

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 4, 2015, in the auditorium of Fayetteville High School, 515 W. Maple Avenue, Fayetteville, West Virginia. Those present were:

Steve Bush	President
Pat Gray	Vice-President
Patsy Holliday	Members
Leon Ivey	
Lou Jones	
Dr. Serena Starcher	Superintendent
Paula Fridley	Treasurer
Gary Hough	Director of Transportation
Bob Hollandsworth	Director of Technology
David Keffer	Director of Operations
Anna Kincaid-Cline	Director of Secondary Schools
Dr. Linda Palenchar	Director of Special Education
Margaret Pennington	Director of Personnel
David Seay	Director of Child Nutrition
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. It was noted all members were present.

**RECOGNITIONS / REPORTS:**

The following winners were recognized:

- Fayette Institute of Technology (See Attachments)
- Young Writers' Contest (See Attachment)
- Golden Horseshoe Recognition (See Attachment)
- Social Studies Fair (See Attachments)
- Math Field Day (See Attachments)

The Board took a brief recess to view the projects that were on display in the auditorium. At approximately 7:12 p.m. Mr. Bush called the back to order.

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

***Mr. Ivey made a motion to limit the speakers to three minutes per speaker. Mrs. Jones made a motion to not limit the amount of time for the speakers. Upon motion by Mr. Gray, second by Mrs. Holliday and carried 4 to 1 with Mrs. Jones voting no, the Board voted to limit comments to five minutes per speaker. Mr. David Seay was asked to be the timekeeper.***

Ron Lewis did not attend to speak.

Barry Bruce introduced himself as an attorney from Lewisburg representing the Meadow Bridge Citizens for Community Schools. He said he was asked to come to try to come to an agreement short of filing a lawsuit. He stated Meadow Bridge families are familiar with the school. He stated they have spoken with a professional structural engineer out of Beckley who advised them what information was needed to make the decision on the structure of Meadow Bridge High School's second floor. Mr. Bruce reported a letter was sent requesting the right to have an engineer come and do what is necessary including measurements and pictures which would take no more than four hours and not be damaging in any way. He stated there could be a misunderstanding by the superintendent when she wrote a letter dated April 17, stating it is legally

impermissible to allow a delegate or private citizen to select a citizen because that it just not the case. He stated they are not trying to supplant but trying to determine if it is correct and the extent of it. He reported a FOIA was sent with an engineer telling them what information to request and the response received was a report from ZMM that contained no measurements and a recommendation based on observation and not measurements or tests. He stated they do not want students at risk but want to know the degree of the problem and the identity of the wood because some wood over time can become more lax but is completely safe and not dangerous. He stated they would like to go in on a Saturday afternoon to take measurements. He stated they are on a fact finding mission and are asking for reconsideration to allow them to inspect a public building and not interrupt anyone in the process.

