

**Monroe County Board of Education**

**Regular Meeting**

**November 17, 2020**

**Mountain View School**

Head Start/Early Head Start information was shared at this meeting.

**I. Roll Call**

- a. Mr. Fraley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He thanked Ms. Dunford for hosting the meeting.
- b. Other members present were Candy Sabol, Sally Wallace, and Sabrina Stutts.

Mr. Wickline was not in attendance.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Approval of Agenda/Adjustments**

- a. Mrs. Sabol made the motion to approve the agenda as written and the vote to approve was unanimous.

**IV. Presentations**

- a. Teachers Kay Diem, Nutenna Weikle, and Courtney Elmore presented the MVS LSIC Summary.

**V. Public Comments**

- a. None.

**VI. Superintendent's Report**

- a. Dr. Basile spoke about Governor Justice's recent announcement saying that masks are required indoors when not in your home for grades three and up. He also announced that fall sports may complete their tournaments, with winter sports postponed until January 11, 2021. This includes Little League, travel teams, 4-H teams, etc. Schools will be closed Thanksgiving Day and the Friday following Thanksgiving, and will operate with students being remote on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the following week. This will give seven days after

Thanksgiving for any symptoms to develop, hoping to stop the spread from any asymptomatic students.

- b. Dr. Basile shared that progress on the new Peterstown School is continuing at a good pace. Additional concrete is being poured this week and block is being laid. When she visited late last week, the entryway, main corridor, band and art areas were being worked on. Rain delays have put them about 12 days behind schedule.
- c. Dr. Basile reminded the board of a virtual training session on November 23, beginning at 3:00 p.m. She asked the board to let Libby know so she can complete the registration. Topics include the funding formula and declining student enrollment, school accountability, virtual learning, and Covid-19 in schools. She noted that there will be another training session on November 30 with topics including the religious freedom bill, legislation, Title IX and transgender, and school closures. She asked the board to please also let Libby know if they would like to be registered for this session.
- d. Dr. Basile noted that the camera systems are being updated and additional cameras are being added at MVS and the bus garage. She appreciates Mr. McPherson's work on this.
- e. The county received tractor trailer loads of wood chips that will be put on both elementary school playgrounds, Dr. Basile announced. She is hopeful this will be spread during Thanksgiving break.
- f. Dr. Basile appreciated the custodians working to paint the MVS gym walls. The Fire Marshall is to be in the county soon so she hopes to gain approval for the new bleachers with an additional row of seating and that the bleachers can be put into production very soon. She appreciates Ms. Dunford's efforts to continue improving the school. Dr. Basile shared that when Ms. Dunford calls and asks, she tries very hard to find a way to make the request work. Things are looking nice at MVS.
- g. Dr. Basile shared that the county is working to increase the number of substitutes for all employee classifications. Some service tests are scheduled and there is a need for substitutes in all categories. She asked the board members to send any candidates to the central office.
- h. Dr. Basile announced that the county will be distributing food bags on Monday of Thanksgiving week.

- i. Dr. Basile noted that JMHS celebrated and participated in College Exploration Week earlier this month. The event was completely virtual with colleges exclusively hosting JMHS students and parents.

#### VII. JMHS Student Body President's Report

- a. Jada Stutts shared the quote "Embrace the Crazy". She spoke about Leader in Me projects getting started. She shared that the SGA had their first meeting, discussing the need to have consistency, with most students wanting to attend school four days per week.

#### VIII. Treasurer's Report

- a. Mr. Berry presented year-to-date expenses. Mrs. Wallace made the motion to approve the report and the vote to approve was unanimous.

#### IX. Consent Items

- a. Mrs. Sabol made the motion to approve the Consent Items as written. The vote to approve was unanimous. Those items are Minutes from November 5, 2020; Payment of Bills; and Transfers and Supplements.

