

Pendleton County Schools Ninth County Board Meeting Tuesday, December 9, 2008

The Pendleton County Board of Education convened in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at North Fork Elementary School. The following members were present: J. D. Wilkins, President; Richard Gillespie, Vice-President; Teresa Bowers; Sonny O'Neil; Betty Kimble. Central Office Staff present: Douglas Lambert, Superintendent; Donald Bucher and Nancy R. Blankenship. Also present John M. Jenkins and Karen Stevens.

The Board enjoyed a meal prepared by North Fork Elementary School staff and met with the North Fork Elementary School LSIC/Faculty Senate 6:00 P.M. - 7:07 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT: President Wilkins called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:** Mr. Lambert led the **Pledge of Allegiance**, and Mr. Wilkins led the group in prayer.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

The minutes of the November 12, 2008 Board Meeting: Upon Mr. Lambert's recommendation and a motion by Ms. Bowers, seconded by Mr. Gillespie the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the above Board Meeting.

PERSONNEL:

Approval of Volunteers: North Fork Elementary School: Lorella Nelson-Mitchell, Michelle Vandevander, Rachel Hedrick. Upon Mr. Lambert's recommendation and a motion by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Ms. Kimble, the Board voted unanimously to approve the volunteers.

Resignations: Jennifer Cook - Substitute Teacher and Substitute Aide, Charles Thomas Wimer - Substitute Teacher, Beth Altemus - Substitute Teacher. Upon Mr. Lambert's recommendation and a motion by Ms. Kimble, seconded by Ms. Bowers, the Board voted unanimously to approve the above Resignations.

FINANCE:

Bills Submitted for Approval Month Ended November 30, 2008: In Mr. Mowery absence Mr. Lambert presented the bills for approval for the month ended November 30, 2008, in the amount of \$602,831.17. Upon Mr. Lambert's recommendation and a motion by Mr. Gillespie, seconded by Mr. O'Neil, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Bills as presented.

Treasurer's Report Month Ended November 30, 2008: In Mr. Mowery absence Mr. Lambert gave a Treasurer's Report for the month ended November 30, 2008, and explained the receipts, disbursements, fund balance, accounts payable and cash and investment amounts. Upon Mr. Lambert's recommendation and a motion by Ms. Bowers, seconded by Mr. O'Neil, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Financial Update: Biodiesel: Richard Mallow, Mr. Lambert, Nathan Beachler and J. P. Mowery has a teleconference with Ben Shew, WVDE Director of Transportation on Monday, December 1st. Mr. Shew explained the history of alternative fuels in WV pertaining to legislation for public schools. A range of concerns was discussed regarding the biodiesel. There was discussion about the Board

getting its own tanks. Mr. Lambert told the Board that he hopes to start with the biodiesel in March or April.

Contract Bus Driver Training: Richard is working on clarifying contract bus driver training to include an update to the policy manual on contract bus drivers.

Year Ending Fund Balances: Mr. Mowery had sent the Board Members a sheet regarding year-end fund balances and the \$6,721 fund balance.

Pocahontas County/Forest Land Funding: Mr. Mowery had sent the Board Members a new article from the *Pocahontas Times* regarding federal forest land funding. Pocahontas County and Pendleton County are hoping that there will be increased funding but the actual amounts will not be known until the money is distributed in January or February.

CLT - Lighting Audit: Daric Holmes from CLT visited the county on Tuesday and Wednesday to complete the lighting audit. He visited every location and felt we had “a very good opportunity” to reduce costs, improve efficiency, and improve lighting. This is the first visit from their engineering staff and more visits will follow.

Safety Grant - Franklin Elementary School: Mike Hammer continues his excellent work with the safety grant funds. His latest project was to install a two-way communications system within Franklin Elementary. Now teachers can call directly to the office if they have a need or call 911 in an emergency. The office, conference rooms and other small offices also received upgraded capabilities. The secretary can transfer incoming calls to voicemail to the teacher rooms instead of taking messages. To save funds, Mike did much of the cabling work himself including adding a line through conduit from the basement of the school to the portable building at the school.