Cindy Chamberlin stated she is a pediatric physical therapist for children from birth to 3 in Clay County and was speaking as a business owner, concerned parent and a 16 year resident of Fayette County. She reported working in two other school districts and encounters many different people from all walks of life that want their children to have a future. She reported working in the fastest growing school district in Las Vegas where things were not changing by decades but on a daily basis. She said she worked in Clay County Schools for six years which was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in 2013 and is the second poorest county in the state. She asked why Fayette County Schools are struggling. She reported on attending meetings and has learned about CEFP's, bonds and the difference between a building and architectural reviews. She expressed her respect for Dr. Starcher and her patience in answering the same questions repeatedly. She thanked Dr. Starcher, Margaret O'Neal, Mr. Bush and Mr. Ivey for participating and attending meetings. She stated she has learned many people do not want to see Fayette County move forward not because of direct concerns of the future of our children but because of their pocketbooks, businesses and other agendas they are not willing to share. She said she was shocked and appalled by the behavior of a hidden few who find it necessary to operate during the night in order to remain anonymous. She asked why people must bully, threaten and defame others. She asked why they could not share accurate information and why people are having trash thrown in their yards, property destroyed and receiving threats over a school bond. She stated a bond has not passed in 41 years. She asked why some people are complaining about taxes at meetings and then paying people to place vote no signs in yards at night. She said she believes it is the agenda of a few that are using these tactics to stifle the potential for progress and she was disappointed in community leaders that are allowing it to happen. Ms. Chamberlain reported on attending a community meeting where 13 percent of our student population is without a school and the teachers and students were asking for help. She stated it was a heartwarming and inspiring meeting until after the meeting she saw an older woman verbally assault our board president and heard that there were teachers saying we were pimping our children. She said she was truly sorry anybody has been subjected to this inappropriate behavior. Ms. Chamberlin said it is not appropriate to bully others and doesn't understand why adults are doing it when we have bullying programs in our school. She said adults have been seen shredding volunteer request papers asking for volunteers, people trimming their toenails and people assaulting others which is completely inappropriate. (*\*Mrs. Holliday requested the minutes to be amended stating these comments were directed right at her.*) She stated she has also seen people that don't know each other coming together and asking how we can move forward and pass this bond. She said we have great teachers in our district and we need to have confidence in them. She apologized for going over her time limit but said we have all listed to Jim Murdock. She concluded by stating she understands Mrs. Holliday is against the bond but has never heard her express why or suggest another option. She stated she doesn't understand why 2.7 percent of our population is dividing our county and why we can't compromise or work together. She asked for a response from Mrs. Holliday. Ms. Chamberlin then asked Mrs. Jones if she was willing to publicly declare where she stands, yes or no, on the bond.

*Mrs. Jones asked why she asking her where she stands and stated Ms. Chamberlin was bullying her. Mrs. Holliday stated she was bullying her also.*

**Mr. Gray** called for Point of Order.

Ms. Chamberlin stated she was not bullying but was asking them to take a stand like everyone else.  
*Mrs. Jones asked her to take her seat and stay until she made her comments.*

**Mr. Bush** thanked Mr. Chamberlin for her comments and called on the next speaker.

Esther Morey expressed her love of living in Fayette County. She thanked Mrs. Lucas, Mr. Parsons and Ms. Hedrick for working for our children. She stated her joy in working with the students is beyond words. She expressed her concern about the division and the way we're handling the differences of opinion. She said it is an important issue because it obstructs progress. She said she celebrated because we have freedom of speech and freedom of opinion. She spoke about the student code of conduct defining bullying as intimidation and emotional abuse. She said some kids have been bullied and it can take a while to get over it and she sees the same thing happening with the same kind of intimidation and threats. Mrs. Morey stressed the importance of being role models for our children and begs everyone to handle people who disagree with great respect. She stated everyone must be quick to hear and slow to speak and slow to anger. She stated she was not being condemning but asked that we listen to each other to understand where we're all coming from. She said love is the ultimate aggression and respect will take us to the progress we all need. She closed by stating whether you are on one side of the bond or the other after the vote we are still living in the same county and we need each other.

Robert Richmond stated he is a coach with Fayetteville Little League and a situation fell into his lap with one of his players being bullied. He stated he spoke to the child and he indicated he is also bullied at school and teachers don't do anything about it. He stated he gave the player his name and cell phone number and told him to let him know and he would see if he could do anything about it. Mr. Richmond said he notified the child's mother of his actions. He stated the child asked him for his number again because a teacher took the information and threw it in the garbage. He said he contacted the school regarding this issue and was told they could not discuss it because he was not the parent. He asked the school about his personal information being thrown in the garbage. Mr. Richmond stated he did not receive answers from the school and contacted the board office and was "strong-armed" because he was not the parent and it was not his place to investigate. He closed by stating he would like his personal information returned or he would be pressing charges.

Michelle Farr stated she was not here to speak for or against the bond. She said she was a Summers County resident and when she moved into the area her children were in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and approved to attend school in Meadow Bridge. She reported through attending Meadow Bridge her children have learned and been prepared for college. She stated many people don't understand where Meadow Bridge sits and it should serve as an isolated community school. She thanked the board, whether the bond passes or fails, for allowing her children to attend Meadow Bridge because they have an amazing group of students, teachers and administrators.

