

Monroe County Board of Education

Regular Meeting

October 2, 2018

Gap Mills Volunteer Fire Department

I. Roll Call

- a. Mr. Wickline called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- b. Members present were Keith Wickline, Everett Fraley, Danny Lively, Candace Sabol, and Sally Wallace. Mr. Wickline noted that the board appreciated the hosting of the meeting by the Gap Mills Volunteer Fire Department

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III Approval of Agenda/Adjustments

- a. Mr. Wickline announced that check number 83911 should be voted separately. Item VI should be removed from the Agenda. Mrs. Sabol made the motion to approve the agenda with the adjustments. The vote to approve was unanimous.

IV. Public Comments

- a. Melissa Boggs shared with the board a letter from Joe and Johnna Jackson. She stated that it was difficult for parents to speak, not wanting to cause a difficult situation with the coach. She shared that a Facebook post had said that a parent was the reason for a coach not being hired. She noted that coaching is a life lesson and she is disappointed that administrators are not here when decisions are being made. She wants good solid role models. Two of the candidates have coached in little league; she wants students to learn skills and life lessons. She gave examples of coaches helping students on and off the court or field. Mr. Griffith sees what students need and meets those needs. She noted that there had been a tournament at JMHS and her son and a few others played for one of the other two candidates and the coach was excited the students wanted to play. Some school uniforms are mismatched and the team looks like the Bad News Bears. Parents will help raise money to get matching uniforms and shoes. She feels that MVS should not look mismatched. She is upset with the school administration and their choice. She is not sure if administration is not happy with the board decisions or why teachers are involved in the interview committee. She feels that is a problem and should not affect MVS students. She entrusts the school and board to do what is best for the students. She stated kids are their passion; they deserve the best. She feels

other coaches are the better choice and that students should come first, twenty-four hours per day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

- b. Travis Jackson read a letter from a basketball parent, Joanna Sauvage, where she wrote in support of David Mathis as coach. She wrote about how teamwork helps make people successful in life. She was not able to attend the meeting.
- c. Mr. Jackson, speaking for himself, thanked the board for the opportunity to speak. He is assistant coach at PMS. The players have asked if Mr. Mathis will be coach this year. In the last two years, four championships have been won by PMS. The coaches stress respect and hard work for the team. He feels the board's not voting was a slap in the face. An administrator contacted him following the previous board meeting and notified him that David Mathis was not hired as head coach. He stated the decision not to vote will have a negative effect on the school program for years. The 2016 year approached without a coach and Mr. Mathis stepped up to fill the role. He led the team to two conference championships in the first year. He is a mentor to the players. He fundraises and seeks donations, which led to the purchase of new uniforms. He was able to take the team to the prestigious Coal Classic Tournament. He wants what is best for the students. Elected officials will always have people who disagree with them and that is why we have Public Comments as part of the process. Mr. Jackson asks the board to do what is right.
- d. Stacy Duncan spoke saying she had no intention of bashing anyone at the last meeting. For anyone who thought she was disrespectful, she apologized. Her son did not know JMHS plays because he was taught differently at MVS. She wants students to know what to do and supports Darren Griffith. Her older son did not play basketball after he left middle school. She asks the board to consider this decision. It is important to the community.
- e. Angela Mann respectively spoke expressing her opinion on Coach Mathis. The school had no coach for boys' basketball and asked Mr. Mathis to coach. The PMS program has done wonders for students. Mr. Mathis is concerned about players' grades, their day, and their behavior. The players know they are being held accountable on and off the court. Mrs. Mann recommended him while she was principal at PMS. She stated that Mr. Mathis is a respectable man, saying it is an injustice for the community if he is not hired. She heard him speak at the July meeting and does not recall him being disrespectful, and asks that the board hire him.
- f. Leslie Ferguson spoke saying she was cheer coach last school year for PMS. She shared with the board that as issues came up last year, they were handled appropriately and with grace by the coach. She believes in both coaches and respects how they treat the students. She requests that the board make the decision that is in the best interest of the students by hiring Mr. Mathis.
- g. Larry Mathis, David's father, spoke saying he taught school and coached for 37 years in Wyoming County. He was proud to hear the comments about his son. He states that his son is a Christian. He stated the decision is not about the board, not about the coach, it is about the students. Getting to attend the Coal Classic and seeing the high school and the professional players affects the middle school players. He spoke that the board must go to bed and sleep with their decisions. He believes they will have trouble sleeping if they do not do the right thing by hiring Mr. Mathis. He knows his son's love and passion for the game.

Mr. Mathis appreciated the board's listening.

