

The Pocahontas County Board of Education met on Tuesday September 2, 2025, for a Board Meeting at Pocahontas County Board of Education Office, in Buckeye, WV at 6:00 PM.

**Members:**

Emery Grimes, President

H. Samuel Gibson- **Absent**

Dr. Sue Hollandsworth, Vice President

Morgan G. McComb

Andrew "Frosty" McNabb

Meeting called to order.

Opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**DELEGATIONS:**

**None Present**

**RECOGNITIONS:**

**None**

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATES:**

- A.** Updates Special Education, Professional Development and Deadlines to address Monitoring. Monitoring Debriefing from August 21st with the staff was reviewed by the Board. For the monitoring for the 24-25 year, there were 17 LEAs pulled for review for the monitoring. Nine service verifications were pulled, three for each elementary school. Compliance vs. non-compliance: Compliance means that the record logs for services provided and the specially designed services in the IEP's match, non-compliance means they do not match. Statewide non-compliance was 44 %. All five schools were monitored during the April 2025 Special Circumstance Monitoring with 18 service verifications being completed in April, four at Green Bank, four at Hillsboro, four at Marlinton Elementary, three at Marlinton Middle and three at Pocahontas County High School. We had 89% noncompliance, with only two out of the 18 complying. The simplest way to correct the issues is to adjust the teacher's schedule to align with the IEP service minutes. With one day a week being used for IEP tasks, there became an issue with chronic absenteeism among the Special Education Students. On the days services weren't provided they didn't attend school. We can have IEP Amendment's to allow for some changes between the parents, the IEP team and the school teams. The LEA team must document the changes made to the IEP or IEP Amendment form which is prior written notice and give a copy to the parents and adult students. Targeted IEP reviews can be done for scholastic adjustments, but the annual review date stays the same and must be completed. Top ten systemic findings, all findings falling below 80% are a finding. These findings will require the following corrections, amend some IEP's, reconvene eligibility committee meetings, issue memorandums and or clarifications, conduct staff training and provide mentoring. Superintendent Williams explained all the areas that need corrections. Administrative findings, which were oversight findings, are

central office issues. The four administrative findings were pervasive and systematic at every school and the county level. These were instructional groupings, certification and caseloads, other and cameras. The main concern was the cameras at the PCHS self-contained classroom. Behavior intervention plans can be evaluated by the psychologist if there is no behavior specialist in the system. We didn't have a county wide pervasive method for behavior intervention plans. Grade level instruction did not provide grade level standards. General Education teachers stated they felt like their input was overlooked at times. Positive behavior interventions will need to be worked on countywide. Corrective actions will need to be provided by December 3, 2025. There is going to be a system wide reset with administrators, teachers, and then Special Education teachers. Job postings had to be reviewed and updated. There is a new Special Education posting that will be used in the future.

**B. Updates on Pocahontas County High School: State of Emergency Progress:** Ms. Cline is still working diligently with the Pocahontas County High School to ensure they are meeting the deadlines and continuing to mark off items that are complete. The county Handbooks have been reviewed and approved. School culture, tone and climate and the Special Education room looks great. Gym floor is being installed. Attendance policy process will be implemented tomorrow. Professional Development for Special Education and we are reviewing the schedules for applying for waivers for some of the Special Education. All the protocols for bathroom breaks and full coverage for duty stations. Monitoring the new bathrooms so there is no vandalism issues. Relationships are one of the important factors that Superintendent Williams wants to instill in the staff. She has asked that the principals make at least three rounds each day throughout their schools to observe classrooms and check hallways making sure everyone is where they are supposed to be.

## **Consent Agenda Items**

### **A. AGENDA MINUTES**

On the motion of Mr. McComb, seconded by Dr. Hollandsworth, the Board unanimously approved the agenda minutes from the July 29, 2025 Special meeting.

### **B. AGENDA**

On the motion of Mr. McComb, seconded by Dr. Hollandsworth, the Board unanimously approved the agenda. #8 Strike out

### **C. APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on the motion of Mr. McComb seconded by Dr. Hollandsworth the following were unanimously approved: Consent Financial Requirements:

- a. Payment of Vendor Listing = **\$101,181.81**
- b. Payment of Local Government Purchasing Card = **\$14,196.79**
- c. August 18, 2025 Employee Payroll= **\$255,835.68**
- d. Extra Duty Pay for August 2025 = **\$25,349.97**
- e. Grant Awards
- f. Budget Adjustments

D. Budget Transfers and Supplements – Subject to Additions, deletions, or other changes prior to the Board Meeting.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on the motion of Mr. McComb seconded by Dr. Hollandsworth the Board unanimously approved. Dr. Hollandsworth requested an Executive session, seconded by Mr. McNabb on Personnel. The board entered into Executive Session at 6:37 PM. Mr. McNabb made the motion to return to regular session, seconded by Dr. Hollandsworth at 6:46 PM.

**Personnel Matters: See attached file.**

Discussion of Pocahontas County Schools personnel may involve an Executive Session as provided in W. Va. Code §6-9A-4(b)(2)(A) [personnel exception] and/or §6-9A-4(b)(6), [privacy exception]. The Board majority must vote to have an Executive Session (no action will be taken during the Executive Session).

