The Mercer County Board of Education met in special session at 6:15 P.M. on Tuesday, February 26, 2019, in the Mercer County Technical Education Seminar Center, Princeton, WV, for a public forum on the school calendar.

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

PUBLIC FORUM ON THE SCHOOL CALENDAR

The calendar meeting began at 6:15 P.M. There were twenty-one (21) present, including five (5) board members, Dr. Akers, school employees, and parents. Dr. Akers presented the state and county rules and regulations regarding the development of the county school calendar. Following her presentation, questions relating to the process of developing the calendar, timing of Spring Break, chances of adopting a Balanced Calendar, and the possibility of developing the calendar earlier in the school year were addressed.

The calendar meeting recessed at 6:39 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

The Mercer County Board of Education reconvened in regular session at 7:00 P.M.

The Mercer County Board of Education met in regular session at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 26, 2019, in the Mercer County Technical Education Seminar Center, Princeton, WV.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Todd Browning, Assistant Superintendent, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

RECOGNITIONS / PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Deborah Akers, Paul Hodges, Teresa Russell, and Todd Browning recognized the individuals on the Board Recognizes for their accomplishments.

Dr. Ashley Vaughn, Angela Groseclose, and Stefanie Kopp presented Math4life.

CITIZENS INPUT
None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Bailey moved to approve the minutes for February 5, 2019, and February 12, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kaufman, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the minutes for February 5, 2019, and February 12, 2019.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Policy G-10, Personnel Procedures: Vacancies/Hiring/Transfers (Second Reading)**
Board Memo #176

On motion of Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Prudich, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved Policy G-10, Personnel Procedures: Vacancies/Hiring/Transfers (Second Reading). This policy was changed to update, clarify language and to make grammatical changes. One (1) comment was received.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

There were no changes.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

On motion of Mr. Prudich, seconded by Ms. Smith, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the items listed on the Consent Agenda.

**Approval of License Agreement for Use of Field (John Cooper Ball Field with Kelly Eller)**
Board Memo #200

The Board approved an agreement with Kelly M. Eller which allows the Montcalm High School and Middle School baseball teams to practice at the John Cooper Ball Field. The terms are the same as in prior years, including the consideration, which will remain at $2,000. This agreement may be renewed for an additional one-year period. The rent shall be subject to modification during this renewal provided the change is mutually agreed upon. The term of the Agreement is March 1, 2019, through June 30, 2019.

**Approval of License Agreement for Use of Fields (Tommy Bailey, President of the Greater Princeton Little League)**
Board Memo #201

The Board approved an agreement with Tommy Bailey which allows the PikeView Middle School and Glenwood School baseball and softball teams to practice and play and
the Montcalm High School and Middle School baseball teams to play at the Anderson Field Complex at Gardner. While their field is being renovated, the PikeView High School girls’ softball team will also play at Gardner. Due to the additional use and the increasing maintenance cost, the consideration will increase this year by $250, making the total $1,500. All terms remain the same.

This agreement may be renewed for an additional one-year period. The rent shall be subject to modification during this renewal provided the change is mutually agreed upon. The term of the Agreement is March 1, 2019, through June 30, 2019.

**Curriculum Associates for Bluefield Middle School**
Board Memo #202

The Board approved i-Reading Professional Development on site services from Curriculum Associates at a cost of $21,650. The total cost is $25,000 to be paid by Bluefield Middle CSI Grant.

**Stride License Renewal**
Board Memo #203

The Board approved quote Q-36007-1 from fueleducation (STRIDE) to renew the annual student license. The total cost is $25,000 to be paid by Title I funds.

**Listing of Students Seeking Placement for Clinical Experiences from Bluefield State College**
Board Memo #204

The Board approved the placement of Bluefield State College students for clinical experiences for the 2018-2019 Spring semester. Students enrolled in the School Nurse Program are requesting placement in Mercer County Schools to observe school nurses. Students enrolled in Math 333, Physical Education 333, Reading 270, Special Education 311, Special Education 317, and Spring 64-Hour Clinical Placements are requesting placement in Mercer County Schools.

**Credit Monitoring Renewal**
Board Memo #205

The Board approved the renewal of credit monitoring/identity protection. The cost remained the same, $6.88 per employee for a total purchase cost of $12,377.12.

**Payment of Invoices – February**
Board Memo #206

The Board approved payment of invoices for the month of February. A list of vendors and amounts are available for review at the Central Office. The actual checks have been
written and are being held in the Office of the Treasury, pending consideration by the school board. Checks will be issued to the vendors upon school board approval.

