

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAYETTE, TO-WIT:

The Board of Education of the County of Fayette, West Virginia, met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 6, 2013, in the George M. Edwards Conference Room of the Board of Education Office, 111 Fayette Avenue, Fayetteville, West Virginia. Those present were:

Steve Bush	President
Lou Jones	Vice-President
David Arritt	Members
Pat Gray	
Leon Ivey	
Keith A. Butcher	Superintendent
Dr. Serena Starcher	Associate Superintendent
Dr. Mary Lu MacCorkle	Associate Superintendent
Ron Cantley II	Director of Operations
Jean Cavalier	Director of Elementary
Mary Ann Freeman	Director of Federal Programs
Paula Fridley	Treasurer
Bob Hollandsworth	Director of Technology
Gary Hough	Director of Transportation
Anna Kincaid-Cline	Director of Secondary
Judy Lively	Director of Attendance
Dr. Linda Palenchar	Director of Special Education
Moe Shrewsberry	Computer Network Specialist
Jackie Mollohan	Executive Secretary

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bush following with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Gray.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT/INFORMATION: (not all inclusive)

Dr. James B. Phares, State Superintendent of Schools, stated his purpose for coming to the meeting was to do an overview of Fayette County's progress since receiving a non-approval status in 2007 from the Office of Education Performance Audits. He also said he would answer any questions regarding Senate Bill 359. Dr. Phares reported the WESTEST indicates progress in math, reading, and social studies but scores are still below State standards. He also reported an improvement in graduation rates, dropout rates, attendance, and participation in AP courses, honors, and college credit courses. He said there have also been gains in leadership practices, policies, and finance and procedures. He discussed the tools being developed by the use of an independent surveying company to conduct interviews and focus groups to find out the direction for Fayette County from the voters. Dr. Phares also reported on his visit to Meadow Bridge Elementary and Meadow Bridge High stating he saw a lot of empathy students have for each other and a sense of community and ownership from the teachers and students. He stated there has been no directive from him except to find out what the community wants. He closed by stating when we get to the other side of this he will be Fayette County's champion at the State Board and the School Building Authority.

Mr. Ivey thanked Dr. Phares for attending the meeting and invited him to come back to visit other schools. He expressed his concern that committees could be biased if they were made up of only "no" voters from the previous bond.

Mrs. Jones reported that we have closed 20 schools in 23 years and 3 of our elementary schools are at capacity and we have a need for upgraded technology.

Dr. Phares stated many counties are facing closure and consolidation issues. He said he has been invited to every school system in the State and will return to Fayette.

Mr. Gray thanked Dr. Phares for attending and expressed his appreciation for his comments. He said we are all trying to achieve the same outcome. He stated Meadow Bridge is a great community school with a great staff and students but asked Dr. Phares to also give attention, focus, and concentration across the entire county. He reported to Dr. Phares on speaking with a CEO from a large corporation that relayed to him the educational system in West Virginia was one prohibitory that trumped locating their facility here. Mr. Gray said corporate sponsors will be coming to visit the Summit Bechtel facility for Boy Scouts and will be looking at our school system and economy for possible site locations for their corporation. He stated an improved school system could promote job growth and enable our children to stay and work in Fayette County.

Mr. Arritt stated he likes our school system and that's why he chose to live in Fayette County. He reported he was elected to the Board of Education in 1980 and remained for 14 years and then took a job in the school system. He said was elected again in 2006 and had only served 3 months until the State put Fayette County on probation and we have remained there. Mr. Arritt said we have done worse since the State takeover and thinks we can do a better job than what they have been doing. He stated the citizens of Fayette County passed a levy for 60 years in a row and it's disheartening to pass a levy and the State Board of Education spending the money. He commented he was pleased when Dr. Phares was appointed State Superintendent of Schools.