Professional:

- a) Resignation: Peggy Owens from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade position at Marlinton Elementary School effective August 1, 2025.
- b) Approval of Mutual Agreement for Melissa Hill

~~Removed due to change in enrollment. Teachers of Multi-Subjects(4<sup>th</sup> grade)– Green Bank Elementary/Middle **Position: 39857 Green Bank Elementary/Middle School**~~

~~Dr. Rhonda Combs Director of Personnel, Technology and Student Services Central Office **Posting: 46678 Central Office**~~

~~Cassandra Griffith Teacher of 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Marlinton Elementary School from Dean of Students Pocahontas County High School **Position: 47698 Location: Marlinton Elementary School**~~

~~Resignation: Melissa Robinson~~

~~Employment: Emma Dean Teacher of Multi-Subjects Marlinton Middle School **Position: 43074 Marlinton Middle School**~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ Director of Special Education, Preschool and Student Support **Position: Posting: 46679 Central Office**~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ Teachers of Multi-Subjects(4<sup>th</sup> grade)– Green Bank Elementary/Middle **Position: 48282 Green Bank Elementary/Middle School**~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ Teacher of Special Education– Green Bank Elementary/Middle **Position: 43412 Green Bank Elementary/Middle School**~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ Teacher of Science– Green Bank/Elementary Middle School **Position: 48568 Green Bank Elementary/Middle School**~~

~~Teacher of Social Studies – Pocahontas  
County High School Position: 45483 Pocahontas County  
High School~~

~~SPED Teacher's – Pocahontas County High  
School Position: 45851 Pocahontas County High  
School.~~

~~SPED Teacher's – Pocahontas County High  
School Position: 48563 Pocahontas County High  
School.~~

~~Teacher of Special Education/ Elementary  
Multi-Subjects Position: 41399 Hillsboro Elementary  
School~~

~~d.) Teacher of English/Language Arts  
Pocahontas County High School Position: 50566  
Pocahontas County High School.~~

#### **Positions: Professional 9**

#### Service Recommendations:

- a) Employment: Caleb Barkley as extra summer custodian effective August 7, 2025 – August 27, 2025, assignment by the Maintenance Director.
- b.) Requested Transfer: Lori Wayne
- c.) Employment: Makayla Malcom: Secretary II/Accountant II Green Bank Elementary/Middle School **Posting: 46680 Green Bank Elementary/Middle School** Effective for the 2025-2026 school year.
- d.) Resignation: Lisa Johnson
- e.) Employment -Jennifer Yoakum Special Education/Classroom/Bus Aide Pocahontas County High School **Posting: 48277 Pocahontas County High School** Effective for the 2025-2026 school year.
- f.) Cassandra Smith Accounts Payable – Central Office **Posting -46687 Central Office** Effective for the 2025-2026 school year.  
**Total Service: All positions are filled at present**

#### Extra-Curricular Recommendations:

g.) Employment of Logan Wimer as Assistant Football coach for middle school football.

h.) Employment of Owen Vogalsong as a \$I Assistant Soccer Coach for the 2025-2026 athletic season.

\_\_\_\_\_ Head Basketball Coach – Pocahontas County  
High School Posting: **Pocahontas County High School**

\_\_\_\_\_ Asst. Basketball Coach-Pocahontas County  
High School Posting: **47335 Pocahontas County High School**

\_\_\_\_\_ Head Baseball Coach – Pocahontas County  
High School Posting: **48278 Pocahontas County High School**

### **Positions: Athletic Numbers 3**

#### **Other Recommendations: (subject to additions and deletions prior to the board meeting)**

Of the following as Substitute Teachers for Pocahontas County Schools, at state basic professional salary, based on degree and experience, for the 2025-2026 school year, as needed:

Shannon Arbogast

Dawn Brewster

Jeanette Rittenhouse

Tessa Gum, for unpaid Medical Leave at Green Bank Elementary/ Middle School, with amended start date effective September 11, 2025 for a period of up to 12 weeks.

### **SUPERINTENDENTS UPDATES:**

A. Dr. Williams met with the Faculty Senate Presidents to discuss the things needed according to protocol. They will need someone on the Safety team, the LSIC's to be up and running, Curriculum development and Strategic Plan team members. Her goal is to have quarterly meetings with the Faculty Senate presidents to establish the open lines of communication between the schools and the Superintendent. She wants them to have a glow and grow to present to the board for their schools.

#### **~~B. October Calendar~~**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on the motion of. McComb seconded by Mr. McNabb the Board unanimously approved.

A. Discussion, Review and Possible Action on Policy 5136 Personal Electronic Devices Review of the guidelines for this Policy from the state policy. Violations: were presented to the board based on the Neola recommended progressive scale. A graph was shown with the escalating

scale of progressive penalties. Principals will deal with additional discipline issues in accordance with policy 4373. Dr. Williams presented the discipline for each violation of the policy and shared the comments that were expressed while the policy was out for comment.

