

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE TO WIT:

The Hampshire County Board of Education held a special meeting, their seventeenth (17th) meeting of the 2020-2021 school year on Friday, January 15, 2021 at the Offices of the Hampshire County Board of Education. A regular meeting followed.

The following Board members were in attendance: Miss Debra Ann Champ, President; Mr. Ed Morgan, Vice President and Mr. Bernard Hott, Mrs. Deadre Rinker and Mr. Matthew Trimble, members.

President Champ called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Prayer was given by Superintendent Pancione followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

WORK SESSION:

Amy Haines, Child Nutrition Director/Attendance Director, gave an update on her programs and answered questions from the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Superintendent Pancione recommended that Board members approve the agenda.

Mr. Morgan moved approval with Mrs. Rinker seconding the motion that passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE:

Casey Hite, First Grade Teacher at Romney Elementary and parent, requested that Board members consider remote learning until the county has better numbers or staff can be fully vaccinated.

WORK SESSION: (Continued)

Board members met with directors, Lead Nurse, Rhonda Dante and Stephanie Shoemaker, Hampshire County Health Department Director, to discuss the return of students to the classroom. Topics of discussion were attendance issues and next steps, failure rates and the graduation rate.

Pam Slocum, Personnel Director, gave an update on personnel matters and answered questions from the Board. Their main concern was the number of substitutes (all areas) available if students were to return to the regular classrooms.

Michael Dufrene, Principal at Hampshire High, discussed the graduation rate and measures being taken to help students who are struggling. “We want to do what is best for the students. We want our kids back but, only if it is safe. If it is not safe, then keep us out. Let’s stay virtual. I would request that if you do vote on an A-B schedule, that you wait until January 25th for the new semester to begin.”

Rhonda Dante, Lead School Nurse and Stephanie Shoemaker, Director of the Hampshire County Health Department, discussed the administration of the vaccine for COVID 19 and COVID numbers. “At this time, the infection rate is declining and we are good with supplies,” stated Mrs. Shoemaker. “One hundred and fifty have received their first dose (of the vaccine)”, stated Mrs. Dante.

APPEARANCES: (Continued)

Cindy Price, Teacher at Romney Elementary, discussed the re-opening of schools. “It (the map) is still red. We need to return only when it is safe.”

Kim Poland, Aide at Hampshire High, discussed re-entry concerns and requested that Board members consider allowed options. “The West Virginia Service Personnel Association conducted a survey of members and they (the majority) want to bring everyone back to school after all vaccines are received. Our COVID days are gone. Why do we have to use sick days (for COVID)? The CARES act is supposed to be used for paying for COVID days.”

Patty Lipps, Elementary and Middle School Curriculum Director, discussed the return of students to school. “We have had very few cases during school. Numbers increased over the holidays but that was because of the congregating of families. Remote learning is not working. We need to return students but everyone must do their part and wear masks.”

Superintendent Pancione shared that currently 41 counties (out of 55) had responded and were going back to school. Two counties were going to continue with remote learning.

President Champ shared that she had attended a TEAMS meeting with other Board Presidents throughout the state. The question was asked (at that meeting) “What if we go against the State Board (and decide not to return to brick and mortar)?” Ms. Champ stated that no definite answer was given.

Mr. Hott stated that “kids need to be back in school but staff safety is important.”

REGULAR MEETING:

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Superintendent Pancione recommended that Board members approve the January 4, 2021 Board of Education minutes.

Mrs. Rinker moved approval with Mr. Trimble seconding the motion that passed unanimously.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEM:

Board members were given the following informational item.

A copy of December's Attendance Report as submitted by Amy Haines, Attendance Director.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Superintendent Pancione recommended that Board members approve the following consent agenda item for Hampshire High:

A. School Item:
Fundraiser:

Hampshire High:
FFA: strawberry sales

Mr. Morgan moved approval with Mr. Trimble seconding the motion that passed unanimously.

Superintendent Pancione recommended that Board members approve the following consent agenda items for finance and personnel.

B. Finance Item:

Bills to be paid

C. Personnel Items:

1. Transfer and Employment of Professional Personnel:

- a. Employ Kelly Morris as a long term substitute for a special education teacher at Augusta Elementary (201-88) effective February 1, 2021
- b. Employ Adam Fezell as a part time Adult Basic Education Teacher at Hampshire High (501-92) effective January 20, 2021
- c. Employ Lorrenda Gnegy as a part time Adult Basic Education Teacher at Hampshire High (501-92) effective January 20, 2021
- d. Employ Russell Conrad as a part time Adult Basic Education Teacher at Hampshire High (501-92) effective January 20, 2021
- e. Employ Jodi Hoover as a long term substitute for a Grade 6 teacher at Capon Bridge Middle (401-94) effective January 20, 2021

2. Resignation and Retirement of Professional Personnel:

- a. Resignation of E. Stephen Keener as a substitute teacher, effective January 4, 2021
- b. Resignation of Aaron Leatherman as a long term substitute Social Studies teacher at Hampshire High, effective January 5, 2021