RECOGNITIONS/REPORTS:

- 2013 Golden Horseshoe Winners were announced by Mary Ann Freeman (See Attachment)
- 2013 Fayette County's Young Writers' Contest Winners were announced by Anna Kincaid-Cline (See Attachment)
- 2013 West Virginia State Social Studies Fair Winners were announced by Dale Arrington (See Attachment)
- 2013 Fayette Institute of Technology Skills Competition Winners were announced by Barry Crist (See Attachment)

Mr. Bush thanked the students and parents for their hard work then called a five minute recess to allow winners to leave if they did not want to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

DELEGATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS: *(not all inclusive)*

Gary Rowe, Valley parent and spokesperson, began by stating we are now 89 days away from the start of Valley High's football season. He inquired about the timeline of the agreement between WVU Tech and Fayette County Board of Education. Mr. Rowe reported they were currently working on organizing clean-up crews after middle school and junior varsity games and inmates cleaning up on Saturday mornings after Friday games. He also stated we need to work toward a permanent solution for a football field for Valley High School.

Teri Harlan, concerned parent, citizen, and health care provider, reported statistics ranking West Virginia one of the highest in obesity, hypertension, diabetes, depression, oral health and teen pregnancy. She also reported on West Virginia ranking near the bottom in education. Mrs. Harlan stated the health outcomes could change if we improve our education system. She commented we have become content and complacent with these statistics. Mrs. Harlan expressed her hope for positive change in the school system when the State took over citing too many high school and weak high school curriculum. She also expressed her disappointment in the new direction which has stopped us in our tracks or even taken us a few steps backward. She closed by asking everyone not to settle and become content with West Virginia's statistics and continue to work for our children because they deserve it.

Cindy Beeson, concerned parent, citizen, and health care provider, congratulated Mr. Crist and the students from Fayette Institute of Technology for their accomplishments and stated Fayette Institute of Technology is the one school where we bring all of our resources together. She commented on Fayette County's aging tax base and the chances of funding more facilities. Mrs. Beeson said she is not against community schools if they can offer the curriculum that all students need. She questioned whether an academic center of

excellence could be offered because many students are willing to ride buses to get advanced classes. She closed by asking the Board, State Board and voting population to apply some critical thinking skills and make good decisions.

Carolyn Arritt, Meadow Bridge citizen and retired teacher from Fayette County Schools, stated larger schools does not always mean that it's going to be a better education. She read the Oath of Office that each Board of Education member took and cited the West Virginia Constitution Section 2.2, "*The powers of government reside in all the citizens of the state, and can be rightfully exercised only in accordance with their will and appointment.*" Ms. Arritt stated it is perfectly clear the people have the power and the elected and appointed officials are to do the will of the citizens. Ms. Arritt thanked Dr. Phares for following his Oath of Office and allowing the entire citizenry to have their voices heard through the democratic process. She urged citizens to attend community meetings to have their voice heard.

Leon Ivey, concerned parent, citizen, and Fayette County Board of Education member, commented on Fayette Institute of Technology being a facility with the greatest resources from the County being combined since the early seventies and their success. He expressed his concerns about curriculum and staffing for maintaining five high schools. He reported on the consolidation of other community schools which included Kingston, Pax, Mount Hope and Oak Hill. He questioned if \$121 million dollars will continue to staff and maintain the current facilities or if we will be looking at the same thing in five years. Mr. Ivey said he was for the public making the decision but each citizen should be aware of the cost to maintain all schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT / INFORMATION:

Mr. Butcher presented the preliminary figures received regarding school facilities. (See Attachment) He reported every year the cost for addressing the needs will go up and we need to come together to determine what the voters will support and what the School Building Authority could fund. He stated it will take more than one bond and more than SBA monies. After a brief discussion, Mr. Butcher clarified that out of the \$121 million for keeping the 18 current facilities open; the highlighted items identify the critical needs in order to keep the doors open. He stated \$67 million is the bond capacity.

