

**RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE
HARRISVILLE, WV
JULY 29, 2021 – 6:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the Ritchie County Board of Education was called to order on Thursday, July 29, 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

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE TABLED OR REMOVED

Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to approve the following agenda item to tabled or removed. Motion passed unanimously.

L.3e Approve (Clinical Teacher of Record) Social Studies Teacher at Ritchie County Middle School effective for the 2021-2022 school year pending meeting all requirements

MINUTES

Mr. Nelson moved, seconded by Mrs. Ingram-Keen, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 12, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

DELEGATIONS

None

RECOGNITION

Superintendent Brown presented Chloe Elliott with a certificate of recognition for being selected as 1st Team All State in Softball.

PRESENTATION

Kelly Waggoner, Ritchie County High School Principal, and Justin Hodges, Ritchie County High School Faculty Senate President, presented the proposed revised Graduation Honors System for the 2025 Graduating Class. The RCHS Curriculum Team has been evaluating the system used to determine the top students honored at graduation. Mrs. Waggoner and Mr. Hodges contacted 21 counties to inquire about their system of honoring their top students. Around 50% said they do not have valedictorian and salutatorian and went on to explain their selection process. Ritchie County High School LSIC and Faculty Senate were in favor of revising the graduation honors system. Mr. Hodges noted that the comments he received indicated that the revised graduation honors system makes it, across the board, more equitable for all students to reach their highest potential.

Superintendent Brown asked if it was okay with the Board to bring this policy for first comment at the next meeting. All Board members were in agreement.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Update on Ritchie County High School Baseball Lighting Project

The lights at the RCHS football field are at least 30 years old. They are under 30 lumens when the recommended standard is 30 lumens. The current lights are hard to find, difficult to replace, and expensive. Musco lighting is the preferred company across the state for school athletic lighting. A Musco electrician evaluated the RCHS football field infrastructure and found it to be outdated and no longer in code. The cost of lights for the baseball field basically doubled because we have to upgrade the entire infrastructure. A quote for LED lighting at the football field, infrastructure upgrade and lights at the baseball field was \$661,145.00. The cost separation is significant as \$200,000.00 was built into the budget for baseball field lighting. It is not feasible to proceed this fall with installing baseball lights.

Opening of Schools Schedules and Updates

On Friday, August 13, those employees who have not completed their Safe Schools Online training are required to report to a Ritchie County High School computer lab to complete the online training. On Monday, August 16, there will be a reception from 8:00 am – 8:30 am in the commons area. All employees will move to the auditorium at 8:30 for employee recognition and the opening ceremony. Mr. Brown hopes all Board members will be able to attend. Professional learning is scheduled for service and professional personnel Monday and Tuesday as well as Faculty Senate meetings. Wednesday, August 18, is a prep day.

Purchase Vaping Detectors at Ritchie County Middle/High School

We are purchasing vaping detectors for Ritchie County Middle/High School. This real time digital process will send an alert when vaping is detected. The vaping detectors, along with the camera systems in hallways, will help put an end to the vaping problem. Detectors will be placed in middle school and high school bathrooms and other designated areas.

CDC Guidelines / DHHR Recommendations / West Virginia Department of Education Guidance

Mr. Brown reviewed the most recent CDC COVID-19 guidelines, highlighting such areas as: prevention strategies, consistent and correct mask usage recommendations, physical distancing, ventilation, quarantining, contact tracing, screening and testing. Current COVID-19 statistics for Ritchie County: 4 cases over the last 7 days (3 active), 3.7 daily positivity rate, 39.5% vaccination rate, 45% of 12 year olds and above with at least one vaccine. The State Department of Education indicated further guidance will be issued early next week. Mr. Brown said that we respect any parent who would want their child to wear a mask on the school bus or in school. But, unless otherwise mandated, our expectation and plan is to starting school under normal circumstances.

Two Year Grant Funded Positions

We are going to receive a \$55,000.00 grant for a School Based Public Health Workforce COVID-19 Response Recovery Support Service Personnel. This is a two year funded position specifically for service personnel. We have submitted our intent to participate. We are asking for Board permission to move forward, once we receive the grant award, to post the school health secretary position (215 day contract).

We also received notice and submitted our intent to participate in the Public Health Crisis Response Workforce Development Grant School Based Health Program Funding Opportunity. This is also a two year funded position for professional health personnel as may be required to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19. We would consider employing another school nurse.