B. Discussion, Review and Possible Action on Policy 7540.04 Staff AUP Policy. Dr. Williams presented the highlights of the policy and the tweaks that were made to match the State policy. There is some filtering that has opened but you need to follow the rules. Users have no right to expect privacy because of the nature of the public resources provided by the board. Use of the network must comply with Copyright Compliance. Administrators were provided with the training needed to present to their staff. No comments were presented from this policy from the comment period.

C. Update on PK-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Parent Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedure –a minimum age was added for clarification - the age limit was listed at age 12.

D. Discussion, review and approval of JROTC Application – Ms. Dunlap presented the results of the initial survey for the JROTC and presented the information to the board. Part of the CTE budget can be used for some funding for this program.

E. Approval of amendment to SBA to include painting of the Gymnasium. The deadline to submit an SBA loan is September 15<sup>th</sup>. Group #1: The High School needs Heating and Air Conditioning upgrades. Group #2: Marlinton Elementary needs electrical upgrades before they can get HVAC upgrades. Group #3: Marlinton Middle School needs a new roof. These are the projects from our CEFP. They are talking about using an energy Systems group called Source Well. Dr. Williams has spoken to Source Well to help with the renovations at the Central Office, the boiler at Hillsboro Elementary School, and water heaters at Marlinton Middle School. Ms. Blackwell shared the outline of the letter of intent including the work, cost and savings, how the process works and how their company can help. She shared what was in the letter of intent for a comprehensive program. She stated that their company has a lot of experience working in WV. One of the benefits of their company is that the work can be done now and paid for overtime.

F. Discussion and approval of amendment to Stephanie Burns Mutual Agreement- The supplement of \$4000.00 was added to the contract for the coordinator portion of her contract change that was not added in the beginning.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on the motion of. McComb seconded by Dr. Hollandsworth the Board unanimously approved items B-H with item A being voted on separately.

A. Marlinton Mayor Sam Felton presented to the Board about the proposed project and the request for BOE property. Mayor Felton presented the bike trail project and the request for the BOE property to establish a trailhead access point in Marlinton to help fuel the economic revival in Marlinton from outdoor recreation tourism. This would serve the Greenbrier River Trail, the new 28-mile Monday Lick Trail System and the Snowshoe Highlands Ride Center. Mayor Felton

provided statistics concerning the financial benefits from this project and discussed some of the complications of building in the flood plain. He also presented the timeline for this project to be in October and the importance of securing a letter of agreement between the Board of Education and the town to be done in a timely manner. A motion was made for the drafting of a letter by our attorney for the intent to deed this property to the town in the event they acquire the Grant for this project. It was also presented that in the transfer of the deed at the appropriate time that if the project doesn't progress that the property would revert back to the Board of Education of Pocahontas County. Mr. McComb made the motion and was seconded by Dr. Hollandsworth. The board unanimously approved the drafting of the letter of intent.

B. Permission to post Special Education Compliance Assist through SESC to be paid for from Special Education Funds

C. Permission to post Special Education Consultant Services through SESC to be paid for from Special Education Funds

D. Permission to post a Countywide Counselor and Supervisor of Comprehensive Counseling service

~~E. Permission to post an extra-duty contract for Supervisor of Counseling Services Countywide~~

E. Discussion and possible action on Letter of Intent Energy Systems Group/Pocahontas County Schools

F. Discussion and action to convert \$1 coaching position for Marlinton Middle School football to a paid Assistant Coach position – \$1,100.00

G. Approval of attached fundraisers

H. Discussion and decision on work session to establish board goals and superintendent's goals for the 25-26 SY.

#### **MATTERS OF THE BOARD:**

Mr. Emery Grimes: He really enjoyed Mr. Larry Bell and his motivation. Educators around the county feel they have a pathway, direction and supervision and that they can get an answer. He said she is doing a terrific job.

Dr. Sue Hollandsworth: She stated she has been going to the First day of school for 40 years and this was the first one she felt invigorated by. Great Job.

Mr. Morgan McComb: He has received a lot of positive comments from staff and community about the job Dr. Williams is doing so far.

Mr. Andrew "Frosty" McNabb: He wanted to Reiterate the comments of the other members, and he is looking forward to a new beginning.

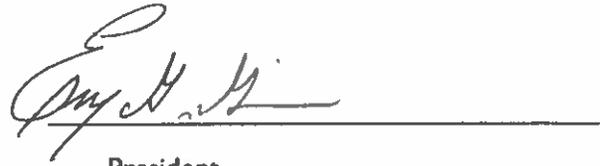
Mr. Sam Gibson: He sent some notes for Superintendent Williams to present on his behalf. He wanted to give a shout out to the Maintenance and Custodial staff for all their hard work over the summer. Superintendent Williams' list was extensive, and you got most of the items completed. Several folks have

been asking about the county Attendance policy and updates on policy. Sporting events have seen an increase in the number of dogs and pets to sporting events. Dr. Williams states she will check into the policy on this concern.

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2025, beginning at 4:30 PM at the Board Conference Room in Buckeye, WV for a Financial Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

  
Secretary

  
President