

DateFebruary 2, 2015.....

.....Regular.....Superintendent’s Office.....Michael D. Blair, President..
Kind of Meeting	Where Held	Presiding Officer

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF WETZEL, to-wit:

The Wetzel County Board of Education met in Regular Session on Monday, February 2, 2015, at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, in New Martinsville, WV, at 6:30 p.m. The following members were present:

Josh Balcerek	Linda T. Kirk
Michael D. Blair	Robert E. Patterson
Carolyn R. Gatian	Dennis Albright, Secretary

OPENING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND INVOCATION:

This Regular Session of the Wetzel County Board of Education was called to order by the President of the Board, Mr. Michael D. Blair. Mr. Balcerek led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Mr. Blair gave the opening Invocation.

The order of ‘Presentation’ items was changed from the agenda, having READ 180/SR 44 before Energy Express.

PRESENTATION:

READ 180/SR 44 - Diane Brown

Tammy Wells, Administrator, began the presentation with a brief history of the literacy needs for the county’s adolescent population. She noted that with the initiation of the READ 180 program, along with the academic skills of our faculty, Wetzel County has seen marked gains in reading achievement in the adolescent students.

Diane Brown, Special Education teacher and READ 180/SR44 teacher, reviewed some of the successes with the program at Magnolia High School. Mrs. Brown said that READ 180 is a program with high-interest stories designed for young teens and young adults. Every program starts with a video clip and then the stories are done in a large group, followed by discussions for comprehension and activities on vocabulary and writing. The students then work individually online where they are leveled according to their test results. Mrs. Brown said the teachers are able to monitor and address individual specific targeted needs. She also stated they have initiated the SR44 program which is an intervention for students who test below the READ 180 level. Mrs. Brown said this program has been very successful in getting the students to transition to the READ 180 level. A large number of students have shown growth and several have moved to regular reading classes. She also said this program has been implemented in the lower grades.

Amy Littell, Special Education teacher and READ 180/SR44 teacher, discussed some of the experiences and successes with the program at the junior-high level at New Martinsville School. She stated they began the program this school year, and noted that three students have grown over 100 points on the Lexile since beginning the program. She has started a “100-point” club which the students are really excited about. Mrs. Littell thanked the Board for purchasing the program.

Mr. Blair stated he has heard good things about the program. Mrs. Wells also distributed notes from other teachers in the county who are using the program with great successes, along with information on Lexile.

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Energy Express - Shane Highley, Mollie Toppe

Shane Highley, Administrator, and Mollie Toppe, WVU Extension Agent, provided the Board with a handout and a power point presentation on Energy Express, an 8-week AmeriCorps summer reading program being reintroduced to Wetzel County this summer. The first two weeks of the program is for training the college student mentors, and the following six weeks is for the actual student program. Energy Express uses place-based curriculum with weekly themes, it incorporates family style meals, and encourages parent and community involvement and collaboration. The students in the program will be placed in small vertical age groupings and will work on reading, writing, art, drama, non-competitive play, and take-home books. The program allows parents and families to come visit, and offers many opportunities for volunteers. Mr. Highley said they have distributed applications for mentors and site coordinators. Wetzel County will have three Energy Express sites, and each site will consist of 40-64 elementary age children, one Site Coordinator, one or two Community Coordinators, and five to eight mentors, along with family and community volunteer members, and local partners. Mr. Highley said he is looking forward to this program and invited the Board members to visit. Ms. Toppe said it is one of the best programs the Extension Agency offers. Mr. Patterson asked Mr. Highley and Ms. Toppe to come back in September to report on the successes of the program.

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting - January 20, 2015

Acting on the Superintendent’s recommendation, Mrs. Kirk made the motion to approve the minutes for Regular Meeting, January 20, 2015. Second to the motion was made by Mr. Balcerek and the motion was approved unanimously by the members of the Board.

Personnel Matters:

Employment and/or Changes in Employment:

Retirements and/or Resignations:

Resignations:

- Donald R. Gilbert, Jr. Acceptance of resignation from position as Assistant Baseball Coach at Magnolia High School, effective January 18, 2015.
- Rex A. Rush Acceptance of resignation from position as Head Football Coach at Hundred High School, effective January 21, 2015.
- Joshua R. Weekley Acceptance of resignation from positions as Technology Coordinator at Valley High School, effective upon replacement or appointment to new position as Technology Systems Specialist, Evening Events Coordinator - Fall Season at Valley High School effective January 22, 2015, and Evening Events Coordinator - Winter Season at Valley High School effective the end of the 2014-2015 WVSSAC winter season.

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Professional Personnel:

Diana J. Wheeler Approval for change in assignment from MI/LD/BD with Autism Teacher at Hundred High School to Pre-School Special Needs Teacher at Short Line School, effective February 3, 2015 or pending a replacement is found for her teaching position at Hundred High School.

