

Minutes

The Barbour County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 12, 2023, at the Board of Education Office, 45 School Street, Philippi, WV 26416.

David Everson, Adam Starks, Jared Nestor, Joanne McConnell, Members, and Jeffrey Woofter, Secretary, were present. Ron Phillips, Member, was absent. Also in attendance were: Addison Taylor, Carla Taylor, Annette Hughart, Emily Denison, Michelle Denison, and Sidney Boylen.

Mrs. McConnell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Starks led the pledge to the flag.

Invocation by Mr. Starks

A motion was made by Mr. Everson to approve the minutes of May 22, 2023, and June 1, 2023 meetings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nestor. After discussion, the motion passed four (4) to zero (0).

The board recognized the following:

BOE Scholarship recipients: Sydnie Boylen and Addison Taylor

Superintendents Recommendations –

1. Recommendation: Approve payment of bills for the period of May 17, 2023, through June 5, 2023, at a total expenditure of \$471,659.61.
2. Recommendation: Authorize June 15, 2023, payroll and federal withholdings not to exceed the amount of \$1,000,000.00 to be released in accordance with Federal Law.
3. Recommendation: Authorize the payment of utility bills and copier bills due before the next board meeting not to exceed \$70,000.00.
4. Recommendation: Approve the final total of May 26, 2023, payroll check, and federal withholdings in the amount of \$545,628.09.
5. Recommendation: Approve the final total of utility/copier bills in the amount of \$54,030.17.
6. Recommendation: Approve/Confirm fundraising activity requests as submitted (all candy sales will be done outside school hours)
 - A. Belington Middle School
 1. (7th Grade Team) - \$250.00
 2. (7th Grade Team) - \$1,000.00
 - B. Kasson Elementary/Middle School
 1. (PTO) - \$1,000.00
 - C. Philip Barbour High School
 1. (Boys Basketball) - \$1,000.00
 2. (Boys Basketball) - \$1,000.00
 3. (Cheer) - \$1,000.00
 4. (Cheer) - \$1,000.00
 5. (Class of 2025) - \$500.00
 6. (Class of 2025) - \$500.00
 7. (Girls Basketball) - \$1,000.00
 8. (Softball) - \$1,000.00
 9. (Softball) - \$150.00
 10. (Volleyball) - \$500.00
7. Recommendation: Approve/Confirm curricular trips.

Philip Barbour High School (HSTA) – to Potomac State College on July 9, 2023, and July 14, 2023
8. Recommendation: Approve an agreement with Dynamic Literacy LLC to provide Academic school improvement work, and staff development for BCS Title 1 Schools during the 2023/2024 school year.
9. Recommendation: Approve an agreement with Insights to provide Academic PLCs, data analysis, and family engagement work for Philippi Middle School during the 2023/2024 school year.
10. Recommendation: Approve an agreement with Martin Consulting to provide School improvement work for

Belington Middle School during the 2023/2024 school year.

11. Recommendation: Approve an agreement with World Vision to implement KidREACH for the 2023/2024 School year.
12. Recommendation: Approve/Confirm the use of buildings and/or grounds.
 - A. Belington Middle School
 1. on August 5, 2023 – requested by Kammy Peacock for Back to School Event
 - B. Kasson Elementary/Middle School
 1. on May 19, 2023, through August 18, 2023 – requested by Cody & Olivia Bolyard for off-season basketball practice
 - C. Philip Barbour High School
 1. on June 1, 2023, through July 17, 2023 – requested by Emily Denison for Private volleyball lessons
13. Recommendation: Approve building/ground modifications.

Philippi Elementary School (Room 109) – mount SmartBoard to classroom wall
14. Recommendation: Review new policy 8320, Freedom of Speech and the Press in School-Sponsored Media, for second reading.

Purpose: The Barbour County Board of Education believes that freedom of expression and press freedom are fundamental principles in a democratic society that provide all citizens with the right to engage in a vigorous discussion of ideas, and that a robust and free student press is critical to the development of informed and civic-minded adults. Freedom of expression through school-sponsored media is protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, Article III, section 7 of the West Virginia State Constitution, and the Student Journalist Press Freedom Protection Act.

