

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 13, 2014

The Hancock County Board of Education met on Monday, January 13, 2014, in the Board Office, New Cumberland, commencing at 5:30 p.m. Board Members present: Patsy Brancazio, Laura Greathouse, Toni Hinerman, John Manypenny, and Jerry Durante.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following minutes were approved; motion by John Manypenny, second by Toni Hinerman, motion carried by all.

Regular Meeting – December 16, 2013

Special Meeting – December 18, 2013

Special Meeting – January 6, 2014

INFORMATION

1. RESA 6 – Pre-K Teacher of the Year

Susan Mastrantoni, Pre-K teacher at Liberty Elementary School, was recognized by Sue Smith as having been awarded RESA 6 Pre-K Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Ms. Smith stated that each Pre-K applicant had to submit a biography, a video, and documentation of how the applicant addresses a broad range of instructional practices and priorities, supports children in learning through interaction with others, incorporates shared goals across programs and grade levels. Each RESA is permitted to nominate 2 teachers (one collaborative and one non-collaborative). Ms. Smith then introduced Susan and asked her to step forward to be recognized by the Board and presented a certificate by Board President, Jerry Durante. Kasey Arnott took a picture of Mrs. Manstrantoni and Mr. Durante.

Mrs. Mastrantoni then addressed the Board and thanked them for the recognition and she was honored to represent Hancock County Schools. She stated that although she works very hard to be the best in her field she could not have done it alone; she mentioned Erica Sauer who has given her the tools and support to be successful at implementing the Conscious Discipline strategies, she thanked Mrs. Stephanie Brown, the staff at Liberty Elementary and especially Brianna Schons her pre-school aide.

2. Oak Glen High School Marching Band

Ms. Smith announced that Oak Glen High School's Marching Band won First Place in the category Best Marching Group in the East Liverpool Christmas Parade. The band was awarded a trophy and a \$100.00 donation to the band program. Ms. Smith also mentioned there was going to be another huge honor coming for Liberty Elementary but was not at liberty to mention it specifically yet. She said the county is awaiting official word.

3. Update on the 2014 – 2015 school calendar

Ms. Smith spoke about the trip she and Dawn Petrovich made to the School Calendar Workshop held in Bridgeport, WV on January 15, 2014 to review the changes of the State Calendar Policy will have the county implement for the 2014-2015 school year. Some of the changes include that all counties must have 180 separate calendar days of instruction. These days must be full days, this would not include days with 2 hours delays or early dismissals. It was noted that accrued time can be used. The calendar serves a dual purpose; it serves as a school calendar and an employee calendar. The term has been extended from 43 to 48 weeks.

Another change is that there must be two public hearings regarding the calendar. These hearings must be published as a Class II legal advertisement, which means they must be published once a week for two successive weeks. They must be Class II legal hearings and they have been scheduled on February 17 and March 17, 2014 at 5:00pm at the John D. Rockefeller IV Career Center in the IMC. Ms. Smith also stated that Hancock County Board Members must be in attendance at these hearings.

Ms. Smith also wanted to make certain that it was noted that this is not a balanced, year round calendar. There must also be a local policy developed that requires the recovery of all instructional time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals. The county must allow time for Faculty Senate meetings also. Ms. Smith stated that May 1, 2014 is the due date to establish the 2014-2015 calendar.

Ms. Smith mentioned her concern and the concern of other county superintendents with the amount of snow days the county has already incurred and the fear of what may lie ahead for the county. She noted, “we still have a long way to go with bad weather”. She stated this year we have already had 3 snow days and will probably have to interrupt Easter break and use an OS day at Easter and one at the end of the school year. She mentioned that the county is contemplating sending out a survey with about 4 to 5 questions asking for recommendations as to how employees would like to see the calendar built. These questions may be, what you would recommend as a start date, ending date, Easter break, Thanksgiving break, and Christmas break?

Laura Greathouse asked what would happen to the calendar if Hancock County experienced a State of Emergency like the one occurring in Southern West Virginia with water contamination. Ms. Smith said that only the Governor could call a “State of Emergency” and we would then be able to get around the required 180 days of instruction.

Mr. Branczio then voiced his concern that the legislature implements these changes in the calendar and then leaves it up to the county to “muddle” through it. He mentioned that he believes that our employees and students are the ones that are going to have to carry the brunt of the changes and those who created it will go along like nothing is going on. Ms. Smith stated that it may just come down to having to cancel school instead of having 2 hour delays. She said that four 2 hour delays would equal one full school day according to the information given at the workshop.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. FINANCE

1. LIST OF BILLS

It is recommended that the list of bills be approved for payment.

