

**RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
RITCHIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE
HARRISVILLE, WV
AUGUST 24, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Ritchie County Board of Education was called to order on Monday, August 24, 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

Absent:
Mr. Ryan Reed

Administrative Staff Present: Mr. James G. Brown, Superintendent, Mrs. April Haight, Director of Instructional Services and Personnel and Mrs. Lori Wells, Treasurer and Director of Finance.

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

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE TABLED OR REMOVED

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, Mr. Nelson moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to table the following agenda items. Motion passed unanimously.

- J2.a Approve Multi Categorical LD/BD/MI Special Education Teacher Including Autism at Ritchie County High School
- J2.d Approve Licensed Practical Nurse at Harrisville Elementary School
- J2.e Approve Licensed Practical Nurse at Creed Collins Elementary School
- J2.f Approve Licensed Practical Nurse at Smithville Elementary School
- J2.i Approve Assistant Cheerleading Coach at Ritchie County High School
- J2.m Approve Mentor for Art Teacher at Harrisville Elementary and Creed Collins Elementary Schools

MINUTES

Mrs. Ingram-Keen moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to approve the preliminary minutes of the regular meeting of August 10, 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

DELEGATIONS

None

RECOGNITIONS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Brown reviewed the following information:

Ritchie County Schools Updated Reentry to School Plan

One element that has changed is moving our preschool model to two days per week; Group A on Monday and Tuesday and Group B on Thursday and Friday. The number of students registered for preschool screening is in the low eighties. We have time to pivot to a four day schedule if we find it necessary.

Update on Student Reentry Intent Forms

Right now we have 871 or 73% for in person learning, 313 or 26% for distance learning and 11 or 1% for WVDE Virtual School. We have 26 new homeschool students.

Proposal for Distance Learning Teacher Supplement

Given the additional work responsibility and time required of classroom teachers and professional support personnel including Title I and Special Education Teachers during the COVID 19 pandemic, we would like to pay our employees a \$500.00 supplement per semester as compensation for the delivery of distance learning instruction. Should school resume to in person learning for all students at the start of the second semester we would not provide the supplement at that time.

Projected Bus Seating Capacity

On a 72 passenger bus with two to a seat we can transport 51 students. Given strict transportation guidelines schools will not be accepting day to day bus pass requests. Students are to ride their designated bus to and from school and home unless they are parent pick up. There is just not enough room on the bus to have this flexibility.

Revised Arrival and Dismissal Times for Schools

Start times will be 8:00 a.m. at each school. Dismissal time at all three elementary schools will be 2:30 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. at the middle/high school. No bus will arrive at the elementary schools before 7:30 a.m. This time change is only for the 2020-2021 school year.

Middle and High School Athletic Competitions

Mr. Brown presented the Board with the WVSSAC Requirements for Attendance at Extracurricular Activities. The color-coded system identifies counties by the level of COVID 19 in each county. Only counties identified as green or yellow may have athletic and extracurricular activities and must limit attendance at these functions according to the Guide for Spectators at Athletic Contests. Band will not participate at football games and cheerleaders will only participate at home games. We will be unable to use the NHFS pay per few system due to a conflict in the purchasing agreement terms.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Mrs. April Haught, Director of Instructional Services and Personnel reviewed the following information:

- All student iPads will be updated. The update will take approximately 1 hour 45 minutes.
- In Person Learning students will bring their iPad and instructional materials on the first day of school. The updated iPads will be returned to the students on their second day of school.
- Distance Learning students are asked to physically return their iPad and instructional materials to their school on August 26th. An evening drop off has been set up at the middle/high school. A day will be set for them to pick up their updated iPad and new instructional materials.
- We have replaced most of the smartboards in the high school with large smart televisions. We have a schedule to install televisions in the middle school and elementary schools.
- We have iPads for every student from Kindergarten through 12th grade. However, college courses require the use of laptops. We have updated 120 laptops for students to use for college courses and virtual school.
- After researching different delivery platforms for the distance learning model we will continue to use LiveGrades to communicate with parents and log grades. The other model we chose to use is Apple Schoolwork. It allows teachers to distribute and collect assignments, monitor student progress and collaborate with students. Teachers will be trained this week on the Apple Schoolwork program.
- A technology training will be held tomorrow for all new teacher.
- We are still interviewing for posted jobs. We have long term substitutes in vacant positions.
- The Teacher Evaluation system has changed and teachers will be trained on this tomorrow
- We have our external contact points at all the schools for the Kids Connect Initiative

Mrs. Lori Wells, Treasurer and Director of Finance reviewed the following information:

- Getting the spring orders in place and delivered to the schools
- Participated in the certified list training webinar last week
- Have begun working on the financial statements
- Working on end of year balances and budgets in preparation to roll over into this year
- Gave all the principals their remaining and current balances
- Will have a conference call this Thursday with SFO. School Funds Online is the financial program the schools use. There have been some updates to this program.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- Approve revised School Arrival and Dismissal Times for the 2020-2021 school year
- Approve District Reentry to School Full Operational Plan
- Approve Out-of-County Transfers to Ritchie County for the 2020-2021 school year
- Approve Transportation Routes for the 2020-2021 school year

PERSONNEL

Resignations

None

Resignations Submitted after Publication of the Agenda

None

Employments or Transfers and Rescissions

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

- Approve Laura Taylor, 6th Grade Multi Subject Teacher at Ritchie County Middle School effective August 24, 2020
- Approve Amy Haddix, Custodian III / Groundsman / General Maintenance at Bus Garage / Countywide effective August 24, 2020
- Approve Jamie Molina, Licensed Practical Nurse at Ritchie County Middle / High School effective August 24, 2020
- Approve Betsy Utt, Assistant Cheerleading Coach at Ritchie County Middle effective August 24, 2020
- Approve Jacob Clevenger, Athletic Coordinator at Ritchie County Middle School effective August 24, 2020
- Approve Rae Anne Hogan, Mentor for High School Teacher (English / Language Arts) at Ritchie County High School effective August 24, 2020
- Approve Regina Davis, Mentor for Middle School Teacher (Math) at Ritchie County Middle School effective August 24, 2020

ALLOWED AND AUTHORIZED PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

- Approve Payment of Bills in the Sum of \$152,910.57

FINANCIAL REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL

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

- Approve monthly payment to Union Bank for Energy Performance Contract in the sum of \$10,531.90

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE

A Special Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 01, 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, August 28, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

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