## **Minutes**

The Barbour County Board of Education met in special session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at the Board of Education Office, 45 School Street, Philippi, WV 26416.

Ron Phillips, Adam Starks, Eric Ruf, Joanne McConnell, David Everson, Members, and Jeffrey Woofter, Secretary, were present. Also in attendance were: Edward L. Poling, Brian L. Moats, Paula Townsend, Jeff Kittle, James Poling, Tami Jo Wilt, Phil Bowers, Marija Ilic and Olive Zinn.

Mr. Ruf called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. McConnell, led the pledge to flag.

Invocation by Mrs. McConnell

The board conducted a work session concerning possible work stoppage.

The following resolution was read:

Governor Justice,

We are writing to show our support to the dedicated men and women of Barbour County Schools in their effort to raise their pay and decrease their insurance costs. Our teachers and service personnel work hard every day to educate our children and to increase their opportunities for a productive life and we feel they deserve to be compensated at a rate that reflects their efforts.

We are asked on a regular basis what we can do to fill teaching positions that have gone unfilled, some for multiple years, and to retain talented people to work in our schools. The simple answer is we need to raise our compensation packages for our employees so we can attract students to the education profession and to make our open positions more competitive with surrounding states. We agree with the educators throughout the State of West Virginia that believe being ranked 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation in teacher pay is a deterrent to attracting more applicants for the five and half positions we have in Barbour County and the 700+ openings that we currently have in the State.

On behalf of the men, women and children of Barbour County Schools, we would like to encourage you to use your influence with the legislature to pass meaningful laws to address the pay and benefits issues facing our educators. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Barbour County Board of Education

Panne McConnell tand Joanne McConnell. Dave Everson, Me

Adam Starks, Member

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

President

Secretary