**Payment of Invoices – March (Pre-approved)**

Board Memo #207

The Board approved issue and release for payment, invoices as presented for public utilities, cash advances for travel in accordance with policy and contractual obligations; the Superintendent of Schools or designee (Treasurer) is directed to issue and release for payment invoices as presented for public utilities and contractual obligations in accordance with budgetary, purchasing and school board policy for the month of March.

**Budget Supplements and Transfers**

Board Memo #208

The Board approved the following Budget Supplements and Transfers:

**Fund 11 Supplements:**

- Medicaid: 48,393.39
- Student Body Activity: 65,726.00
- Miscellaneous Billings: 15,349.00

*Total Supplements: 129,468.39*

**Fund 61 Supplements:**

- Special Education-Negative: (2,266,814.00)
- Special Education-School Age: 2,288,632.00
- Special Education-Negative: (93,700.00)
- Special Education-Preschool: 96,512.00
- Special Education-State: 170,214.00
- Title I: 170.75
- Local Adult Day Program: 64,099.81
- Local Adult Evening Program: 5,570.00

*Total Supplements: 264,684.56*

**Fund 61 Transfers:**

- Title I: 451,960.45
- Title I: 1,669,705.97
- Local Adult Evening Program: 28,255.38

*Total Supplements: 2,149,921.80*

**Additional Business**

**Closure of Memorial Primary School**

Board Memo #209
On motion of Ms. Kaufman, seconded by Mr. Prudich, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the closure of Memorial Primary School at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

**Closure of Whitethorn Primary School**
Board Memo #210

On motion of Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Prudich, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the closure of Whitethorn Primary School at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

**Bid 888 – Construction of New Primary School to be located in Bluefield, WV (Amended Title: Rejection of General Construction Bids for – New Primary School Bluefield)**
Board Memo #211

On motion of Mr. Prudich, seconded by Ms. Kaufman, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board rejected the bids for General Construction and the project be rebid.

Bid #888 was issued for the construction of the new primary school located in Bluefield, WV. The bid was advertised in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph and Charleston Gazette and distributed to trade organizations. Two (2) separate bid packages were issued with four (4) alternates; a single prime for all construction less controls and a bid for controls; Alternate 1 – off-site sanitary work; Alternate 2 – expanded gymnasium; Alternate 3 – Canopies; Alternate 4 – deduct floor finishes. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on February 7, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. Five (5) general trade contractors attended the meeting.

Bids were opened on February 22, 2019; results are shown below. This project was expected to be over budget by $1.36 million due to the additions of a metal roof, storm water retention, utilization of a VRF system vs. boiler, an expanded gym, and sanitary work. Bids were significantly over budget. Swope Construction, the lowest bidder, is over budget by $3.28 million, a difference of $1.92 million.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Swope Construction</th>
<th>Smith Construction</th>
<th>DCI/Shires, Inc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base Bid</td>
<td>$13,127,000</td>
<td>$13,649,000</td>
<td>$14,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alt 1</td>
<td>$58,000</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$58,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alt 2</td>
<td>$566,000</td>
<td>$457,900</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,751,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,161,900</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,658,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Per Mercer County Board of Education Purchasing Policy D04, bids may be rejected if bids exceed budgeted funds.

**PVHS Athletic Field Improvements**
Board Memo #212

On motion of Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Kaufman, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved a contract with Carolina Green Corp. to perform significant improvements to the shared softball/soccer field at PikeView High School, which is also used by PikeView Middle School. The Scope of Work is designed to improve the surface drainage and surface slope. Carolina
Green will rip, till and laser re-grade the field surface and install an automatic irrigation system. The field will then be sprigged with a hybrid Latitude Bermuda Grass. Both the WVU and VT agricultural departments have been consulted regarding the use of hybrid Bermuda grass to ensure viability at the current location and altitude.

Section 8.1.8 of Policy 8200 of WV state code allows these purchases directly from a vendor without competitive bidding if the item is available from a legitimate government purchasing cooperative that has already obtained competitive bids that meet the requirements of Policy 8200. Carolina Green Corp. has entered into a procurement contract with the University of Virginia that was publicly bid and negotiated and allows the MCBOE to access this co-operative agreement as a third-party.

Funding for the project in the amount of $74,878 will be taken from levy funds. I recommend approval to Carolina Green Corp. in the amount of $74,878.

**Pennington Change Order #1 (Mountain Valley School)**
Board Memo #213

On motion of Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Prudich, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the change to the General Construction Contract with Pennington Plumbing and Heating. The contract, dated April 11, 2018, was changed on February 6, 2019. The change is to add two (2) wall mounted heaters – one (1) in each stair. These heaters were not shown on the drawings.