Kimberly Pernel stated she would like to talk about the future after the bond and what needs to be done before another Collins Middle School happens. She asked if there are future plans being talked about that the community should speak on. She said there is another five years left in our current CEFP and doesn't think the other schools can wait until 2020 because elementary schools are starting to fail now and don't have another 15 years. She stated a lot of people from the community have said they are not getting anything and their schools need to be fixed. She closed by saying the community would feel more confident if they knew that you were working towards the future to fix their schools.

Jean Evansmore thanked everyone for the wonderful awards presentation. She spoke about the importance of encouraging students to go further and do well. She also spoke on the importance of supporting the bond for the future of our children and communities. Ms. Evansmore said she has learned more about bonds and levies and encouraged everyone to educate themselves. She stated Fayette County's tax dollars are low and the increase only amounts to a few meals out in a year. She closed by stating she was surprised to hear the threat of a possible lawsuit by the first speaker.

Gracie Sparks stated she is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at New River Elementary School and hopes the bond passes so we can have a safe school from now on. Gracie said if she was older she would vote yes and hopes that you do too.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS / INFORMATION:**

None.

**CENTRAL OFFICE REPORTS / INFORMATION:**

Paula Fridley, Treasurer, presented the Monthly Financial Report for March 2015. (See Attachments)

**BOARD ACTION:**

Upon action by Mr. Bush, second by Mr. Gray and approved 5-0, the following items were approved:

- A. Minutes:
  - 1) Regular Meeting Minutes – April 6, 2015
  - 2) Special Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2015
  - 3) Statutory/Special Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2015
  
- B. Approval for one Fayette County student to be released to attend Greenbrier County Schools, two Fayette County students to be released to attend Clay County Schools, four students to be released to attend Kanawha County Schools, and eight students to be released to attend Raleigh County Schools for the 2015-2016 school year.
  
- C. Approval for ProStart students at the Fayette Institute of Technology to travel to Carowinds in Charlotte, NC on May 17, 2015.
  
- D. Approval for Meadow Bridge High School senior class to travel to Kinds Dominion Amusement Park in Doswell, Virginia on May 29, 2015.
  
- E. Approval for Midland Trail High School to host the fourth annual John Flournoy Summer Basketball League.
  
- F. Approval for Oak Hill High School to name the baseball field after Jerry Epperly and the basketball court after Fred Ferri.

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW:**

Upon action by Mr. Bush, second by Mr. Gray and carried 5-0, the following was approved:

Final Reading Approval:

- A. Policy A-21b: Fayette County Parental Involvement [Revision of Policy] (See Attachment)
- B. Policy B-30: Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage [Revision of Policy] (See Attachment)
- C. Policy A-17: Travel Reimbursement/Meal Allowance [Revision of Policy] (See Attachment)

**BOARD REVIEW / INFORMATION:**

- A. Personnel Changes – (See Attachments)
- B. Board Bills – (See Attachments)
 

*Mrs. Holliday asked if there were any attorney bills since she had not received any for the past several months. She also asked if the bills were decreasing since she received about one-third of the amount this month to what she usually receives. Mrs. Fridley stated fewer bills were processed because they were operating without one person in the accounting department for a while.*
- C. Budget Transfers:
 

Supplements:

S-11	County Projects	\$	54,345
S-11	SBA MIP Project		770,750
S-11	Gear-Up		167,722
S-12	Food Service		111,892
S-13	Community Participation Projects & State Grants		72,000
S-14	Special Education		213,380
S-15	CTE		4,750
S-16	Adult Education		49,507
S-17	Tuition Reimbursement		9,762
S-18	High Acuity Health Care		12,027
S-19	Federal Programs		194,418