It is the policy of this Board of Education to ensure all students enjoy free speech and free press protections related to school-sponsored media, and to encourage students to become educated, informed and responsible members of society. No expression made by students in the exercise of free speech or free press rights shall be deemed to be an expression of school or Board of Education policy.

Definitions:

“Libel” is the willful or negligent publication of provably false and unprivileged statements of fact that do demonstrable harm to a living person’s reputation.

1. Criticism of public officials, public figures, school policy, or the work performance of teachers, administrators, school officials and/or other school employees is generally protected unless it meets the definition of libel, above.

“Orderly operation of the school” is educational student activity sponsored by the school, including classroom work, school assemblies and similar gatherings, school-sponsored athletic contests, band concerts, school plays and scheduled in-school lunch periods.

“Prior restraint” is any action taken to prohibit, prevent, or stop the creation, research, production, or distribution of school-sponsored media. This includes, but is not limited to, verbal statements that a story may not be distributed or should not be researched or written; deletion of material including sentences, photographs, or portions of a broadcast; interfering with printing or distribution decisions; and destruction of already-distributed school-sponsored media.

“Prior review” is the review by a school administrator before publication or distribution of school-sponsored media. This does not include review by a student media adviser or administrative review done at the behest of the student journalist.

“Slander” is the speaking of false statements of fact that seriously harm a living person’s reputation.

- 1 Criticism of public officials, public figures, school policy, or the work performance of teachers, administrators, school officials and/or other school employees is generally protected unless it meets the definition of slander, above.

“Student media adviser” means an individual employed, appointed, or designated by a public high school to supervise or provide instruction relating to school-sponsored media.

“Student journalist” means a public high school student who writes, edits, photographs, records, or prepares information for inclusion in school-sponsored media.

“School-sponsored student media” means any material that is prepared, substantially written, published or broadcast, in any media, by a student journalist under the direction of a student media adviser and distributed or generally made available to members of the student body. School-sponsored media includes, but is not limited to, newspapers, magazines, web sites and other Internet-based media, yearbooks, TV, radio, podcasts and video productions. School-sponsored media does not include media intended for distribution or transmission for classroom purposes only, or non-school-sponsored student media.

Student freedom of expression in school-sponsored student media

Student journalists are responsible for determining the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of school-sponsored student media. Student journalists may create an editorial hierarchy (e.g, student editorial board, editor in chief, section editors, etc.) for determining content.

No student journalist shall be disciplined, penalized, restrained, or otherwise censored, punished, or subject to any form of retaliation when acting in accordance with this policy.

There shall be no prior restraint by any person of material prepared for school-sponsored media unless it falls within one of the exceptions, listed below. School officials have the burden of showing prior justification for their limitation of student journalist expression and shall afford students a timely opportunity for appeal.

Administrative prior review shall be rare, if it occurs at all. Sound pedagogical, ethical and legal rationale exist opposing all forms of prior review. Any reason for prior review shall be clearly communicated to the student journalist in writing, and at no time will school-sponsored student media be held for prior review longer than 72 hours or more than 24 hours beyond the publication deadline time as established by the student journalist, whichever comes first.

Student Media Advisers

Student media advisers may provide feedback to students including teaching professional standards of English and journalism. Student media advisers do not determine, assign, or approve the content of student media, except if the adviser believes the student media has met the criteria for exclusion listed in "Exceptions" below. Such decisions are subject to the appeal process, outlined below.

A student media adviser may not be dismissed, suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred, or otherwise retaliated against for acting to protect a student journalist engaged in protected speech or refusing to infringe on conduct that is protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, Article III, section 7 of the West Virginia State Constitution, §18B-21-1, §18B-21-2, §18B-21-3, and §18B-21-4 or this policy. No financial decisions relating to the student media program will be based, in whole or in part, on the past, present, or potential content of school-sponsored student media.

