

**RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE
HARRISVILLE, WV
JULY 16, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.**

The special meeting of the Ritchie County Board of Education was called to order on Thursday, July 16, 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. Denny Nelson
Mr. Ryan Reed (via telephone)

Administrative Staff Present: Mr. James G. Brown, Superintendent

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

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE TABLED OR REMOVED

None

PRESENTATION

Consideration of future action on an Order of the Board of Education of the County of Ritchie directing the submission to the voters of Ritchie County at a General Election to be held November 3, 2020.

Joseph Nassif, Managing Director Piper Sandler and Company, presented an overview of financial details associated with the contemplated issuance of public school bonds for the new construction of a turf football field and eight-lane all-weather track at Ritchie County Middle / High School, a Harrisville Elementary School and a Creed Collins Elementary School.

Roger Hunter (and Thompson R. Percy via Microsoft Teams), Attorney's Bowles Rice LLP, presented an overview of a proposed Bond Election Order of the Board of Education of the County of Ritchie directing an election to be held for the purpose of submitting to the voters of Ritchie County School District all questions connected with the contracting of a debt and the issuing of bonds in the principal amount not to exceed five million six hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$5,630,000.00).

All Board Members were in consensus that at the next regular Board of Education meeting, July 27, 2020, Superintendent Brown present a Bond Order in the amount of \$5,630,000.00 for a term of 15.6 years with a maximum interest rate of 5%.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Brown reviewed the following information:

Status Update on Ritchie County Schools Re-entry Plan 2020-2021

Transition Entry to School

- First day of school will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020
- We will stagger re-entry with certain grades reporting on assigned days. Starting Monday, September 28th, all students Preschool through 12 will be in attendance.
- Students will attend in person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday with Wednesday being designated as a distance learning day at home. Distance learning may include homework, digital learning tools or learning activities.
- Classrooms and congregant areas will be sanitized at the end of each day
- Two bottles of water will be provided for each student daily

Entry to School / Health Checks

- Students will be assigned seats on the school bus
- Student temperatures will be taken and recorded at the entry of the school building using a Thermal Scanner System or by a designated staff member responsible for screening using a touchless thermometer.

Face Coverings / Masks

- Students Preschool through 12th grade are required to wear a face covering or mask while riding the bus to and from school
- Elementary students in preschool, kindergarten and first grade are required to wear a face covering or mask when outside their core classroom group or in congregant areas

- Students in grades 2 through 12 are required to wear a face covering or mask in congregant areas and in classrooms
- Any student who cannot wear a face mask due to a health conditions, a mental health condition or disability and students who would be unable to remove a mask without assistance are not required to wear face coverings

Attendance Options

Parents will be mailed a Re-entry to School Intent Form for their child. The parents are required to return the intent form to the Board Office with their chosen option.

Option I: Traditional In Person Learning (Preschool – Grade 12)

Option II: Ritchie County Schools Distance Learning Program (Preschool – Grade 12)

Students will work at home five days a week with instructional assignments provided by their teacher. They are expected to be able to actively participate virtually via TEAMS when directed. Students who attend MOVTI are not eligible for this learning model.

Option III: West Virginia Department of Education Virtual Schools Program (Grades K-12)

Our district will utilize the West Virginia Virtual Schools program (WVVS) to facilitate the required virtual option for students in grades K-12 with a teacher provided by the West Virginia Department of Education.

*All options allow for students to participate in extra-curricular activities including athletics.

Particulars

- Buses will be sanitized before and after each run.
- Hand sanitizer will be placed on each bus
- Hand sanitizer and temperature reading stations will be placed at the entrance to each school
- Splash guards will be installed in the school offices for the secretaries
- Masks and shields have been ordered
- Sanitizing equipment has been ordered
- Elementary students stay in their core classrooms to minimize cross contamination
- Students will report directly to homeroom or first period class and will eat breakfast in the classroom. Lunch will be served in the classroom also.

Mrs. Wells asked that “If an employee were to be exposed at their work location and are required to quarantine will they have to use their sick leave days”? Mr. Brown said that there is something in place for that through the CARES act. If an employee is exposed and has to be off for three days pending test results they will not have to use sick leave for that. If they are exposed and have to quarantine for a period of 10 days they have up to 80 hours they can use through the CARES act. There is an additional extension that is based on a percentage. The employee can use sick leave to get 100%, or they can go through the CARES act for either 80% or 60%.

Dr. Jackson asked how the attendance policy will be altered. Mr. Brown said the state department is working on this. Attendance will be taken for students attending in person. Distance learning students will be considered to be actively engaged in learning. If a student is quarantined they will immediately be transferred to the distance learning model. Attendance is a moving target.

PERSONNEL

Resignations Submitted after Publication of the Agenda

None

Employments or Transfers and Rescissions

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

- Approve Nancy Jenkins, Preschool Special Needs Teacher at Harrisville Elementary School pending meeting all requirements effective for the 2020-2021 school year
- Approve job description for Licensed Practical Nurse
- Approve posting a Licensed Practical Nurse countywide assignment to Creed Collins Elementary School if determined to be needed in response to the COVID 19 pandemic
- Approve posting a Licensed Practical Nurse countywide assignment to Harrisville Elementary School if determined to be needed in response to the COVID 19 pandemic
- Approve posting a Licensed Practical Nurse countywide assignment to Smithville Elementary School if determined to be needed in response to the COVID 19 pandemic
- Approve posting a Licensed Practical Nurse countywide assignment to Ritchie County Middle / High School if determined to be needed in response to the COVID 19 pandemic
- Approve posting a Custodian position countywide assignment to the bus garage if determined to be needed in response to the COVID 19 pandemic

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, July 27, 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, July 24, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mr. Nelson moved, seconded by Mrs. Ingram-Keen, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:22 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.