Service Personnel:

Richard A. Ritz Approval for change in assignment from Bus Operator - North State Rt. 2/Proctor/St. Joseph/Villas (9-12), Bus #33, to Countywide Special Needs Bus Operator, Bus #20, effective February 3, 2015.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AS OUTLINED UNDER PERSONNEL MATTERS:

Mr. Patterson made the motion for approval of the Superintendent's recommendations as outlined under Personnel Matters. Second to the motion was made by Mrs. Gatian and the motion was approved unanimously by the members of the Board.

Routine Matters:

Out of State Trip:

Approval of request from Janice Moore, Teacher, to take five students from Valley High School to River High School on March 11, 2015, in Hannibal, OH for the River High School Academic Competition. Funded through academic funds at Valley High School.

Approval of request from Shelley Hulsey, Teacher, to take two teams from Paden City High School to River High School on March 11, 2015, in Hannibal, OH for the River High School Academic Competition. Funded through academic funds at Paden City High School.

Approval of request from Jay Salva, Principal, for Dan Henthorn, Teacher, to take two students from Paden City High School and four students from Magnolia High School to Pittsburgh, PA on February 11, 2015 for the free Shakespeare Monologue and Scene contest at the Pittsburgh Public Theater's Riley Theater, at no cost to the Board.

Approval of request from Jeremy Kelch, Teacher, to take two students from the Valley High School Broadcasting/News Production Class and Sportsman Club to Nashville, TN on February 12-15, 2015 to attend the 39th Annual National Wild Turkey Foundation Convention and Sports Show. Funded through attendee contributions and donations.

County Strategic Plan Annual Update:

Superintendent recommends approval of the Annual Update to the County Strategic Plan for the 2014-2015 school year, as presented at the January 20, 2015 Board Meeting.

Lease Agreement:

Paden City Wildcat Boosters:

Matthew Barker Memorial Complex leased from the Paden City Wildcat Boosters for use by the Paden City High School teams during their respective seasons beginning February 2, 2015 through June 1, 2015, for \$4,000.00.

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MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS AS OUTLINED UNDER ROUTINE MATTERS:

Mr. Balcerek made the motion for approval of the Superintendent’s recommendations as outlined under Routine Matters. Second to the motion was made by Mrs. Gatian and the motion was approved unanimously by the members of the Board.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Approval for Transfers and Increases in the Budget:

There were no Transfers and Increases in the Budget at this time

OTHER ITEMS:

Mr. Albright announced that he received the recycling report and noted that Wetzel County Schools has turned in a total of 21,238 pounds of recycled material this school year.

Mr. Albright distributed additional ‘Thank You’ notes to the Board members from Hundred High School regarding the art tables and new desks and chairs.

Mr. Albright stated that he, Mr. Gottron, and Mr. Huston attended a ‘Groundhog Day’ breakfast in Fairmont for First Exchange Bank today. He said Dr. Gee, President of WVU, was the guest speaker and the theme was “Education”. First Exchange Bank recognized the three counties, Wetzel, Monongalia, and Marion, that have branch locations. Long Drain School and Hundred High School are Partners in Education with the bank.

Mr. Albright announced that the All-County STEM Competition held last week at Valley High School was very successful.

Mr. Albright stated that Ben McPherson received information on Friday for a Web Design Conference in Pittsburgh, PA on February 10th. He said that one of the goals is to redesign the school and county websites, and he would like for Adam Herrick to attend this conference. Since the notice was received after the agenda for tonight’s meeting was published, Mr. Albright asked for Board approval, and stated the information will be placed on the next Board agenda. The Board was in agreement.

Mr. Blair asked Mr. Albright where we stand with the county school system’s involvement with drug awareness programs with the County Commission, local police, state police, and sheriff’s department. Mr. Albright said we are working with a program with Jim Robinson called ‘Project Purple’. He informed the Board that he does not have the final details, but sometime in April a speaker will be coming to speak to the high schools.

Mr. Yeager distributed a handout to the Board and discussed the current personnel season, the timelines, and the law concerning classroom ratios. He reviewed and discussed the current school year number of students per grade, the number of teachers, and the projected enrollment numbers for next school year for each of the elementary schools. The Board was in agreement that better instruction is given to students in smaller classroom sizes.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Blair moved and Mr. Patterson seconded the motion for unanimous approval to retire into Executive Session per WV Code §6-9A-4(b-2-A), for the discussion of personnel mattersdiscussion of the County Superintendent’s Contract The Board retired in Executive Session at 7:17 p.m. Following the Executive Session, the Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:56 p.m., no action needed, none taken.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

February 16, 2015 - Regular Meeting - County Office - 6:30 p.m.
March 2, 2015 - Regular Meeting and Special Meeting/Public Hearing - Paden City High School - 6:00 p.m.
March 5, 2015 - Special Meeting/Public Hearing - Valley High School - 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Having set the time and date of the next meeting of the Wetzel County Board of Education, Mr. Blair made the motion to adjourn this Regular Meeting. Mr. Balcerek seconded the motion for unanimous approval to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

_____	President
_____	Secretary