The Mercer County Board of Education met in special session at 3:15 P.M. on Thursday, February 21, 2019, in the Seminar Center at Mercer County Technical Education Center, Princeton, WV.

Members present were Paul Hodges, Jacinda Santon Smith, Gilbert Bailey, Mary Alice Kaufman, Greg Prudich, and Deborah Akers, Secretary.

NEW BUSINESS

Personnel
Board Memo #199

On motion of Ms. Kaufman, seconded by Mr. Prudich, and by a 4-0-1 vote, with Ms. Smith abstaining because her name is listed on the agenda as a volunteer tennis coach at Princeton Senior High School, the Board approved the following personnel agenda, contingent upon the return of an acceptable background check and drug test:

Personnel Agenda
February 21, 2019

Professional

Note: Employment is contingent upon acceptable background checks and drug testing.

Leaves:

Melinda Robinett, Special Education Teacher, Princeton Middle School, requests Medical Leave beginning February 4, 2019, through April 1, 2019.

Jami Buckner, Teacher, Mercer School, requests Medical Leave beginning January 21, 2019, through March 1, 2019.

Elizabeth Haynes, Teacher, Glenwood School, requests Family Medical Leave beginning February 18, 2019, through March 29, 2019. Her previous leave was January 7, 2019, through February 15, 2019.

Leave is recommended.

Resignations:

Reason: Retirement
Rama Faulkner, Special Education Teacher, Bluefield Intermediate School, effective June 30, 2019.
Reason: Retirement

Coaching

(All coaching positions are pending WVSSAC receipt of certification)

Princeton Middle School:
Employment: Spring Pinter, Assistant Softball Coach
Employment: Wendy Johnson, Head Softball Coach

Bluefield High School:
Employment: Scott Spangler, Head Boys’ Track Coach
Employment: John Mallamaci, Head Boys’ Tennis Coach
Employment: Allison Watkins, Head Girls’ Tennis Coach

PikeView High School:
Employment: David King, Assistant Boys’ Track Coach
Employment: David Coburn, Head Girls’ Track Coach
Resignation: Randy Sparks, Head Boys’ Track Coach

Princeton Senior High School:
Employment: James Tony Barbery, Head Girls’ Tennis Coach
Employment: James Tony Barbery, Head Boys’ Tennis Coach
Resignation: Robert Crawford, Assistant Boys’ Track Coach
Volunteer Coach: Jacinda Smith, Tennis

Athletic Program Support Volunteers:
Tracy Raban, Softball

PikeView Middle School:
Athletic Program Support Volunteers:
Kenneth Miller

Glenwood School:
Employment: Thomas Thompson, Head Soccer Coach

Montcalm High School:
Employment: Brandi Simpson, Assistant Softball Coach, (middle)

Extra-Curricular Contracts

Alternative to Suspension

Montcalm Elementary School:
Karen Lattie
Tonya Elliott
Loressa Bouldin Terri Sheppard

**Princeton Middle School:**
Johanna Smith

**Lunch/Bus Duty**

**Athens School:**
(As Needed)
Michelle Martin Andrea Barr
Sara Wilie Jillian Tieman
Terry Bailey

**Montcalm High School:**
Paul Dorsey (As Needed)
Kelli Crane

**Home/Hospital Instructor**
Diana Sandifer
Rhonda Walls

**Professional Substitutes**

**Add:**
Allison Watkins
Elementary Education K-6

**Remove:**
Mark Large Cynthia Bunch
Opal Morgan Allison Watkins-5202

**Volunteers**

**Princeton Middle School:**
Hillary Pedigo Shara Walker
Ashley Walls Wendy Johnson
LaDonna Smith Jennifer Stull
Lynn White Naomi Creer
Kami Anderson

**Sun Valley Elementary School:**
Teresa Cochran Justin Turner
Chuck Cochran Tim Lambert
Terra Bennett Chris Bennett

**Service Personnel**
Leaves:

**Ronald Woolridge**, Bus Operator, Transportation Department, requests Medical Leave beginning February 12, 2019, through March 12, 2019.

**Rita Brewer**, Aide, Princeton Middle School, requests Medical Leave beginning December 18, 2018, through January 14, 2019.

**Jennifer Crowe**, Autism Mentor, Princeton Primary School, requests Medical Leave beginning March 1, 2019, through May 29, 2019. Her previous leave was December 3, 2018, through February 28, 2019.

**Donna Shumate**, Cook, Princeton Senior High School, requests Medical Leave beginning February 15, 2019, through March 15, 2019.

Leave is recommended.