**Plateau Change Order #1 (Mountain Valley School)**
Board Memo #214

On motion of Ms. Kaufman, seconded by Ms. Smith, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the change to the General Construction Contract with Plateau Electric, Inc. The contract, dated May 3, 2018, was changed on February 6, 2019. This is the credit for removing data conduits to all of the clocks. The county has decided to go with wireless clocks so the data conduits are no longer necessary.

**Plateau Change Order #2 (Mountain Valley School)**
Board Memo #215

On motion of Ms. Kaufman, seconded by Mr. Prudich, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the change to the General Construction Contract with Plateau Electric, Inc. The contract, dated May 3, 2018, was changed on February 6, 2019. This includes many electrical changes:

- Adding conduit for additional cameras in the stairwells (per security meeting),
- Adding floor box in computer lab (per furniture meeting after bid),
- Adding conduit for security cameras to view soccer field (per security meeting),
- Adding conduit and junction boxes for security monitors and head-in equipment in main office and principal’s office (per security meeting)
- Adding lights at the flagpole (not shown on original bid drawings), and
- Reducing number of site lights due to the smaller bus loop (credit).
**McGonagle Field Lease**  
Board Memo #216

On motion of Mr. Prudich, seconded by Mr. Bailey, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved an agreement with the City of Bluefield, West Virginia, which allows Mercer County School’s baseball and softball teams to practice and play at McGonagle Field. The term of this agreement is a period of ten (10) years.

**Agreement for Usage of Mitchell Stadium**  
Board Memo #217

On motion of Mr. Prudich, seconded by Ms. Kaufman, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved an agreement with the City of Bluefield, West Virginia, for the usage of Mitchell Stadium. The term of this agreement is three (3) years, beginning August 1, 2019, and concluding on July 31, 2022.

**Employee Disciplinary Action**  
Board Memo #218

On motion of Mr. Bailey, seconded by Ms. Smith, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board confirmed the suspension of Joe Peery from his duties as custodian at Princeton Senior High School. Mr. Peery failed to report his impending absence to his principal, and then arrived to work late on Monday, February 11, 2019.

As a result of his actions, Mr. Peery was suspended for three (3) days, without pay. The dates of the suspension were February 12, 13, and 14, 2019. Mr. Peery agreed to accept the suspension and waived his right to a hearing on this matter.

**Personnel**  
Board Memo #219

On motion of Mr. Prudich, seconded by Ms. Smith, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the following personnel agenda, contingent upon the return of an acceptable background check:

**Personnel Agenda**  
**February 26, 2019**

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

**Professional**

**Leaves:**

Anna Swope, Teacher, Mercer County Technical Education Center, requests Medical Leave beginning January 28, 2019, through March 18, 2019.
Leave is recommended.

Resignations:

Cynthia Tilley, Art Teacher, Princeton Senior High School, effective June 6, 2019.
Reason: Retirement

Mary Foster, Speech/Language Pathologist, Itinerant, left employment February 21, 2019.
Individual was not released from contract.

Carol Scott, Teacher, Melrose School, effective June 30, 2019.
Reason: Retirement

Employment:

LTC Giles Cutler, JROTC Instructor, Princeton Senior High School, effective March 4, 2019.

Coaching

(All coaching positions are pending WVSSAC receipt of certification)

Glenwood School:
Resignation: Joey Riffe, Head Baseball Coach

Princeton Senior High School:
Employment: Keith Taylor, Assistant Football Coach

Employee Disciplinary Hearing and Personnel Action
Board Memo #220

On motion of Ms. Kaufman, seconded by Ms. Smith, and by a 4-0-1 vote, with Mr. Prudich abstaining, the Board upheld the Superintendent’s recommendation to confirm suspension and mutually agreed to the termination of Mr. Jon Griffin’s employment contract. Mr. Griffin was suspended from his teaching duties at Princeton Middle School for insubordination and willful neglect of duty. The suspension was from February 13, 2019, until the date of the hearing. Mr. Griffin waived his right to a hearing and was not present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Mr. Prudich, seconded by Ms. Smith, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board withdrew into Executive Session from 8:44 P.M. to 9:20 P.M. according to WV Code 6-9A-4(b)(2) matter relating to personnel issue and WV Code 6-9A-4(b)(9) matter relating to purchase of real estate.

ADJOURNMENT
Nothing further appearing, Ms. Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Kaufman, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 P.M.

Deborah S. Akers, Secretary