The Mercer County Board of Education met in special session at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, October 29, 2019, in the Mercer County Technical Education Seminar Center, Princeton, WV.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rick Ball, Assistant Superintendent, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CITIZENS INPUT

None.

LSIC MEETINGS

The Board met with Local School Improvement Councils from Bluefield High School, PikeView High School, Princeton Senior High School, Montcalm High School, and Mercer County Technical Education Center (MCTEC).

Representatives from each school participated in discussions with the board members regarding the improvement of student achievement in their schools and their efforts toward incorporating innovative programs into their curriculum.

NEW BUSINESS

Student Disciplinary Hearing and Action
Board Memo #130

The student disciplinary hearing was called to order at 7:07 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. Ms. Kim Miller, Bluefield Middle School Principal, appeared before the Board to represent the school concerning the proposed recommendation to expel a female student for the following charges:

    Possession and distribution of an over-the-counter drug

The student, her parents and brother, her pastor and his wife were present for the hearing. Testimony was taken. Exhibits 1 through 7 were filed by the Board Attorney, Mr. Kermit
Moore. The hearing was concluded at 7:49 P.M. at which time the Board reconvened in open session.

On motion of Ms. Kaufman, seconded by Mr. Prudich, and by a 4-0 vote, the Board upheld the Superintendent's recommendation that the student serve an extended suspension for an additional twenty (20) days for possession and distribution of an over-the-counter drug. Her actions were in violation of Mercer County Policy J-18 and WV Code 18A-5-1a(a).

**Student Disciplinary Hearing and Action**
Board Memo #131

The student disciplinary hearing was called to order at 7:50 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. Ms. Kim Miller, Bluefield Middle School Principal, appeared before the Board to represent the school concerning the proposed recommendation to expel a female student for the following charges:

*Possession and distribution of an over-the-counter drug*

The student and her grandparents were present for the hearing. Testimony was taken. Exhibits 1 through 7 were filed by the Board Attorney, Mr. Kermit Moore. The hearing was concluded at 8:11 P.M. at which time the Board reconvened in open session.

On motion of Ms. Kaufman, seconded by Mr. Prudich, and by a 4-0 vote, the Board upheld the Superintendent's recommendation that the student serve an extended suspension for an additional twenty (20) days for possession and distribution of an over-the-counter drug. Her actions were in violation of Mercer County Policy J-18 and WV Code 18A-5-1a(a).

**Student Disciplinary Hearing and Action**
Board Memo #132

The student disciplinary hearing was called to order at 8:14 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. Ms. Kim Miller, Bluefield Middle School Principal, appeared before the Board to represent the school concerning the proposed recommendation to expel a female student for the following charges:

*Possession and distribution of an over-the-counter drug*

The student, her mother and grandmother, were present for the hearing. Testimony was taken. Exhibits 1 through 7 were filed by the Board Attorney, Mr. Kermit Moore. The hearing was concluded at 8:36 P.M. at which time the Board reconvened in open session.
On motion of Ms. Kaufman, seconded by Mr. Prudich, and by a 4-0 vote, the Board upheld the Superintendent's recommendation that the student serve an extended suspension for an additional twenty (20) days for possession and distribution of an over-the-counter drug. Her actions were in violation of Mercer County Policy J-18 and WV Code 18A-5-1a(a).

ADJOURNMENT

Nothing further appearing, Mr. Hodges adjourned the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Deborah S. Akers, Secretary