3. Resignation and Retirement of Service Personnel:
 - a. Retirement of Greg Snyder, Head Custodian at Romney Elementary, effective June 30, 2021
 - b. Retirement of Salli Ganoë, Itinerant Classroom Aide/Transportation Aide/ Kindergarten ECCAT at Romney Elementary, effective June 30, 2021
 - c. Retirement of Joyce Tenney, Custodian at Romney Elementary, effective June 30, 2021
 - d. Retirement of Janet Ravenscroft, Itinerant Classroom Aide/Transportation Aide/ Pre-Kindergarten ECCAT at Capon Bridge Middle, effective June 30, 2021
 - e. Retirement of Marci James, Secretary at Capon Bridge Elementary, effective June 30, 2021
 - f. Retirement of Linda Gaither, Itinerant Classroom Aide/Transportation Aide/ Pre-Kindergarten ECCAT at Romney Elementary, effective June 30, 2021
 - g. Retirement of Dorothy Meadows, Itinerant Classroom Aide/Transportation Aide/ Autism Mentor at Romney Middle, effective June 30, 2021
 - h. Resignation of Laura Duerr as a long term substitute for School Bus Operator for Route RM1, to cover an employee leave of absence, effective January 14, 2021
 - i. Resignation of Yvonne Scribner, School Bus Operator for Route RM5, effective January 15, 2021

4. Transfer and Employment of Extracurricular Personnel:
 - a. Employ Amy Charlton as the yearbook contact at Capon Bridge Elementary (209-52) effective January 20, 2021

5. Resignation of Extracurricular Personnel:
 - a. Resignation of Bryan Potter as Assistant Baseball Coach at Hampshire High effective January 4, 2021
 - b. Resignation of Jill Whitacre, Head Volleyball Coach at Capon Bridge Middle, effective January 11, 2021

6. Other:
 - a. Approve the leave of absence of William Saville, School Bus Operator Route SL5 , from approximately January 19, 2021 through May 3, 2021. (This falls under state and federal guidelines.)

Mr. Trimble moved approval with Mr. Hott seconding the motion that passed unanimously.

V. NON-CONSENT ITEMS:

- A. Superintendent Pancione recommended that Board members discuss the land sale for Lovett's Flat (36 acres).

Mr. Morgan made a motion to proceed with the sale of Lovett's Flat for an undisclosed sum to be accepted and sold within the next sixty (60) days. Mrs. Rinker seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

B. Superintendent Pancione recommended that Board members approve the third reading and subsequent adoption of Policy 4101 – Tuition Assistance and Employment of Highly Qualified Teachers.

Mrs. Rinker moved approval with Mr. Morgan seconding the motion that passed unanimously.

C. Superintendent Pancione recommended that Board members approve the second reading of Policy 3235 – Share Table.

Mrs. Rinker moved approval with Mr. Morgan seconding the motion that passed unanimously.

D. Superintendent Pancione recommended that Board members approve the second reading of Policy 1035 – Public Questions and Concerns.

This was tabled for further perusal.

E. Superintendent Pancione recommended that Board members approve the first reading of Policy 3175 – Transportation for Curricular and Extra-Curricular Trips.

This was tabled for further perusal.

F. Superintendent Pancione recommended that Board members approve the first reading of Policy 3015 – Requirements for the Reporting of Incidents of Inappropriate Behavior into the WVEIS Discipline Management System.

Mrs. Rinker moved approval with Mr. Morgan seconding the motion that passed unanimously.

G. Superintendent Pancione recommended that Board members discuss and take action regarding the return of students to the classroom.

Mr. Morgan requested and made a motion to hold an executive session to discuss a personnel matter relating to the Superintendent's request to return students to the classroom. Mrs. Rinker seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Executive session began at 5:46 p.m. When Board members returned to the room at 6:29 p.m., Mrs. Rinker made a motion to return to regular session with Mr. Hott seconding the motion that passed unanimously. President Champ stated that no decisions were made in executive session.

Mr. Morgan made a motion to return (students) to the A-B schedule for kindergarten through eighth grade on January 19, 2021, with constant monitoring and the possibility of changing re-entry of students be of the utmost importance for K-8. Since Thursday (January 21) is a vaccine day (for county employees at the high school), Hampshire High students will return on January 25 in accordance with the WVDHHR color map. If the color is red, Hampshire High students will go back to remote learning following monitoring. We need to abide by the WVDHHR map for high school instruction with a blended A-B schedule to return to be reset every Saturday. We can back out until the following Saturday and then reset if need be. This will be revised as needed.

Following further discussion, President Champ amended the motion to add “Students will not return to the 4-1 schedule until all staff have received their vaccine and booster and when it is effective.” Mr. Morgan seconded the motion that passed 4-1. Mr. Hott voted no.

VI. OTHER:

Board members requested a refresher course be held for cleaning strategies for schools. Superintendent Pancione stated that he would discuss this at the next principals’ meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p. m.

Jeffrey Pancione, Secretary
Hampshire County Board of Education

Debra Ann Champ, President
Hampshire County Board of Education