#### X. New Business

- a. Ms. Dunford presented the MVS LSIC Budget for approval. Mrs. Stutts made the motion to approve and the vote to approve was unanimous. Mr. Fraley thanked Ms. Dunford, Mrs. Griffith and all employees for their fine work at MVS.
- b. Ashley Mann gave an update and asked permission to host a JMHS YLA Virtual Fall Conference for Saturday, November 21, 2021. Michael Fraley spoke about the need to work with students who have been attending school on opposite days. Jada Stutts spoke about virtual meetings. Mrs. Sabol made the motion to approve the request to host the virtual fall conference and the vote to approve was unanimous with Mr. Fraley and Mrs. Stutts abstaining.
- c. After the recommendation from Dr. Basile, Mrs. Stutts made the motion to approve the PES Fresh Air Return/Building Repair Bids from the Premier Group in the amount of \$31,450. The vote to approve was unanimous.

#### XI. Personnel Items

- a. Mrs. Sabol made the motion to approve the Personnel Items with the exception of Number 2 under Leave of Absence and the vote to approve was unanimous.
- b. Those items are Hires of Irene C. Stover as a Substitute Teacher and a Substitute Aide. Resignations were approved for Debra St. Clair as a

Substitute Teacher; Allison B. St. Clair as Girls' Assistant Basketball Coach for PMS; and Lee W. Triplett as Head Football Coach for PMS. A Medical Leave of Absence was granted for Amy J. Young.

- c. Mrs. Stutts made the motion to approve the Maternity Leave of Absence for Molly W. Hoke and the vote to approve was unanimous with Mrs. Sabol abstaining.

## XII. Discussion/Action

- a. Dr. Basile shared updated information for the proposed four-day attendance model. She expressed concerns about learning gaps, mental health, and that students have been thrown into adult situations that they are struggling to handle. She shared that teachers are working hard, and that there are many factors affecting numbers. Weekly calls are shared with the Health Department and seating charts have been shared with the department. She noted that doctors acknowledge schools are safer than originally thought. The Health Department has requested staggered lunch shifts and staggered bus releases. Masks are required. The Health Department does not feel plexi-glass on desks is needed if masks are worn appropriately. The health department has reviewed the board's proposed re-entry plan. Dr. Basile expressed that it is critical to get students back in school, and currently approximately 29% of students across the county are failing. Remote and virtual learning are not working. Angie Mann voiced being in favor of the high school going to a four-day schedule. Ms. Dunford expressed concerns about virtual school but also shared it looks different at the elementary level, stating that twenty plus students in a classroom cannot social distance. Angie Mann stated that JMHS completed their own survey and 70% of the faculty voted in favor of a four-day schedule. Mrs. Wallace stated that she would not be moved by the survey data. She states that students always struggle and they do know how to use computers. She does not want to move away from the A/B schedule and does not agree with a four-day schedule. She wants families and children safe. Melissa Griffith states that she feels better with mask mandates but doesn't always feel comfortable with DHHR information due to lack of transparency. Ashley Mann expressed concerns about her children not attending full time, noting that they need to be in school for a variety of reasons. Mr. Berry, speaking as a parent, voiced being in favor of a four-day schedule for his child. Mrs. Wallace stated that she recognized that everyone was making sacrifices. Angie Mann stated that she feels the parents have spoken and the board should abide by their choices. Ms. Weikle voiced concerns about not enough room in classrooms to social distance. Mrs. Diem wants consideration given to not returning until after the holidays. Mrs. Stutts asked about virtual enrollment after the

first semester. As a parent, she expressed concern about elementary students not getting what they need at home but knows they can't social distance. She noted that partitions may be needed, saying it is a hard decision. The board is considering safety of staff and children, saying that whatever decision is made, she hopes for teamwork. Mr. Fraley asked about other schools with similar numbers. Dr. Basile stated that it was hard to determine. Mrs. Wallace asked if the Board can wait until Mr. Wickline is present to make a decision. Mr. Fraley suggested waiting until a later date to make a decision and thinks that sending students back after the Christmas holiday might be a good decision. He stated that with every day out of school, children are getting further behind and that parents will not receive an option on how many days they want to send their child to school. Waiting until second semester will provide opportunity for parents to choose virtual school if they desire.


The Discussion/Action for Re-Entry at the Mid Nine Weeks was tabled until the next meeting when the full board can be present.

#### XIII. Discussion Items

- a. Dr. Basile shared that the December 1 meeting will be held at MCTC.
- b. Mrs. Stutts thanked the staff for their various roles and the hard work they have done.

#### XIV. Adjournment

- a. Mrs. Sabol made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. The vote to approve was unanimous.



President



Secretary