Carryover Supplement:		
S-10	Carryover	(160,518)
<u>Transfers:</u>		
T-6	Food Service	12,506
T-7	Federal Programs	268,500
T-8	Safe & Supportive Schools	12,558

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

**Mr. Gray** reported on attending the National Technical Honor Society induction at Fayette Institute of Technology. He said 47 students from all over the county were inducted into that very prestigious group. He said he was proud to attend as a board member and a parent of an inductee. He also attended the anti-bullying program at Ansted Middle School where they are looking to change behaviors by acts of kindness. He remarked on his amazement of the winners at the meeting and their accomplishments are a true reflection of work that's going on inside of the Fayette County school system. He said students do well in their schools, county, state and nationally and we should all be proud. He stated a lot of things cause distractions in what we do but days like today help refocus on why we are here and that is to ensure the students of this county not receive just a good or adequate education but a fantastic education so they can go out into a global economy and be successful. He thanked the directors, principals, teachers and parents and stated perhaps it takes some attention off of other things that may cloud our vision in what we're trying to achieve. Mr. Gray stated many of the students being recognized at the state and national level start to blur the lines on geographic boundaries because they go out as proud students of Fayette County and he applauds them for that.

**Mrs. Jones** stated it was special to come out and see the award winners and see what the children are doing. She stated she would like to answer Ms. Chamberlin's question. She said she was told if we pass the bond the State will give us back control which tells her that the State doesn't want to have anything to do with us. She said everything is sent to Charleston and she's not sure they know what's going on. She reported they took control in 2010 and have done nothing to help us. She said in other counties they have built schools to help but in Fayette County they want the people in this county to pass a bond to pay for schools. She said we don't have any educational policies or programs and the bond is based on building two schools. She stated she can't support this bond sending Fayetteville and Meadow Bridge to Ansted to Midland Trail High School. She said neither school is slated to close will still house students. She said Meadow Bridge has a strong community that will do anything to keep their school and reminded them that we have a policy which encourages us to have community involvement. She said if the bond does pass how many school kids will make the ride over Backus Mountain to go to Midland Trail. She said we will lose students and student funding. She asked why you would move little kids from the elementary to the high school in Fayetteville. She said we had the money to fix the field in Valley before Collins Middle happened. She reported when Gauley Bridge High School closed they were promised a football field but it never came to pass and they have since played at Tech field with porta potties and no water. She said she is ashamed of how things happened. She said we're not closing buildings but adding more expense. Mrs. Jones stated she strongly opposes the consolidation of Fayetteville High and Meadow Bridge High and she ran against consolidation. She stated those were her feelings and she may be right or wrong but as a board member that was her opinion. She said she worked in 3 consolidations and saw what consolidation does for you. She said the only thing Gauley Bridge has left right now is a gas station, funeral home, bank and Gino's. She stated if we want to consolidate our schools we need to get back to basics and teach the basics. She closed by stating if the bond passes we don't know if the SBA will give us matching monies because Mr. Dials was confident they would give him money for Mount Hope Elementary School and that didn't happen.

**Mrs. Holliday** expressed her concern about a recent email from New River Health regarding a medical clinic at Midland Trail High School which involves Meadow Bridge High School. She asked if we are negotiating that before the dust settles on Meadow Bridge going to Midland Trail.

*Dr. Starcher stated she spoke to them about a medical clinic and it is not contingent upon Meadow Bridge being there.*

**Mrs. Holliday** discussed the letter Mr. Ivey brought forth at a previous meeting about checking the buildings stating she asked before she signed it if we could have a second opinion and Dr. Starcher said we could. She asked why we are holding up on that. She also said she was unaware of a curriculum committee until she read it in the paper and would like to know who is on the committee and the meeting dates. She stated Board members should be abreast of it before it hits the newspaper. She said she ran for non-consolidation and she supports Fayetteville High being Fayetteville High and Meadow Bridge High being Meadow Bridge High and wants to keep our communities whole. She reported on comments she made at a State Board of Education meeting that the bond reminds her of an education ark where you're going to put new buildings, which we need, a football field, air conditioning and building onto buildings and it's going to bring sunshine and rainbows for some children but for some reason not for all of the children. She said what it is saying is that all of you on the educational ark are good but the other kids aren't good enough and you just stay out and help us pay for it. She said she respects everybody's opinion if you're for the bond and will not heckle or make fun and she has her right the same as the rest of you. She closed by stating as a Board member she ran against consolidation and she is not going back on her word.