Exceptions

This policy does not authorize or protect school-sponsored media that:

- 2 Is libelous or slanderous;
- 3 Constitutes an actionable invasion of privacy;
- 4 Is obscene;
- 5 Violates federal or state law; or
- 6 Expressly incites students to engage in the commission of an unlawful act or acts, or violate a lawful school policy, or is likely to cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

If, in the opinion of a student editor, student editorial staff or faculty adviser, material proposed for a publication may fall within the list of exceptions, above, students may seek the advice of an attorney or the Student Press Law Center. The final decision of whether the material is to be published or distributed will be left to the student editor or student editorial staff.

Administrators must base a forecast of material and substantial disruption on specific facts, including past experience in the school and current events influencing student behavior, and not on speculation, undifferentiated fear or apprehension. In determining whether student media is disruptive, consideration must be given to the context of the distribution as well as the content of the material. Consideration should be given to past experience in the school with similar material, past experience in the school in dealing with and supervising the students in the school, current events influencing student attitudes and behavior, and whether there have been any instances of actual or threatened disruption prior to or contemporaneously with the dissemination of the student publication in question. Actual or potential heated discussion or debate alone is not sufficient evidence of a material and substantial disruption.

School officials shall have the burden of providing to the student journalist prior written justification for their limitation of school-sponsored media.

While some other speech may be unprotected under state law, unprotected speech is not speech that is required to be censored. Censorship of other speech may be a violation of the First Amendment, even if not a violation of West Virginia state law.

Appeals

The student journalist shall have the right, within five business days of receiving the written reason for limitation of school-sponsored student media, to appeal the decision to the Superintendent. Appeals must be filed in writing. The Superintendent shall convene a hearing within five business days. The student journalist shall have the right to have the student's parent or legal guardian and the student media adviser present. The burden of proof shall be on the principal or his or her appointed representative to demonstrate that the media in question has met the criteria for exclusion. The Superintendent shall render a written decision within 48 hours of the hearing.

The student journalist shall have the right, within five business days of receiving the Superintendent's written decision, to appeal to the school board. The school board shall hear the appeal at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. The school board shall render a written decision within 48 hours of the hearing.

15. Recommendation: Approve/Confirm requests for professional leave.
16. Approve 5 additional days of supplemental employment for all custodians to be used between June 5-16, 2023, and June 27-30, 2023, and an additional 5 days of supplemental employment for all custodians to be used between July 10, 2023, and August 7, 2023.
17. Recommendation: Accept the resignation/retirement of Connie Mundy as Title I Director/Manager of PreK-5 Curriculum and Instruction effective on June 30, 2023.
18. Recommendation: Accept the resignation/retirement of Debra Bolyard as ECCAT/Aide at Belington Elementary School effective at the end of the 2022/2023 school year.
19. Recommendation: Accept the resignation of Raymond Hicks as Head Softball Coach at Philippi Middle School effective June 1, 2023.
20. Recommendation: Employ the following personnel for the 2023/2024 school year. **Employment is contingent upon certification and clearance of criminal convictions as defined in WV Codes §18-5-15c(d) and §15-2-24(d)**

Regular Employee Assignments 2023-24 (FY24)		
Name of Person	Location	Job ID: Position
	KEMS	Job 1836: Itinerant Multi-Categorical w/Autism Instructor
Tammy Ross	PBHS	Job 1837: Itinerant School Nurse - RN (half-time)
	JES	Job 1838: Music Instructor (half-time)
Sarah Harris	PMS	Job 1839: Itinerant Physical Education/Health Instructor
	PBHS	Job 1840: Itinerant Hearing Impaired/Visually Impaired/Multi-Categorical Instructor
	PMS	Job 1841: Itinerant Gifted/Multi-Categorical Instructor (half-time)
	PBHS	Job 1842: Mathematics Instructor
	PBHS	Job 1843: Mathematics Instructor
Crystal Bible	BMS	Job 1844: Itinerant Multi-Categorical w/Autism Instructor
	PES	Job 1845: Itinerant Multi-Categorical w/Autism Instructor
	PBHS	Job 1854: Counselor
Cynthia Lawson	PES	Job 2460: Cook (Half-time)
Angel Stull	PES	Job 2461: Title I Reading/Math Instructor
	PES	Job 2462: Elementary Education Instructor
	BOE	Job 2463: School Psychologist
	BES	Job 2464: Elementary Education Instructor
Teena Haddix	PBHS	Job 2468: Custodian
Stephanie Skidmore	PBHS	Job 2480: Secretary
Rosa Grose	Central Office	Job 2481: Secretary III/Switchboard Operator – Receptionist
LaTosha Dumire	BES	Job 2482: 1 st Grade Instructional Aide/Supervisory Aide
McKenzie Moss	BES	Job 2484: 1 st Grade Instructional Aide/Supervisory Aide
Loretta Talbott	BES	Job 2485: 1 st Grade Instructional Aide/Supervisory Aide
Leslie Sandridge	JES	Job 2486: 1 st Grade Instructional Aide/Supervisory Aide

