

**RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE  
HARRISVILLE, WV  
MARCH 8, 2021 – 6:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the Ritchie County Board of Education was called to order on Monday, March 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, Mr. David Weekley, Director of Support Services and Attendance (remotely) and Mrs. Debbie Bever, Director of Special Education, Federal Programs and School Improvement (remotely)

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

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Ingram-Keen moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to approve the preliminary minutes of the regular meeting of February 22, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

**RECOGNITIONS**

Superintendent Brown presented certificates of recognition to:

Brady Layman	1 <sup>st</sup> Team All State Cross Country 2020
Gus Morrison	1 <sup>st</sup> Team All State Football 2020
Dakota Wayne	1 <sup>st</sup> Team All State Football 2020
Cort Martin	American FFA Degree
Holli Vaughan	U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association 2020 WV Boys' High School Cross Country Coach of the Year
Chris Wells	Certified Athletic Administrator
Rebekah Rupert	1 <sup>st</sup> Team All State Volleyball 2020 (unable to attend)

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Community in Schools**

Charlene Coburn, Senior Officer Support and Accountability (WVDE) was in attendance remotely to provide information about the Community in Schools program and the possibility of our district getting involved in this program. Community in Schools provides another level of support for each of our schools. This program surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. An onsite facilitator will assist in finding connections for the students to meet their needs. The program will fund and train facilitators for four of our schools for the next two years. Mr. Brown stated that we plan to build in the fifth school in our ESSERF funding. We anticipate that this will make a difference for our students and the level of need in our county is significant. The Board members were in agreement to go forward with this program.

**School Based Health Center**

We are looking into the possibility of a School Based Health Center at Smithville Elementary School. Ritchie Regional Health Center CEO, Amy Yocum, reached out to Mr. Brown and wanted to know if we would be interested in pursuing this. A meeting will be held with her to discuss details and expectations. We believe there is available space at the school.

**ACT / SAT Camp**

Ritchie County High School will hold ACT / SAT Camp sessions on Wednesdays (March 24, 31, and April 7). The subject areas include Math, Reading, English and Science. Students may attend all the sessions or any of their choosing.

**Waiver Status for 5-Day Instructional Delivery Model**

When the State Board of Education passed their motion to require five day instructional models Pre-K-8, because of our distance learning model, we requested a waiver for four in-person days with Wednesdays remaining as a distance learning day. Sixteen counties submitted a request for a waiver. We received a letter stating that the West Virginia Department of Education granted our request and will continue to monitor our progress toward meeting the WVBE's requirement to provide 5 full days of in-person instruction to students in grades Pre-K-8. Right now we have 311 student on distance learning. If all students will be required to return to in-person learning extra steps must be taken to address challenges, especially around social distancing. This is not an action item at this time. Mr. Brown will remain abreast of the situation.

## **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

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

- Sent out a request for proposals for new cafeteria tables and chairs at Ritchie County Middle / High School. We need to upgrade and allow for more social distancing in the cafeteria.
- Attending truancy diversion meetings with the Assistant Prosecutor, Juvenile Probation Officer, School Counselor, DHHR, students and parents. We look at grades and attendance and work to get students back on track. More meetings will be held in April
- Working with Mrs. Sonya Haught as the WEVIS contact for the PEBT Cards. As a CEP county every student is eligible for each day they were on distance learning. Schools will verify student attendance.
- Sent out a request for proposal for duct ionizers that will be installed at the Middle / High School and Smithville Elementary School. As bacteria, germs and viruses pass these devices an electrostatic charge is emitted that kills those germs.
- Looking at a cloud based video system for the buses. This uses our current video system and attaches it to a cloud system. While the buses are at the bus garage the video is uploaded to a central cloud and can be accessed by principals, transportation director, etc.

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

- Preschool Registration will be either April 28<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup> or May 5<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>. We are checking the availability of personnel and the agencies that work with us and making sure we have time to send out and receive back our registration packets.
- Students in grades 3-8 have taken their mid-year comprehensive interim assessment. A quick review indicates that all of our grades are either at the state average of mastery or above.
- PSAT for grades 8 and 9 will be given on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The SAT for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade will be given on April 13<sup>th</sup>. If the county is red at that time the SAT will be given as planned and the state department has given permission for this.
- GSA for grades 3-8 will be given the week of May 17<sup>th</sup>. Today principals and I discussed having a trial run to assure that the connectivity is appropriate and sustainable while all students are logged on at the same time.
- Working on scheduling the distance learning students to come in for in-person testing for the GSA and SAT

## **POLICY REVIEW**

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Mr. Nelson, that the Board approve the following policy as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve revised Policy 5180 Personal Leave Incentive Program to be placed on comment period for first reading

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

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

- Approve Hilltop Academy as an off-campus practice site for Ritchie County High School Softball and Baseball teams 2021 season
- Approve Lake Field and Town Park in Harrisville as an off-campus practice site for Ritchie County Middle School Softball team 2021 season
- Approve Ritchie County Middle School Girls Softball schedule 2021
- Approve Ritchie County Middle School Track schedule 2021

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Resignations**

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

- Approve resignation of Janice Schimmel, Chemistry / Physics Teacher at Ritchie County High School effective June 30, 2021
- Approve resignation of Robin Haddox, Social Studies Teacher (8<sup>th</sup> grade) at Ritchie County Middle School for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2021
- Approve resignation of Lauren Shaffer, Extracurricular Assignment as Credit Recovery Math Teacher at Ritchie County High School effective June 30, 2021
- Approve resignation of Brenda Cox, Substitute Teacher Countywide effective June 30, 2021
- Approve resignation of Cindy Newland, Substitute Teacher Countywide effective June 30, 2021
- Approve resignation of Sharon Smith, Substitute Teacher Countywide effective June 30, 2021
- Approve resignation of Nancy Garcia, Substitute Teacher Countywide effective June 30, 2021
- Approve resignation of Nedra Riggins, Substitute Secretary Countywide effective June 30, 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 Bob Bolin, Authorized / Certified (Non-Paid) Assistant Baseball Coach at Ritchie County High School for the 2020-2021 School Year
- Approve Regular Employee Substitute Teacher Coverage Assignment Agreement retroactively effective January 19, 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 \$391,177.54

### **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 Requests: Transfers in the amount of \$314,574.00  
Supplements in the amount of \$94,804.00

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

None

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Superintendent Brown and Dr. Jackson are prepared for their SBA presentation on Monday, March 15, 2021.

### **NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 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, March 19, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mrs. Ingram-Keen, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:47 PM. Motion passed unanimously.