Recommendation was made by Sue Smith, motion made by John Manypenny and second by Toni Hinerman, motion carried by all.

B. MISCELLANEOUS

1. APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Authorization was requested to pay the following invoices, pending approval of the School Building Authority:

<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>SBA PROJECT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
McKinley	Weirton Elem.	\$ 5,215.49
McKinley	Weirton Elem.	\$ 176.00
Citywide	Weirton Elem.	\$ 1,756.93
Dieffenbauch & Hritz	Weirton Elem.	\$ 2,108.95
Cattrell	Weirton Elem.	\$426,050.69
Cattrell	Weirton Elem.	\$187,100.73
Enertech	Weirton Elem.	\$320,202.77
Tomko	Weirton Elem.	\$ 6,673.75
S.A. Comunale	Weirton Elem.	\$ 11,328.75
N.F.Mansuetto	Weirton Elem.	\$ 32,396.77
Flag Floors	Weirton Elem.	\$126,715.37
PCS	Weirton Elem.	\$ 32,545.00

Approval was recommended by Sue Smith, motion made by John Manypenny, second by Toni Hinerman, motion carried by all.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval was requested for the attached change order for flooring in the new Weirton Elementary School. The total amount of the change order to Flag Floors is for \$59,527.92. This would be for the epoxy in the hallway and carpet in the classrooms. Approval was recommended by Sue Smith, motion made by Patsy Brancazio, second by Toni Hinerman, motion carried by all.
2. Ms. Smith requested approval for PCS to advertise for bids for the cameras at the Weirton Elementary School. Motion was made by Toni Hinerman, second by John Manypenny, motion carried by all.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Patsy Branczio had one item of unfinished business he wanted to discuss; his concern was the status of the traffic light which was to be installed at the new Weirton Elementary school. Ms. Smith addressed this concern and reassured Mr. Branczio that the county is making progress on the flashing traffic light issue. She said she found out that the Department of Highways will not pay for new lights but will replace lights already in place in the county. The replacement lights will cost \$15,000 and that does not include installation. The DOH has agreed to replace the current flashing traffic light at Weirton Heights Elementary School and the replacement traffic light will actually be placed at the new Weirton Elementary School. She stated that the contractors at the new Weirton Elementary school already made the proper arrangements so the lights can be easily installed when they arrive.

Mr. Branczio wanted to be sure that these lights are installed as soon as possible so the public will get used to them by the time the school opens so there are no accidents/tragedies in that area. Ms. Smith and Mr. Dziatkowicz assured the Board that the proceedings are moving along and they will continue to make progress in order to get these flashing light signals installed properly and in a timely manner. It was mentioned that the DOH has a list of contractors the county can pick from to install these lights and it was suggested that it may be possible that one of the sub-contractors already on site at the new Weirton Elementary school could possibly install the lights. Mr. Dziatkowicz said that as long as they are on the approved list, this could be feasible. Laura Greathouse mentioned there should be a media blitz once the lights are installed so the public will become aware of the speed changes in that area. Ms. Smith said she will make some calls tomorrow to check on the status and to verify if any contractors currently working at the new Weirton Elementary School are on the list provided to the county by the WV Department of Highways.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

POLICY ISSUES

None.

MEETING

Mr. Durante wanted to make the suggestion that from this day forward all the meetings for the Board of Education members will be scheduled for 5:00pm instead of 5:30pm. This would include the next regular board meeting on the January 27, and hearings on February 3, February 4, and the two hearings regarding the 2014-2015 school calendar on February 17 and March 17.

Mr. Durante also mentioned a newspaper article he saw today regarding the diesel truck donated to the Rockefeller Career Center by OS Hill International. Marty Hudek commented that Mike McGowan agreed to donate the “Wal-Mart” truck to the Career Center. Mr. Hudek mentioned that it will be great for the Diesel class and that he is trying to establish working relationships with businesses in the area. OS Hill agreed to train graduates of the JDR Career Center right out high school; Mr. Hudek thinks it will be a great opportunity for our students. Mr. Durante and the Board members agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Jerry Durante at 6:20pm.

Gerald Durante, President

Suzan L. Smith, Secretary