

**RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE  
HARRISVILLE, WV  
FEBRUARY 8, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Ritchie County Board of Education was called to order on Monday, February 8, 2021, at 6:00 PM by President Dr. Torie Jackson.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**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 Representative remained six feet apart to meet social distancing requirements.

**AGENDA ITEMS TO BE TABLED OR REMOVED**

None

**MINUTES**

Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve the preliminary minutes of the regular meeting of January 25, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

**PRINCIPAL SCHOOL UPDATES**

Debbie White, Principal Creed Collins Elementary, Laura Snodgrass, Principal Harrisville Elementary, and Casey Kerns, Principal Smithville Elementary gave updates on their schools.

Topics included:

- How their schools are functioning amidst this COVID pandemic.
- Some challenges the staff have faced this year and the steps taken to overcome those challenges.
- Plans to support not only academic but social and emotional needs of students.
- Targeted leading and lagging indicators as well as assessment data.

All three principals have encountered similar challenges and dealt with them in similar yet unique ways. Each indicated that student and staff safety has been a priority. Chronic absenteeism as well as discipline issues are down. Over all, students are engaged and motivated.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Brown reviewed the following information:

**COVID-19 School District Update**

- Mr. Brown explained the steps taken when conducting contact tracing. It is amazing when you start breaking down the data how many people can be affected.
- The greatest challenge recently has been bus operators exposed through work, home or community. We did not want to have to cancel a bus run. The drivers stepped up and some did double runs. However, some bus schedule times had to be adjusted.
- On Friday we had eighteen employees unable to work due to feeling unwell from the second COVID vaccine given on Thursday.
- The next round of vaccines will be administered this Thursday. We are preparing for the chance that some employees may be absent on Friday.
- It is challenging but we are managing well.

**Ritchie County High School Academic Tutoring Plan**

- Mr. Brown reviewed Guidelines for the Ritchie County High School Academic Tutoring Plan
- RCHS in-person and distance learning students may attend academic tutoring on scheduled days if our county is red on the DHHR County Alert System Map and school is not in session
- Students may ride their normal bus to and from school
- Students can come in for one or more blocks
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided
- MOVTI students may also receive academic tutoring during their regularly scheduled time
- Seventy six students participated the first day

### WVSSAC Attendance Guidelines

- The WVSSAC released Guidelines for High School and Middle School Attendance at Winter Sports 2021
- Attendance will be limited to parents, grandparents, and household members based on maximum number allowed according to seating capacity
- We are optimistic that we will have a successful athletic season
- Mr. Wells will be using a Cash Online process for ticket sales
- A Pixellot camera system has been installed to live stream events
- Winter sports conditioning starts today

### Proposed Summer Program

- We are planning on having a summer school program at each school.
- Jobs will be posted for: A county coordinator, site coordinators, teachers, aides, secretaries, cooks custodians, bus operators, technology support specialists, elementary school technology integration specialist, secondary school technology integration specialist, elementary counselor, elementary school nurse, secondary school nurse.
- Service personnel positions by law must be paid their hourly rate of pay.
- Looking at increasing the teacher pay from \$25.00 to \$40.00 per hour (two years only). If not, we may struggle to fill positions. Site coordinator pay will be \$45.00 per hour and county coordinator \$50.00 per hour.
- We will distribute survey forms to teachers and staff to ascertain the number of staff willing to work the summer school program.

After discussion all Board Members agreed to increase the teacher pay for summer school to \$40.00 per hour.

### CONSENT ITEMS

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

- Approve Spring 2021 WVUP 20 Hours of Field Placement for Abigail Morrison at Harrisville Elementary School Starting February 9, 2021 Through April 30, 2021
- Approve Spring 2021 WVUP 20 Hours of Field Placement for Valerie Bircher at Harrisville Elementary School Starting February 9, 2021 Through April 30, 2021
- Approve Spring 2021 WVUP 20 Hours of Field Placement for Meredith Rogers at Harrisville Elementary School Starting February 9, 2021 Through April 30, 2021
- Approve Ritchie County Middle School Boys Basketball Schedule 2021
- Approve Ritchie County Middle School Girls Basketball Schedule 2021
- Approve Ritchie County Middle School Wrestling Schedule 2021
- Approve Ritchie County High School Boys Basketball Schedule 2021
- Approve Ritchie County High School Girls Basketball Schedule 2021
- Approve Ritchie County High School Wrestling Schedule 2021
- Approve Ritchie County High School Boys Baseball Schedule 2021
- Approve Ritchie County High School Girls Softball Schedule 2021
- Approve Ritchie County High School Varsity Track Schedule 2021

### PERSONNEL

#### Employments or Transfers and Rescissions

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, that the Board approve the following employment. Motion passed with four members voting in favor and Dr. Jackson abstaining.

- Approve Crystal Freed, Special Education Instructional Classroom / Transportation Aide at Ritchie County Middle / High School effective February 8, 2021

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

- Approve Marsha Knight, Assistant Girls Basketball Coach at Ritchie County Middle School effective February 8, 2021

#### 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 \$331,923.69

**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 \$83,339.00  
Carryover Supplement in the amount of \$315,031.00

**REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING**

None

**BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 22, 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](mailto:rcsboardmeeting.ritchie@k12.wv.us) by Friday, February 19, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.