BOARD ACTION:

Upon action by Mr. Ivey, second by Mr. Gray and approved 5 – 0, the following was approved:

- A. Statutory/Regular Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2013
Special Meeting/LSIC Minutes – April 22, 2013
- B. Approval for six Fayette County students to be released to attend Raleigh County Schools and one Fayette County student to be released to attend Kanawha County Schools for the 2013-2014 school year.
- C. Out-of-State trip for the Business Information Technology winners at Fayette Institute of Technology to take a trip to Anaheim, CA from June 26-July 1, 2013 to compete in the FLBA-PBL Conference.
- D. Out-of-State trip for the State SkillsUSA student winners and their respective advisors at Fayette Institute of Technology to take a trip to Kansas City, MO from June 24 to June 28, 2013 to compete in the SkillsUSA National Competition.
- E. Out-of-State trip for 5 students in the Health Science & Technology Academy at Valley High School to travel to Pittsburgh, PA as part of the state-wide HSTA field trip on June 10 and 11, 2013.
- F. Out-of-State trip for 16 students in the Health Sciences & Technology Academy (HSTA) at Oak Hill High School to travel to Pittsburgh, PA as part of the state-wide HSTA field trip on June 10 and 11, 2013.
- G. Out-of-State trip for students in the eighth grade at Collins Middle School to take a trip to Carowinds in Charlotte, NC on June 6, 2013.

BOARD REVIEW / INFORMATION:

- A. Fayette County Schools 2013-2014 Calendars – (See Attachments)
- B. Personnel Changes – (See Attachments)
- C. Board Bills – (See Attachments)

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS / INFORMATION: *(not all inclusive)*

Mrs. Jones congratulated all of the winners. She said she was pleased with the results of the football field at Valley High School but stated this is only a Band-Aid fix. She said she was happy to have the State Superintendent of Schools at the meeting and is hopeful to work with him in order to work things out for the students in Fayette County.

Mr. Gray congratulated all of the winners stating it was remarkable when the building can't hold all of the winners and parents. He praised Mr. Crist and his staff and students for their appearance and representation of Fayette Institute of Technology. He encouraged the taxpayers and constituents to come out and make their opinions known. Mr. Gray reported on the "Locks of Love" event sponsored by the Ansted Middle School Honor Students. He questioned if the facility report included a new football field for Valley High School and bleachers at Midland Trail High School. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mr. Butcher responded the facility report just included the figures to bring schools up to standards and was not a wish list yet.

Mr. Arritt requested an executive session for finances at the next regular meeting. He congratulated Coach McGinnis's son, John, for having a good year in baseball at Valley High School.

Mr. Ivey reported that four students from Oak Hill High School competed in the State Math Field Day competition. He said Michael McGraw placed 13th and Jacob Ivey placed 28th. He also reported Collins Middle School will have their band concert on Thursday, May 9.

Mr. Bush echoed the compliments for the winners stating their accomplishments were remarkable. He reported on the recent Local School Improvement Council meetings held at Meadow Bridge High School and Valley High School. He also reported on the recent induction of 44 students into the National Honor Society at Fayette Institute of Technology. Mr. Bush stressed the importance of parental involvement with a child's education. He closed his remarks by stating that he is proud of our students and every parent that invests in their child.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR STUDENT DISCIPLINE HEARING:

In accordance with 6-9A-4 (3) of School Laws of West Virginia, "The governing body of a public agency may hold an executive session during a regular, special or emergency meeting . . . upon a majority affirmative vote of the members present . . . To decide upon disciplining, suspension or expulsion of any student in any public school . . . unless the student requests an open meeting."

At approximately 8:15 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Ivey, second by Mr. Bush, carried 5 to 0, the Board agreed to convene in executive session to conduct student discipline hearings after a fifteen minute recess. At approximately 8:46 p.m., Mr. Bush announced the return to open session.

Board Ratifications and Student Expulsion

Superintendent Butcher's recommendation for ratification of the placement of three students placed in alternative school was approved upon motion by Mr. Ivey, second by Mr. Bush, and carried 5 to 0.

Superintendent Butcher's recommendation for one student expelled for the remainder of the second semester this year and the first semester next year (2013-2014) with stipulations was approved upon motion by Mr. Ivey, second by Mr. Gray, and carried 5 to 0.

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS:

Special Meeting – School Facilities

Thursday, May 9, 2013
Fayetteville High School

6:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting	Monday, May 20, 2013 Board of Education Office	6:00 p.m.
Special Meeting – School Facilities	Tuesday, June 4, 2013 Oak Hill High School	6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting	Monday, June 17, 2013 Board of Education Office	6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

At approximately 8:48 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Ivey, seconded by Mr. Gray and carried 5 to 0 to adjourn the meeting.

President

Secretary/Superintendent