**Mr. Ivey** thanked Mr. Parsons and the administration for holding the meeting at Fayetteville High School to allow for more room. He congratulated the winners and the staff that work with those students. He thanked the speakers for their comments. He commented on the letter from New River Health stating they were a great partnership with Fayette County Schools and asked if we could have a presentation at a future meeting about the services they provide to our students and staff. He asked Dr. Starcher if she has the information he requested at the last meeting about the funding costs for sports. He the SBA is waiting for us to help ourselves so they can help us. He said we can't blame the history of the population decline on removing a school from a community. He asked what their task would be if they weren't under state control. He reported we are supposed to provide a thorough education and be a good steward of financial situations. He said we have to look at state levels at ways to be financially viable. He said the third focus should be safety of our schools and students. He commented he continues to hear the bond doesn't affect everybody and he doesn't understand because 811 students which is 13 percent of our student population, will receive \$12 million from the State because they understand the need we have. He reported \$17 million dollars to renovate Midland Trail High School into one of the nicest high schools in area will affect students from Fayetteville High, Meadow Bridge High and Midland Trail High. He also stated the kids at Valley High School deserve a football field at their campus. He closed by saying the meeting tonight is about the students and their accomplishments and he is proud to see them and their hard work.

**Mr. Bush** commented on the remarkable recognitions at the meeting. He also commented on the 45 inductees to the National Technical Honor Society from Fayette Institute of Technology. He stated it is unconscionable to think about the children that have been displaced. He stated the State is not our enemy and they want us to move things forward. He commented the OEPA reports stating there are still things we need to move on.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT/S REPORT / INFORMATION:**

**Dr. Starcher** reported on the letter sent to the Meadow Bridge Citizens for Community Schools which was discussed earlier by attorney Barry Bruce. She read their letter requesting a different engineer for a second opinion and read her response to that request. She reported on the educational program committee which met for the first time on Tuesday stating 40 to 50 people were invited. She outlined the committee could consist of a teacher from each school but not every school sent a participant. She reported the initial discussion centered on the redesign of our high school curriculum. Dr. Starcher said if the bond passes we will be able to do certain things but if it doesn't we may not be able to offer everything the committee would like. She stated they started with the high schools and will work backward. She said the second meeting will be later this week and the committee will continue regardless of the outcome of the bond.

*Mr. Ivey asked about the funds for athletics. Dr. Starcher stated the total is \$554,594.00 not including any maintenance costs.*

**Dr. Starcher** addressed a document that was placed in paper boxes and mailboxes titled "Recipe for a School Bond Levy by WV Department of Education". She said she instructed to communicate this is nothing that was developed by the State Department of Education and go on record that the West Virginia

Department of Education had nothing to do with the compilation of the "Recipe of a School Bond Levy". She apprised the Board of upcoming issues which included a call from Carolyn Long from WVU Tech indicating that Valley High would be allowed to graduate this year at Martin Field but will not be allowed to play football there in the future. She reported one of the School Building Authority board members visited Collins Middle School and Fayetteville Elementary School and discussed the upcoming bond election and facility issues in Fayette County.

**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 8:28 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Ivey, second by Mrs. Jones, carried 5 to 0, the Board agreed to convene in executive session following a brief recess. At approximately 9:18 p.m., Mr. Bush announced the return to open session.

**FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS:**

Regular Meeting	Monday, June 1, 2015	6:00 p.m.
	Board of Education Office	

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At approximately 9:19 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Bush, second by Mr. Ivey and carried 5 to 0 to adjourn the meeting.

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President

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Secretary/Superintendent