monday, January 25, 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, Mrs. April Haught, Director of Instructional Services and Personnel and Mrs. Lori Wells, Treasurer and Director of Finance (via Microsoft Teams)

*All Board Members, Administrative Staff and Newspaper Representative 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 a proposed school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. Feedback he received leaned toward the calendar with a later start date.

- First day of school for students - August 19, 2021
- Last day of school for students - May 27, 2022
- Graduation - May 29, 2022
- Traditional Thanksgiving, Christmas and spring breaks

DELEGATIONS

Mr. Bryan Ireland, President of the Ritchie County Fair Board, spoke in favor of starting school after August 14, 2021 as the county fair is scheduled for August 11 – 14 this year. A later start date for school allows students and school personnel to participate in and assist in supporting the county fair.

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE TABLED OR REMOVED

None

MINUTES

Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mrs. Ingram-Keen, to approve the preliminary minutes of the regular meeting of January 11, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Brown reviewed the following information:

COVID-19 School District Update

- Ritchie County Schools Vaccine Distribution Status indicates that 43% of employees (including substitutes) have gotten or will receive the vaccine
- This week we received 30 vaccines to be administered on Thursday, January 28, 2021
- School Learning Options Report indicates that we have 881 students (70%) in the in-person learning option and 370 students (30%) in the distance learning option
- Homeschool Status Report indicates that we have 135 homeschool students in Ritchie County which is an increase of 52% for the 2020-2021 school year. The increase is largely COVID related.
- Mrs. Haught reviewed the number of professional and service positions and available substitutes to fill those positions. It is possible that a location could be closed due to lack of substitute coverage.

Athletics

- February 15th is the first day of practice for winter sports
- Winter and Spring sports will overlap
- As of today there are 64 out of 77 days with at least one high school athletic event scheduled
- Working on a sanitization schedule for buses used for athletic trips
- Mr. Brown asked that the Freshman Basketball Coach, Nathan Shipe, be allowed to help coach boys basketball. Coach Rick Haught also coaches boys track and the two sports will overlap.

Mr. Nelson asked, if our teams could play or practice if Ritchie County is red on the map. Mr. Brown said the teams will not be allowed to play or practice if we are red on the map.

Entrance Awning

- Put out for bid an awning at the Wellness Center and Ritchie County Middle School entrances
- Only received one bid at \$20,803.00
- Ritchie Regional Health Center is willing to contribute \$5,000.00 to their side of the project

- Mr. Brown stated that this is something we can plan for in the future, but as of right now there is no money in the budget for this project

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Mrs. April Haught, Director of Instructional Services and Personnel reviewed the following information:

- The textbook adoption for English Language Arts has been put off for one year
- Mrs. Haught has contacted the company and we will be able to continue our current adoption for another year

Mrs. Lori Wells, Treasurer and Director of Finance (via Microsoft Teams) reviewed the following information:

- From the first Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF) grant we purchased scanners, thermometers, personal protective equipment, sanitizers and cleaners, professional services for sanitization and funding for a school nurse
- We will be receiving \$1,689,335.00 from the second ESSERF grant
- Mrs. Wells will be attending a Webinar on Wednesday with the WVDE for guidance and information pertaining to the second ESSERF grant
- Mrs. Wells reviewed with the Board the Preliminary Computations for FY22

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- Approve School Calendar for the 2021-2022 School Year
- Approve Out of County Student Transfer, retroactively to January 19, 2021
- Approve Student Internship at Ritchie County High School, retroactively to January 19, 2021
- Approve Revised Board Meeting Schedule for 2020-2021
- Approve Memorandum of Agreement with Ritchie County Commission for School Resource Officers

After discussion it was decided that the Board will not meet with each Local School Improvement Council as none of our schools are deemed to be low performing under the accountability system established by the state board. President Jackson asked if the school principals would be able to give the Board a general update on their schools. Mr. Brown will schedule principal updates for meetings throughout February.

PERSONNEL

Resignations

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

- Approve resignation of Barbara Rogerson, Substitute Teacher Countywide effective January 25, 2021
- Approve resignation of Melanie Henderson, Assistant Boys Track Coach at Ritchie County Middle School effective January 25, 2021

Resignation Submitted After Publication of Agenda

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve the following resignation. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve resignation of Crystal Rogers, Special Education Instructional Classroom / Transportation Aide at Ritchie County High School effective January 29, 2021

Employments or Transfers and Rescissions

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

- Approve Deanna Campbell, Extra-Curricular Assignment English as a Second Language Teacher effective January 25, 2021
- Approve Brooke Waugaman, Mentor for Elementary School Counselor effective January 25, 2021
- Approve Regina Davis, Mentor for Social Studies Teacher at Ritchie County Middle School effective January 25, 2021
- Approve Lindsey Garrett, Head Girls Track Coach at Ritchie County High School effective January 25, 2021

ALLOWED AND AUTHORIZED PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mr. Nelson 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 \$172,118.43

FINANCIAL REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL

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

- Approve Budget Revision Requests: Transfers in the amount of \$146,184.00 and \$35,855.00 Supplement in the amount of \$1,250.00
- Approve Monthly Payment to Union Bank for Energy Performance Contract in the Sum of \$10,531.90

CONDUCT THE ANNUAL EVALUATION OF JIM BROWN, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOL LAWS §18-4-6 EVALUATION OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

§126-143-6. Required Process Criteria: The process shall require the county board to annually, before June 30, assess the superintendent's achievement of the written goals or objectives, except that the assessment shall be made before March 1 if the superintendent's contract is to expire on the ensuing June 30.

Mrs. Ingram-Keen moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, that the Board enter executive session for the purpose of the annual evaluation of Superintendent Jim Brown. Motion passed unanimously and the Board entered executive session at 7:21 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 8:25 p.m.

Dr. Jackson read a statement from the Board that classifies Superintendent Brown as exceeding standards in the three primary goals, which involved passage of a construction bond, reentry to schools during a pandemic, and cleanliness of facilities.

Consider Terms and Conditions of the contract to be offered to the superintendent whose term will begin on July 1 of this year

Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mrs. Ingram-Keen, that the Board enter executive session for the purpose of consideration of the terms and conditions of the contract of the superintendent whose term will begin on July of this year. Motion passed unanimously and the Board entered executive session at 8:28 p.m.

Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Nelson, that the Board re-enter regular session. Motion passed unanimously and the Board resumed regular session at 8:51 p.m.

Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, that the Board offer a four year contract to the superintendent starting July 1, 2021 with a base salary of \$130,000.00. Motion passed unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Nelson said that it was good that we are meeting in person. The public see this as a plus also.

Mr. Brown said that MOVTI is considering ways to help struggling students.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 8, 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 rcsboardmeeting.ritchie@k12.wv.us by Friday, February 5, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mr. Nelson moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:54 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.