- h. Dennis Fox, a parent, spoke saying he does not understand why the board would replace something when there is nothing wrong with the situation.
- i. Colin Fox, student, spoke saying he thinks Mr. Mathis is a good coach.
- j. David Mathis spoke saying he does not understand why there was not a vote to hire him at the previous meeting. Mr. Wickline stated at the last meeting that there was not a vote because there was not a motion for hire. Mr. Wickline continued that at the July 2 meeting when Mrs. Wallace had been speaking about things she would like to see in the new school, many people thought the board was trying to stop the school from being built. He stated that Mr. Mathis spoke aloud while Mrs. Wallace was speaking, "It is not your money to send back". Mr. Wickline stated the non-vote had nothing to do with his coaching ability. Mrs. Wallace spoke and stated that she does not mind if things are said in a respectful way. She did not know it was David that made the comment until Mr. Wickline brought it to her attention. She did not know why he was saying this to a board that was expected to hire him as a coach. She advised him to contain comments in the future and remember he should remember that he is a role model for the students. She stated that after students graduate, they do not remember their teacher, they remember the coaches.
- k. David Mathis spoke again, apologizing to Mrs. Wallace if she thought he was being disrespectful. He appreciated the good words that have been said and did not intend to be disrespectful to Mrs. Wallace. He spoke about the locker rooms at PMS which have no storage space. He has seen great gyms and locker rooms at other schools and says we can have that. We must work together to get the new school, be on the same team. PMS has 20 players and 2 goals to shoot at. He had spoken to someone at WVDE because he was upset and was told he is not protected like teachers are protected but they advised ethically it sounded like something was wrong with the decision. Mr. Mathis feels everyone should be on the same page.
- l. Mrs. Wallace spoke again asking who he spoke to at WVDE. She said she feels like she had been drawn into the situation, not knowing what had been said. She stated we must watch what we are doing so that we can get the money for the new school. Mr. Mathis spoke asking that he not be judged until he is known. He hopes the board considers what has been said. He has had the best administrators and assistant coach. He appreciates Mrs. Mann.
- m. Mr. Fraley stated that he was concerned about comments on social media about the new board members. He questioned why Mr. Mathis posted something and asked him to explain. Mr. Mathis said the board should have been prepared for the meeting and if he had been their coach, they would have been prepared. He apologized for the social media post, but should have extended the olive branch he has asked the board to extend to him.
- n. Mr. Wickline stated that he had asked the SBA how to get bleachers on both sides of the new gym.

V. Presentations

- a. Michelle Groves McFall presented a report to the board from the Back to School Agency Fair held recently at MCTC. This is the third year for the fair. This year was bigger and better with

300 backpacks filled with school supplies being given to students. Thirty-six agencies and 31 volunteers participated with assistance from Ghost Rider Motorcycle Club, the Day Report Center, Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue, and the Sheriff's Department. The volunteers completed 144 hours of work. Funding was from donations and a grant from Mountain Valley Pipeline. Services offered to students included dental examinations, eye examinations, and haircuts. Mrs. McFall provided a survey to the board. More than 500 people participated in the fair. Mr. Wickline stated the board appreciated the fair.

VI. JMHS Student Government Report was removed from the agenda.

VII. Superintendent's Report

- a. Mrs. Basile shared with the board that the state is developing a Math 4 Life Cadre in efforts to increase math scores across the state. Monroe County has joined the cadre and WVDE will provide \$10,000 to be used for professional development and substitutes for teachers to participate in math trainings.
- b. October is National Principal's Month according to Mrs. Basile. Monroe County is fortunate to have excellent principals. Plans are to show them how much they are appreciated by some special events throughout the month.
- c. With the new requirement for each student to attend a minimum of 90% of their days enrolled, from the new Balanced Scorecard, we have learned that Educational Leave counts against the student and the school with regard to absences, even though they are excused. Because of this requirement, we have stopped placing Student Leave Requests for approval on the board agenda.
- d. Mrs. Basile recognized Greg Canterbury and Sonny Weikle for 100% passage of bus inspections last week; Shawn Hill, MCTC agriculture teacher, for being asked to be a part of the State NOCTI test creation team; and Johnathan McPherson for being chosen to be part of a state special education monitoring team. He will travel to Jackson County in October.
- e. Mrs. Basile shared that the Lion's Club had screened 1,043 students for vision. The club will assist with replacing eyeglasses for those needed. Mrs. Basile stated her appreciation for the Lion's Club collaboration and student assistance.
- f. MVS Trunk or Treat will be October 29; and PES will host it on October 31. The central office will participate.
- g. Mrs. Basile asked the board to think about purchasing an additional maintenance truck. The maintenance supervisor is currently driving the transportation truck which will be needed beginning November 15 to check roads and clean turnarounds.

