The Mercer County Board of Education met in special session at 3:00P.M. on Tuesday, July 16, 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 S. Akers, Secretary.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Student Disciplinary Hearing and Action**
Board Memo #326

The student disciplinary hearing was called to order at 3:00P.M. by Mr. Hodges. He advised this would be a closed hearing, the witnesses were sequestered in another room, and the Board then went into closed session for the hearing.

Mr. Kermit Moore, Board Attorney, represented the administration. Mr. Tom Adkins, Princeton Senior High School Principal, appeared before the Board to represent the school concerning the proposed recommendation to expel a male student-for the following charges:

*Hazing a student on school property which also identifies him in gang activity*  
and *habitual violation of school rules*

The student, his grandfather, and his attorney, Mr. Andrew Waight, were present for the hearing. Testimony was taken. Exhibits 1 through 14 were filed by the Board Attorney, Mr. Kermit Moore. The hearing was concluded at 3:30 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 hazing a student on school property which also identifies him in gang activity and habitual violation of school rules. His actions were in violation of Mercer County Policy J-18 and WV Code 61-2-15(a).

**Student Disciplinary Hearing and Action**
Board Memo #327

The student disciplinary hearing was called to order at 3:45 P.M. by Mr. Hodges. He advised this would be a closed hearing, the witnesses were sequestered in another room, and the Board then went into closed session for the hearing.

Mr. Kermit Moore, Board Attorney, represented the administration. Mr. Tom Adkins, Princeton Senior High School Principal, appeared before the Board to represent the school concerning the proposed recommendation to expel a male student for the following charges:
**Hazing a student on school property which also identifies him in gang activity**

and **habitual violation of school rules**

The student, his grandmother, and his attorney, Mr. Ryan Flanigan, were present for the hearing. Testimony was taken. Exhibits 1 through 14 were filed by the Board Attorney, Mr. Kermit Moore. The hearing was concluded at 4:16 P.M. at which time the Board reconvened in open session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of Mr. Prudich, seconded by Mr. Bailey, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board withdrew into Executive Session from 4:17 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. according to WV Code 6-9A-4(b)(3) matter relating to student discipline.

At 4:31 P.M., the Board reconvened in open session.

On motion of Ms. Kaufman, 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 hazing a student on school property and habitual violation of school rules. His actions were in violation of Mercer County Policy J-18 and WV Code 61-2-15(a).

**Student Disciplinary Hearing and Action**

Board Memo #328

The student disciplinary hearing was called to order at 4:40 P.M. by Mr. Hodges. He advised this would be a closed hearing, the witnesses were sequestered in another room, and the Board then went into closed session for the hearing.

Mr. Kermit Moore, Board Attorney, represented the administration. Mr. Tom Adkins, Princeton Senior High School Principal, and Ms. Emily Huddle, Special Education Assistant Director, appeared before the Board to represent the school concerning the proposed recommendation to expel a male student for the following charges:

**Hazing a student on school property which also identifies him in gang activity**

and **habitual violation of school rules**

The student, his grandmother, and his representative, Ms. Elizabeth Davis, were present for the hearing. Testimony was taken. Exhibits 1 through 14 were filed by the Board Attorney, Mr. Kermit Moore. The hearing was concluded at 5:15 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 hazing a student on school property and habitual violation of school rules. His actions were in violation of Mercer County Policy J-18 and WV Code 61-2-15(a).
ADJOURNMENT

Nothing further appearing, Mr. Prudich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bailey and the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Deborah S. Akers, Secretary