

**RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE
HARRISVILLE, WV
OCTOBER 12, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Ritchie County Board of Education was called to order on Monday, October 12, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. 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. Denny Nelson

Administrative Staff Present: Mr. James G. Brown, Superintendent, Mr. David Weekley, Director of Support Services and Attendance and Mrs. Debbie Bever, Director of Special Education, Federal Programs and School Improvement.

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

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE TABLED OR REMOVED

None

MINUTES

Mr. Ryan Reed moved, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve the preliminary minutes of the regular meeting of September 28, 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

DELEGATIONS

None

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 6:01 p.m.

Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mrs. Ingram-Keen, that the Board re-enter regular session. Motion passed unanimously and the Board resumed regular session at 6:31 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Brown reviewed the following information:

2nd Month Enrollment Report

- The 2nd Month Enrollment Report shows a total head count of 1294. A loss of 46 students compared to the October 1, 2019 count of 1340.
- A majority of this difference can be attributed to preschool enrollment
- The enrollment report excluding preschool shows a loss in net enrollment of 13
- Loss to homeschool 2020-2021 totals 28
- Mr. Weekley and the principals are working on tracking distance learning students who have not been actively engaged

CEFP Phase II Criteria for Evaluating Existing Buildings

- This information was included with all significant reports that were provided through Alpha Dude Solutions as well as our Cost Summary Reports
- I believe this will be the last request for revision from the state department
- They have all our documentation digitally, hard copy and in Dude Solutions

Status Update on COVID-19

- All schools are functioning well and we are proud of our success rate up to this point
- Protocols are in place and students as well as employees have risen to the expectations
- There are some areas that we need to strengthen in distance learning
- There has been a confirmed case of COVID 19 in Harrisville Elementary second grade. Eleven students and three employees have been quarantined at this point. Those students affected will immediately shift to distance learning. Parents and employees of Harrisville Elementary have been made aware of the situation.
- Received confirmation today of possible exposure of the RCHS Volleyball Team. A student athlete from an opposing team has tested positive for the Corona Virus. Based on state protocol we are required to quarantine our volleyball team. This includes 20 athletes, 2 coaches and 2 other employees who assist with scoring.
- We have substitute coverage in place for the affected personnel
- Our best friend in all of this is the mask and hand sanitizer. If there is an area we struggle with it is social distancing. Staff is asked to maintain their congregate groups.
- I commend our staff for how well they mobilized and addressed these issues today
- We will continue monitor our students and staff that have been exposed

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Mr. David Weekley, Director of Support Services and Attendance reviewed the following information:

- Interior classroom door key project is complete
- Masonry joint sealant and window seal project at Ritchie County Middle/High School began this week
- Concrete and sidewalk repair at Smithville Elementary is underway
- There is a water leak at the RCMS/HS football field concession stand. We believe it is under the sidewalk. The sidewalk will be removed and replaced with one that is double the width. The sidewalk fence will be replaced. French drains will be installed around the building.
- All the buses are being brought to the bus garage for disinfection. The parking lot was expanded to accommodate 25 buses. Additional electrical outlets will be installed before winter for the bus heater systems.
- Student feeding is going well. Tuesday take home meal boxes are being sent home with students. We continue to offer distance learning students weekly meal boxes each Wednesday. We are preparing 150 to 200 of these meal boxes each week.
- Electrostatic disinfecting machines have been delivered and the custodians have been trained to properly use them. These machines electrify the mist causing it to adhere to surrounding surfaces.
- We have an ample supply of masks, gloves, face shields and disinfectants
- Addressing attendance with distance learning students who are not meeting the requirements
- Air purifiers have been placed in all classrooms at Harrisville Elementary and Creed Collins Elementary Schools.
- Principals now have a walk through template around cleanliness and sanitization and are monitoring that closely

Mrs. Debbie Bever, Director of Special Education, Federal Programs and School Improvement reviewed the following information:

- Mrs. Bever presented the Board with an iReady Assessment Completion Rate Chart for students 2-7 in reading and students 1-7 in math. The chart indicates that most students have the majority of their assessments completed.
- Teachers will communicate to their distance learning students that they can do their iReady assessments at home
- We will begin checking on the Dynamic Learning Maps system soon. This system assesses students on alternate standards.
- Title I Interventionist have been conducting DIBELS assessments in their own schools
- K-2 teachers have been administering the 95% Group assessments
- Mrs. Bever provided a chart showing the last three years of student special needs areas of exceptionalities. The numbers have remained around 280 each year.
- Continuing to monitor caseloads, timelines and services. A private calendar has been shared with all IEP Coordinators in an effort to assist in monitoring timelines.
- Ms. Swain, Mrs. Roby and Mrs. Bever have met with new teachers and attended IEP meetings upon request of school personnel and parents
- Dr. Ball, our Autism Consultant from South Carolina, meets with us twice a year. Dr. Ball was here today and was very complimentary about our students, staff and our response to COVID.
- Preschool number fluctuation may be attributed to the birthday rule and after this year we will more than likely see some stabilization. The Office of Maternal Health indicates that the birthrate in Ritchie County continues to remain the same. Around 100 children are born in the county each year.
- The Preschool Collaborative Team has already met and is doing a great job communicating and making concessions in order to be compliant.

CONSENT ITEMS

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mrs. Ingram-Keen moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, that the Board approve the following consent items. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve Student Internship for Ritchie County High School effective for the 1st semester of the 2020-2021 school year
- Approve Out-of-County Transfers to Ritchie County for the 2020-2021 school year
- Approve CEFPP Phase II Criteria for Evaluating Existing Buildings Revision

PERSONNEL

Resignations

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

- Approve the resignation of Marcia Stansberry as a Bus Operator for the Purpose of Retirement effective October 16, 2020

Resignation Submitted after Publication of the Agenda

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Mrs. Ingram-Keen, that the Board approve the following resignation submitted after publication of the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve the resignation of Jennifer Furr as Teacher Mentor for Multi Categorical LD/BD/MI Including Autism Teacher at Creed Collins Elementary effective October 12, 2020

Termination Without Cause

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mrs. Ingram-Keen moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, that the Board approve the following termination without cause. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve termination of Chris Newell without cause as a Bus Operator effective October 12, 2020

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 Madison Clevenger, Multi Categorical LD/BD/MI Special Education Teacher including Autism at Ritchie County Middle School effective October 14, 2020
- Approve Lindsey Garrett, 5202 Substitute Teacher Countywide effective October 12, 2020 pending meeting all requirements

ALLOWED AND AUTHORIZED PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

- Approve payment of bills in the sum of \$547,744.45

FINANCIAL REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL

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

- Approve Budget Revision Requests. Transfers in the amount of \$41,026.00 and Supplements in the amount of \$62.00
- Approve retroactively Keystone Masonry's successful bid for the replacement of the masonry joint sealant project at Ritchie County Middle / High School in the amount of \$57,773.00

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

Mr. Brown reviewed an informational document regarding the upcoming bond election that will be part of the general election on November 3rd. This information will be sent home with students on Wednesday. Signage will be placed in the community and pamphlets distributed.

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE

The Next Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, October 26, 2020 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, October 23, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mr. Nelson moved, seconded by Mrs. Ingram-Keen, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.