VIII. Consent Items.

- a. Mrs. Sabol made the motion to approve the Consent Items with the exception noted above. The vote to approve was unanimous. Consent Items included Minutes from September 11, 2018, September 12, 2018, and September 18, 2018; Payment of Bills, Transfers and Supplements; a MOU with Marshall University; an Agreement with

Waiteville Community Center; a Proposal for Orientation and Mobility Services; a Temporary Part Time Agreement with Tammy Hale; a MOU with PAT/EHS/HS; and a MOU with Tracy Cox.

- b. Mr. Lively recused himself due to this check being a travel reimbursement check. Mr. Fraley made the motion to approve check number 83911. The vote to approve was unanimous. Mr. Lively returned to the room.

IX. Old Business

- a. Mrs. Basile recommended approval of the contract with Kid's Learning Center which had been signed by Carrie Toney. Ms. Toney is now in agreement with the payment amount and not the minimum student requirement. Mr. Lively made the motion to approve and the vote to approve was unanimous.

X. New Business

- a. Mrs. Basile recommended approval of the purchase of a gas steamer for PMS from Douglas Equipment at a cost of \$13,874.94. This was the lowest of three bids received. A grant from WVDE for \$8,000 was received that will go toward the purchase of this steamer. Mr. Fraley made the motion to approve and the vote to approve was unanimous.

XI. Personnel Items

- a. Mrs. Wallace made the motion at 7:46 p.m. to enter Executive Session under the guidelines of 6-9A-4. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- b. Mr. Fraley made the motion to return to Regular Session at 7:59 p.m. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- c. Mr. Wickline asked for a motion to approve the Personnel List with the exception of Number 14 under Hires as Larry Joe Mustain had asked that his name be removed. Mr. Lively made the motion to approve Personnel Hires 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16; Items B, C, and D. The vote to approve was unanimous. Those items approved are Hires of John D. Spangler, Jr., as Temporary Custodian for PMS; Jane Nash, Teresa Allen, Karsyn Dusold and Linda Coffman-Bennett as SAT Site Coordinators for PMS; Mary Sue Arwood, Judy Humphreys, and Brittani Wilson as Substitute Cooks; Edna Weikle as Evening Custodian for JMHS/MCTC; Barbara J. Holesapple as In School Suspension Monitor for MVS; Jerome Jackson as Assistant Softball Coach for JMHS; and Brian Keith Carter as JV Head Softball Coach for JMHS.
- d. A Leave of Absence was granted to Susan Conway. Resignations were accepted from Steven Tiller as Substitute Custodian, Kenny W. Mann as a Substitute Teacher, and Evin Dusold as Assistant Football Coach for JMHS.
- e. Volunteers approved were Brandon Adkins, Lisa Adkins, Shawwna Allen, Sandra Baker, Kayla Bryant, Sabrina Bryant, Kayla Conner, Jennifer Copeland, Deborah Crawford, Lindly Crawford, Candace Crouch, Crystal Davy, Sandra DeLaughter, Lori Fisher, Carly Garten, Jody Hensley, Clarence Holliday, Deneace Hunt, Cassandra D. Lothery, Angela C. Mann, Erin Mann, Takeisha M. McCroskey, Kayla Morgan, Kimberly Morris,

Savanna M. Porter, Cheyenne Spinks, Caitlin Taylor, Shelley Weikle, Tammie Whittaker, Peggy Wilson, and Jessica Yates.

- f. Mrs. Sabol made the motion to approve Angela E. Mann as Principal Mentor and the vote to approve was Sabol, yes; Wallace, yes; Fraley, yes; Wickline, yes; Lively, abstain.

XII. Discussion Items

- a. Mrs. Wallace announced that she would visit each school faculty room for input from staff and had visited MVS last week. She stated that the cafeteria staff at MVS would like to have another cook due to more students eating meals. She also shared that a custodian has been injured and would like to have additional part-time help. Mrs. Diem's class is knitting hats for the sick nicu unit at the hospital. There are ceiling leak concerns that need repaired and steps in need of paint. Mrs. Wallace has heard from a special education teacher that some students are in need of IEPs; that needs are not being met for students who don't have IEPs. She shared that she was told that Title I help is not being given to appropriate classes. Title I teachers are not going to classes they are supposed to be visiting.
- b. Mr. Fraley asked that the board discuss a math mentor at the next meeting.

XIII. Public Comments

- a. Melissa Boggs spoke asking that the board look at purchasing more land for MVS sports. She stated there is not enough space for the sports facilities. They do not have room for soccer, baseball, and football. She has heard that the pipeline will perform excavating and landscaping work.
- b. Larry Joe Mustain spoke saying he would complete paperwork the following day to resign from other sports after eighteen years as coach.

XIV. Adjournment

- a. Mr. Fraley made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. The vote to approve was unanimous.



President



Secretary