Stephanie Bailey	KEMS	Job 2487: 1 st Grade Instructional Aide/Supervisory Aide
Myranda McDaniel	PES	Job 2488: 1 st Grade Instructional Aide/Supervisory Aide
Courtney Crites	PES	Job 2489: 1 st Grade Instructional Aide/Supervisory Aide
	PES	Job 2490: 1 st Grade Instructional Aide/Supervisory Aide
	PES	Job 2491: 1 st Grade Instructional Aide/Supervisory Aide
	BES	Job 2555: Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher/ PreK- PreK Special Needs Aide/ Supervisory Aide/ Transportation Aide
Gabrielle Rhodes	Central Office	Job 2556: Title I Director/Manager of PreK-5 Curriculum and Instruction
Benjamin Shew	BMS	Job 2557: Principal
Christopher Derico	Central Office	Job 2637: School Nutrition-Wellness Director/Manager of Technology

Substitute Employee Assignments 2023-24		
Name of Person	Location	Job ID: Position
Matthew Upton	County	Job 1846: Substitute Custodian(s)
	County	Job 1847: Substitute LPN/Aide(s)
	County	Job 1848: Substitute School Nurse RN(s)
	County	Job 1849: Substitute Cook(s)
	County	Job 1850: Substitute Bus Operator(s)
Ashley Workman, Christie Allen	County	Job 1851: Substitute Teacher(s)
Ronda Jones	County	Job 1852: Substitute Secretary(s)
	County	Job 1855: Restricted Short-Term Substitute Teacher(s)

Extra-Curricular Employee Assignments 2023-24		
Name of Person	Location	Job ID: Position
	KEMS	Job 2452: Volunteer Assistant Volleyball Coach
	KEMS	Job 2453: Volunteer Assistant Girls Basketball Coach
	PMS	Job 2454: Assistant Girls Basketball Coach
Jonathon Carpenter	PBHS	Job 2455: Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
Justin Carter	PMS	Job 2457: Head Girls Basketball Coach
	BMS	Job 2458: Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach
James Carpenter	PBHS	Job 2459: Volunteer Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
	County	Job 2469: Homebound Instructor (extra-curricular)
	County	Job 2470: Homebound Instructor (extra-curricular)

21. Recommendation: Approve listed persons to enter the bus operator training program for Barbour County Schools.

A motion was made by Mr. Starks to approve agenda items 1-12A1, item 13, and items 15-21 as recommended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Everson. After discussion, the motion passed four (4) to zero (0).

A motion was made by Mrs. McConnell to approve agenda item 12C1 provided that a new form is submitted with the correct dates and correctly indicates that it is for personal gain. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nestor. After discussion, the motion passed four (4) to zero (0).

The board recessed from 6:30 p.m. to 6:35 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. McConnell to approve agenda item 12B1 as recommended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nestor. After discussion, the motion passed four (4) to zero (0).

A motion was made by Mr. Starks to approve agenda item 14 as recommended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Everson. After discussion, the motion failed two (2) to two (2) with Mr. Everson and Mr. Nestor voting nay.

The board acted upon or discussed the following items:

1. Other

Mrs. McConnell made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nestor and passed four (4) to zero (0).

The board returned to open session at 7:42 p.m. (No votes or decisions were made in executive session).

Next board meetings:

June 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Office (Regular Session)

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

President

Secretary