Wireless Access: Pendleton County Middle/High School was awarded an SBA grant to provide wireless access last year. This was recently completed and the school now has wireless access throughout. Whether it be a meeting in the conference room, the media center, or a presentation in the classroom, teachers or other persons using laptops can access the wireless without having to deal with the cords and cables necessary to connect. For basic Internet use in the classrooms and computer labs, hard-wired access is still utilized and preferred due to greater speed and greater reliability. The newly renovated Brandywine Elementary School will also have wireless access. Trent Sites and John Jenkins (in consultation with IBM and WVDE) are looking at using North Fork Elementary School funds to explore a less costly alternative to provide wireless access to that school. If that works, Franklin Elementary School will be considered. The Board Office, Annex and Michael Building already have wireless access.

Public School Finance Legislative Interim Committee Meeting: The Legislative Interim Session was held on Sunday, December 7th and Mr. Mowery and Mr. Lambert attended. At the Interim Session there was discussion about the 1400 floor for enrollment and the 300 limit or students being added to enrollment. Mr. Lambert told the Board Members that Pendleton County had received \$131,000 from SBA for the Brandywine Elementary School renovations which will include new windows and doors in the gym and HVAC update in the old rooms. He gave them a copy of the agenda and minutes from the Education Subcommittee Meeting, a copy of Dr. Witt’s report on Student Density, a copy of the study from Joe Panetta on the enrollment issues.

Conflict of Interest Questionnaire: Mr. Mowery had sent the Board Members and Superintendent the routine questionnaires that have to be completed for the auditors each year.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Surplus Property - Brandywine Buildings: Mr. Lambert told the Board Members that he and Mr. Mowery would like to have the items at the Kline Building declared surplus property and be allowed to have a surplus sale or auction items off on the internet. Upon Mr. Lambert's recommendation and a motion by Mr. Gillespie seconded by Mr. O'Neil the Board voted unanimously to designate certain items as surplus property and move forward to have a surplus sale in the future.

Out-of-County Transfer Request: Mr. Lambert presented an out-of-county transfer request for a student to continue attending school in Grant County. Upon Mr. Lambert's recommendation and a motion by Ms. Bowers seconded by Ms. Kimble the Board voted unanimously to approve the out-of-county transfer request.

Town of Franklin Sidewalks: Mr. Lambert told the Board Members that the Town of Franklin is applying for a grant - "FES Safe Routes to School" to replace the sidewalks on Evick Drive and by the City Hall Building going to Franklin Elementary School. Upon the Superintendent's recommendation and a motion by Mr. O'Neil seconded by Ms. Kimble the Board voted unanimously to approve a letter of support be written for the Town of Franklin for this project. Mr. Lambert told the Board Members that Donald Bucher was attending the Town Council Meeting tonight to address the concern about Evick Drive, safety of the school children, and the possibility of closing off Evick Drive during the school days except for access for emergency vehicles.

OTHER:

Facility Policy: Mr. Mowery had provided the Board Members with a draft of the Facility Policy with the requested changes. There was discussion and a few more changes were made to the policy. The Policy will be brought back to the Board in January possible for a first reading.

Howard O'Cull Training Session: Mr. Lambert gave the Board Members a list of dates proposed by Mr. O'Cull for the training session. The general consensus of the Board was to see if Mr. O'Cull could come on January 27 or 29.

Pendleton Times Article: Mr. Lambert gave the Board Members a copy of the article that was placed in the *Pendleton Times* regarding food at school celebrations and explaining the new policy from the WV Board of Education.

Biodiesel: This item was discussed under the Finance Section.

Graduation Request: Mr. Lambert presented a letter from Charles Hedrick, Principal at Pendleton County Middle/High School. Mr. Hedrick will be attending his daughter's graduation in Batesville, Indiana and Mr. Lannie Harper and Mr. Shelba Vincell will assume Mr. Hedrick's responsibilities at the Pendleton County High School graduation.

Attendance - Second Month: Mr. Lambert presented the Second Month Attendance report as prepared by Ms. Debra Jackson.

Christmas Get-Together: The Christmas Get-Together will be held on Monday, December 15th at the Pendleton County Middle/High School Cafeteria and be catered by Lucy Kisamore.

Conference/Meeting Update: Mr. Lambert had attended the Interim Session in Charleston on Sunday and the SBA Meeting in Charleston on Monday. He talked to the Board about the School Satisfaction Survey and asked them to look over and make comments/recommendations for changes.

The next meeting of the Pendleton County Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, at the Brandywine Elementary School at 6:00 P.M.

Upon a motion by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Ms. Kimble, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

These Minutes have been posted to the Pendleton County School web site as a convenience and source of information. They are not intended to take the place of the original documentation. Please contact the Board Office directly should you need to reference the originals.