

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE TO WIT:

The Hampshire County Board of Education held a special meeting, their twenty-second (22nd) meeting of the 2020-2021 school year, on Thursday, April 1, 2021 at the Offices of the Hampshire County Board of Education

PURPOSE: The special meeting was held in order to conduct a work session.

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 8:05 a.m.

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

I. Superintendent Pancione recommended that Board members approve the agenda.

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

II. APPEARANCE(S):

There were no appearances.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Superintendent Pancione recommended that Board members approve the March 15, 2021 Board of Education minutes.

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

WORK SESSION:

8:06 a.m. Mike Dufrene, Hampshire High Principal, discussed the following:

- Plans for graduation\prom\other end of year activities –**senior day** is scheduled for the end of April – probably April 30. Plans are to have a field day, picnic, music, etc. with lunch provided. Probably around 3 hours from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **senior prom** – scheduled for Saturday, May 15. This prom will be for seniors only – no guests. “I want to keep our kids safe.” **Graduation** is scheduled for Friday, May 28th at 6:00 p.m. for seniors only. This event is planned for outside but in case of inclement weather, the event will be moved inside. Saturday, **May 29th will be for seniors and family only.** The senior will have to sign up beforehand. This is for full family with no limit on numbers. The baccalaureate service, FFA banquet and athletic banquet will be held

virtually. The local health department as well as the state department requested that events be held at least two weeks apart to keep COVID numbers down. (All plans could be changed with more stringent or more lenient regulations.)

- Graduation rates – at the end of the first semester there were 41 students in danger of failing. Currently, the number has fallen – 30 improved with 11 in danger.
- Failure and absentee rates – virtual students indicate the most failures. Students need to be back in school.
- Work Study options going forward – there is a need for a home-based instructor.
- Required credits – we need to set the bar high – what skills are students lacking? Board members suggested adding life skills (building a resume', how to maintain a checkbook, change the oil in their vehicle, etc.).
- Collegiate readiness\Counselor Activities – Board members requested that counselors be proactive more than reactive. Counselors need to be meeting with their students one-on-one at least twice a year to explain scholarships, the INVEST program, careers, helping with FASFA forms, etc. Counselors need to be more student orientated and less task orientated.
- Other matters of concern or interest – suspensions are down because the kids are happy to be at school. We are seeing more follow-through.

At this point, it was time to hold a virtual meeting regarding the bond. Mr. Dufrene took a break and resumed his presentation after the virtual meeting portion.

10:00 a.m.

- Bond Attorney and Financial Advisor Meeting

Virtual (TEAMS) meeting with Tom Aman, Steptoe & Johnson (Bond Counsel) and Joseph Nassif, Piper Sandler (Financial Advisor) was held. Mr. Aman and Mr. Nassif explained the latest document regarding the sale of bonds, the timeline and the resolution. After their presentation, Superintendent Pancione recommended that Board members adopt the Supplemental Bond Resolution approving the Preliminary Official Statement and other matters in connection with the issuance of the Bonds (consideration of adoption and entry of a supplemental resolution approving the form of preliminary official statement and notice of sale relating to the issuance of bonds of the Board of Education of the County of Hampshire in the amount not to exceed \$26,200,000 to be issued and sold for the purpose of providing funds for making certain improvements in the Hampshire County School District).

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

Work session resumes

Principal Dufrene continues

Other matters

- a. Moving forward – taking HHS to the next level – want to hold a welcome back celebration for the 2021-2022 school year.

- i. Higher expectation with valuable skills that will produce highly qualified graduates that are better prepared for the real world.
 - 1. Academic Rigor – dual enrolled courses (earn an associate degree in high school), the CTE program is good but the academic rigor is lacking.
 - 2. Workplace skills – teach skills that are needed in today’s workplace – let business people help out here – need more hands-on activities – build training centers.

Professional Development is needed for teachers to think outside of the box. Employers are looking for people who can pass a drug test, show up and know how to communicate.

Meeting with Ernie Dellatorre, Architect (in-person)

- New School Construction Update and Schedule: Mr. Dellatorre shared project schedules regarding Central and West Elementary (construction slated to begin April 4, 2022) Capon Bridge Elementary (gym addition – construction slated to begin on September 6, 2021) and North Elementary (construction slated to begin on April 20, 2023). The gym (at Capon Bridge Elementary) should take less than a year to complete. Bond proceeds will be paid out in three (3) years. Surveys will occur. The CEFP committee and others involved (staff) will be invited to share design ideas.
- Demolition – currently, there is a small glitch regarding the demolition of the former Hampshire Memorial Hospital.
- Land Purchase – the closing for the land at Augusta Elementary (Arnold Hott property) will be held on April 19.

Patty Lipps, Curriculum Director (Elementary and Middle Schools)

Mrs. Lipps shared the following information – retention rates, summer program, professional development opportunities and textbook adoptions for elementary and middle school curriculum.

- Student Performance
 - Elementary & Middle Schools
 - Student Success Rates – There is a large number of kindergarten students that are going to be retained. Capon Bridge Middle is showing a lot of student growth. Capon Bridge Elementary and John J. Cornwell struggle at times.
 - Plans to remediate lost classroom time – several avenues are being implemented – small groups, constant parent contact, virtual Fridays, providing more information to teachers for support, using Title I teachers and Professional Support Personnel, after-school tutoring offered in all schools (except Capon Bridge Elementary – no teacher applicants) and academic intervention plans.

Mrs. Slocum, Personnel Director

Mrs. Slocum shared the following information – the personnel side of consolidated schools, priority voting, school closure and hiring process, school closings and time line, open positions, certified staffing vs. long-term substitutes and COVID funded positions. “We want to do this (personnel moves) correctly. We don’t need any grievances,” stated Mr. Hott.

- **Special Education Update**
 - **Testing**
 - **IEP Statuses**
 - **Schools from whom services were removed**
 - **Parent\guardian education**
 - **Other matters of concern or interest**
- **COVID funding**
 - **Guidelines**
 - **Plans for expenditures**
 - **Guidance on philosophy from the board**
- **Goal and mission statement discussion**
(The items in bold will be discussed at a later meeting due to time constraints.)

IV. OTHER:

Superintendent Pancione shared the following: all schools have been shut down to outsiders, textbooks have been chosen and will cost approximately \$550,000.00, is approving in-county field trips that are no more than 15 minutes from the school as long as students are staying “in their pod”, bump-up day (to be held on a virtual Friday) and the pumpkin race will be limited with no parent or family involvement. All measures are consistent with guidelines from the local health department as well as the state department.

President Champ requested that all grades throughout the county be consistent. If students have chosen virtual school, they should be in-line with brick and mortar students.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p. m.

Jeffrey Pancione, Secretary
Hampshire County Board of Education

Debra Ann Champ, Secretary
Hampshire County Board of Education