

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

The regular meeting of the Ritchie County Board of Education was called to order on Thursday, November 12, 2020, 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 (Via Telephone)
Mr. Ryan Reed
Mr. Denny 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.

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE TABLED OR REMOVED

None

MINUTES

Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to approve the preliminary minutes of the regular meeting of October 26, 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

DELEGATIONS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Brown reviewed the following information:

GrandFacts State Fact Sheets for Grandfamilies

- Zona Hutson, Doddridge County Extension Agent, is working in collaboration with our local Extension Office to establish a Grandfamilies Program in Ritchie County.
- This program provides support to grandparents who are fostering / caring for their grandchildren.
- The GrandFacts document includes state-specific data and programs as well as information about public benefits, educational assistance, legal relationship options and state laws.

Bus Occupancy Information

- Michelle Jones was brought in to create an Excel document containing bus occupancy information specific to each bus route.
- This document will be utilized during contact tracing. We will be able to quickly, efficiently and accurately track who is on what bus.
- Most buses have transfers and are interconnected.
- This document will be updated as changes occur.

Results of School Construction Bond and Next Steps

- It is very exciting that our School Construction Bond passed with a 58.9% approval rate. This would not have happened without voter support.
- Today we had the first conference call with our bond counsel, legal counsel and financial team. Next Friday we will have another meeting to review our timeline schedule.
- The next step is canvassing the votes and the County Clerk, Mrs. Tracie McDonald, will let us know where they are in that process.
- Our project is due by January 31, 2021 and April 19, 2021 is the funding meeting.

COVID 19 Update

- There are 696 new cases in the state of West Virginia today.
- The daily positivity rate in the state is 3.87%. Our percent positive is 3.13.
- Today we have 35 active cases in Ritchie County and our thoughts and prayers go out to the family who lost a loved one to COVID.
- There were 189 students absent from school today. We have three school nurses who have the responsibility of contacting all these students to find out if they were symptomatic, exposed to or diagnosed with COVID.
- Mr. Brown reviewed a chart indicating that we currently have 899 in-person learning students or 71%. We were hovering around 75% / 76%. We have 349 distance learning students or 29%.
- We have 256 individuals who have been quarantined since re-entry.
- One Hundred Fifty people have tested with only 7 testing positive.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, that the Board enter executive session for the purpose of discussing various matters regarding the COVID 19 pandemic and its effects on personnel and students of the Ritchie County School System and the larger community of Ritchie County Schools including parents and our communities. Motion passed unanimously and the Board entered executive session at 6:31 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 7:09 p.m.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- Approve Ritchie County High School Winter Athletic Sports Schedules for the 2020-2021 season
- Approve Ritchie County Middle School Winter Athletic Sports Schedules for the 2020-2021 season

PERSONNEL

Resignation Submitted after Publication of the Agenda

None

Employments or Transfers and Rescissions

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

- Approve posting Multi-Subject Classroom Teacher Grades 5 - 6 at Ritchie County Middle School for the 2020-2021 School Year
- Approve Rory Stanley, Custodian III / Groundsman / General Maintenance at the Bus Garage / Countywide effective November 12, 2020
- Approve David Bee, Authorized / Certified (Non Paid) Assistant Girls Basketball Coach at Ritchie County High School for the 2020-2021 School Year

President Jackson recused herself and Vice-President Wells presided over the following action.

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the following employment. Motion passed 4-1 with Dr. Jackson abstaining.

- Approve Todd Jackson, Head Girls Track Coach at Ritchie County Middle School effective for the 2020-2021 season.

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 \$564,489.43

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 Budget Revision Request – Supplements in the amount of \$108,283.00
Transfers in the amount of \$274,097.00
- Approve Monthly Payment to Union Bank for Energy Performance Contract in the Sum of \$10,531.90
- Approve successful sealed bid sale of school buses designated as surplus property
 - a. Bus #06-15 Mathies & Sons Inc. in the amount of \$2,800.00
 - b. Bus #06-16 Mathies & Sons Inc. in the amount of \$2,700.00
 - c. Bus #01-04 Yancy Sales in the amount of \$3,109.99
 - d. Bus #98-27 Mathies & Sons Inc. in the amount of \$1,800.00

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Nelson and Dr. Jackson, enduring the cold, stayed at the Courthouse until 12:40 a.m. awaiting the return of the election results.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE

The Next Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, 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, December 11, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:20 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.