Resignations:

Reason: Retirement

**Sue Clark**, Secretary, Mercer County Early Learning Center-Bluefield Site, effective December 31, 2019.
Reason: Retirement

Transfers:

**Kayla Pettrey**, from Cook II, Straley School, to Cook III, Oakvale School, effective March 4, 2019.

**Patricia Akers**, from ECCAT/Aide w/Transportation Duties, Mercer County Early Learning Center-Princeton Site, to ECCAT/Aide, Mountain Valley Elementary School, effective with the 2019-2020 school year.

**Brittany Reed**, from Special Education Aide, Brushfork Elementary School, to Special Education Aide w/Transportation Duties, Mountain Valley Elementary School, effective with the 2020-2021 school year.

**Shirley Jennelle**, from Special Education Aide, Mercer School, to ECCAT/Aide, Mountain Valley Elementary School, effective with the 2020-2021 school year.
Seniority Rights – School Closing
(Employees will be housed at Ceres Elementary School and Mercer County Early Learning Center-Bluefield Site, until the opening of Mountain Valley Elementary School)

Betty Long, from Secretary, Ceres Elementary School, to Secretary/Accountant II, Mountain Valley Elementary School, effective with the 2019-2020 school year.

Extra-Curricular Contracts

Lunch/Bus Duty

Reclassification of Aides

Sun Valley Elementary School:
Christina Hudgins

Service Substitutes

Add:
Amanda Mullins-Custodian

Remove:
Connie Scott
Marie Radford

Student Disciplinary Action
Board Memo #197

The student disciplinary hearing was called to order at 3:27 P.M. by Mr. Hodges. He advised this would be a closed hearing and the Board then went into closed session for the hearing.

Kermit Moore, Board Attorney, represented the administration. Mr. Joshua Riffe, Principal, Ms. Beverly Jeffries, Assistant Principal, and Ms. Alisha Lester, School Counselor, appeared before the Board to represent PikeView Middle School concerning the proposed recommendation to expel a female student for the following charges:

Threatening to use scissors to kill a student and conduct detrimental to the safe and orderly operation of the school

Neither the student, nor her representative was present for the hearing. Testimony was taken. Exhibits 1 through 17 were filed by the Board Attorney, Mr. Moore. The hearing was concluded at 4:20 P.M. at which time the Board reconvened in open session.

On motion of Mr. Prudich, seconded by Mr. Bailey, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board upheld the Superintendent’s recommendation that the student be expelled for 365 days for threatening to use scissors to kill a student, and conduct detrimental to the safe and orderly operation of the school. Her actions were in violation of Mercer County Policy J-18 and WV Code 61-2-15(a).

Student Disciplinary Action
Board Memo #198
The student disciplinary hearing was called to order at 4:27 P.M. by Mr. Hodges. He advised this would be a closed hearing and the Board then went into closed session for the hearing.

Kermit Moore, Board Attorney, represented the administration. Mr. Tom Adkins, Principal, and Mr. Joshua Wilburn, Assistant Principal, appeared before the Board to represent Princeton Senior High School concerning the proposed recommendation to expel a female student for the following charges:

**Battery against a school employee**

Neither the student, nor her representative was present for the hearing. Testimony was taken. Exhibits 1 through 9 were filed by the Board Attorney, Mr. Moore. The hearing was concluded at 4:50 P.M. at which time the Board reconvened in open session.

On motion of Ms. Kaufman, seconded by Mr. Prudich, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board upheld the Superintendent’s recommendation that the student be expelled for 365 days for battery against a school employee. Her actions were in violation of Mercer County Policy J-18 and WV Code 18A-5-1a.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Nothing further appearing, Mr. Prudich moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Smith, and the special meeting was adjourned at 4:52 P.M.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED SCHOOL CLOSURE**

The Board reconvened in special session at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 21, 2019, at Whitethorn Primary School, Bluefield, WV, for a public hearing on the proposed closure of Whitethorn Primary School. Students from Whitethorn Primary School will attend the new primary school to be constructed in the Bluefield area.

Members present were Paul Hodges, Jacinda Santon Smith, Gilbert Bailey, Mary Alice Kaufman, Greg Prudich, and Deborah Akers, Secretary. Gilbert Bailey was absent. Central Office Administrators, staff members from Whitethorn Primary School, and other concerned citizens were present.

Superintendent, Dr. Deborah Akers, presented reasons and supporting data in relation to the proposed closure of Whitethorn Primary School. Questions regarding personnel changes presented by citizens and employees were addressed.

This hearing was concluded at 6:40 P.M.

Deborah S. Akers, Secretary