POLICIES

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to approve the following policy to be placed on comment period for second reading. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve revised Policy 4020 Virtual School Program to be placed on comment period for second reading

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- Approve fall sports schedules for Ritchie County High School for the 2021-2022 school year
- Approve Ritchie County 4-H to use the Ritchie County Schools Bus Transportation Department to shuttle individuals from the Ritchie County 4-H Campgrounds to and from designated pick-up locations August 12, 2021 through August 14, 2021
- Approve nonresident student transfer requests for the 2021-2022 school year
- Approve in-county resident student transfer requests 2021-2022 school year

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Nelson, that the Board enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Motion passed unanimously and the Board entered executive session at 7:20 PM.

Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, that the Board re-enter regular session. Motion passed unanimously and the Board resumed regular session at 8:03 PM.

PERSONNEL

Resignation

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

- Approve resignation of Pam Stanley, Bus Operator Washburn-Gillespie / Cisco Area Transition Camp Summer 2021 retroactively to July 20, 2021

Resignations Submitted After Publication of the Agenda

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to approve the following resignations. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve resignation of Vickie Williams, School Secretary at Smithville Elementary School effective August 5, 2021
- Approve resignation of Nancy Jenkins, Preschool Teacher at Harrisville Elementary School effective July 29, 2021

Employments or Transfers and Rescissions

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mr. Nelson moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to approve the following employments or transfers and rescissions and additional agenda item to be tabled. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve compensation for Chris Wells, Assistant Principal / Athletic Director for 5.5 contract days from the 2020-2021 school year at his daily rate of pay
- Approve Rachel Engel, Science / Chemistry Teacher at Ritchie County High School effective for the 2021-2022 school year pending meeting all requirements
- Approve Justin Hodges, Multi Categorical LD/BD/MI (Including Autism) Teacher at Ritchie County High School effective for the 2021-2022 school year pending meeting all requirements

- Approve Leandra Parsons, Substitute School Nurse Countywide retroactively to July 12, 2021
- Approve Robin Haddox, Substitute Teacher Countywide effective for the 2021-2022 school year
- Approve Adam Nohe, Substitute Teacher Countywide effective for the 2021-2022 school year
- Approve James Andrew Cain, Substitute Bus Operator Countywide effective July 29, 2021 pending meeting all requirements
- Approve Nora Smith, Substitute Aide Countywide effective July 29, 2021 pending meeting all requirements
- Approve Terry Williams, Assistant Cross-Country Coach at Ritchie County Middle / High School effective for the 2021-2022 school year pending meeting all requirements
- Agenda item to be tabled: L.3j Approve Delbert Smith, Substitute Custodian County effective July 29, 2021 pending meeting all requirements

Employments for Summer 2021 Positions

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, to approve the following employments for summer 2021 positions. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve Leandra Parsons, School Nurse for the Outdoor Recreation Camp Summer 2021 retroactively to July 12, 2021
- Approve Holli Vaughan, Teacher for the Outdoor Recreation Camp Summer 2021 retroactively to July 12, 2021
- Approve Jill Brewer, Teacher for the Outdoor Recreation Camp Summer 2021 retroactively to July 12, 2021
- Approve Jean Freeland, Teacher for the Outdoor Recreation Camp Summer 2021 retroactively to July 12, 2021

ALLOWED AND AUTHORIZED PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mrs. Ingram-Keen moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, that the Board allow and authorize the following payment of bills. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve payment of bills in the sum of \$124,026.67
- Approve monthly payment to Union Bank for Energy Performance Contract in the sum of \$10,531.90
- Approve purchase of 47 Newline TruTouch TT-8619RS+ Series 86" Interactive Boards through InSight in the amount of \$134,826.50

FINANCIAL REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL

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

- Approve ~~Sensible Solutions~~ Michele Santer to provide contracted services for Occupational Therapy effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

WVSSAC Grade Point Average to Participate in Interscholastic Athletics Waiver

Discuss possible action under consideration by the West Virginia Board of Education at its regular meeting to be held on August 11, 2021, whether to approve a waiver of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Series 2 Athletics, Provisions Governing Eligibility Section 6.6., Students Must Maintain a 2.0 Grade Point Average to Participate in Interscholastic Athletics.

After discussion the Board agreed to issue a letter of support against the waiver. Dr. Jackson will compose the letter.

SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION GOALS FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, to approve the Superintendent's Evaluation Goals for the 2021-2022 School Year. Motion passed unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. Jackson attended a State Board Training Standards Review Committee meeting. They compiled an agenda for the West Virginia School Board Association Fall Conference to be held on September 10th and 11th in Charleston.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, August 9, 2021, at 6:00 PM 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, August 6, 2021, at 4:00 PM.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Nelson, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:16 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

