

# MINUTES

## Board of Education for the County of Mingo

110 Cinderella Road, Williamson, WV 25661

Regular Meeting

April 16, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

### I. Call to order

President McCormick called the meeting to order. The time was 4:53.

**Board Members present:** Mabelle McCormick, President; John W. Preece, Vice President; Tom Slone, Amy Dearfield-Hannah, and VACANCY. Superintendent, Dr. Johnny Branch was in attendance.

**Members of the Press in attendance:** Bruce Justice or Terry May of the Mingo Messenger; Josh Brown of the Williamson Daily News

### Central Office Staff in attendance:

Patrick Billips, Director of Technology; Jeremy Brumfield, Chief Mechanic (Interim Trans Director); Beth Daniels, CSBO / Treasurer; (Chief School Business Officer); Tonya Hagy, RN, BSN Lead School Nurse; William Hensley, Director of Maintenance; Kay Maynard, Director Child Nutrition & Wellness; Lesia Sammons, Coordinator of Guidance and Testing; Virginia Taylor-Mounts, Technology Integration Facilitator; Leah Wireman, Director of Human Resources

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance had just been done in the levy meeting.

### III. Spotlight on Success

#### a. Tug Valley High School Boys Basketball Class A State Champions 2024

Dr. Branch introduced the Tug Valley Basketball team and said a few words. He presented them with a certificate. Pictures were made. Coaches Garland 'Rabbit' Thompson addressed the crowd.

### IV. Delegations

There were no delegations.

### V. Out-Of-State Field Trip(s)

#### a. Tug Valley High School, May 9-10, 2024 Kings Island – Thelma Stanley

Mrs. Stanley presented the trip. All questions were answered.

Mr. Preece made the motion to approve the trip. Mr. Slone seconded that motion. The motion carried with a vote of 4/0.

#### b. Lenore Pre K-8 May 18-19, 2024 Great Wolf Lodge - Michael Baisden

Amber Elkins was present to speak about the trip. All questions were answered.

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45 Mr. Preece made the motion to approve the trip. Mr. Slone seconded that motion. The motion passed  
46 with a vote of 4/0.

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48 **VI. General Considerations**

49 **a. Discussion and possible action to approve a School Calendar for the 2024-2025 school year**

50 Mr. Billips and Mrs. Sammons spoke regarding the calendars. The calendar committee was made up of  
51 faculty senate chairs from each school. The calendars had been put out for public comment and  
52 calendar D had received the most votes. The approved calendar would be submitted to the State  
53 Department for review and approval.

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55 Mr. Preece made the motion to accept calendar D. Mrs. Dearfield-Hannah seconded that motion. The  
56 motion passed with a vote of 4/0.

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58 **b. Discussion and possible action regarding an update to Policy 2411, Comprehensive School  
59 Counseling Program**

60 Mrs. Sammons addressed this item.

61 Mr. Slone made the motion to approve the Comprehensive School Counseling Program policy. Mrs.  
62 Dearfield-Hannah made the second. The motion carried with a vote of 4/0.

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64 **c. Discussion and possible action: Grass cutting contract**

65 Mr. Preece started this discussion. He had contacted several Boards in West Virginia and other states to  
66 find out their method(s) of getting grass cut at their schools. He shared his findings. Dr. Branch had  
67 reached out to other Superintendents as well. He shared the findings. Mr. Slone had a question for  
68 finance and it was answered.

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70 Mrs. Dearfield-Hannah made the motion to put the grass cutting contract back out for bid. Mr. Slone  
71 seconded that motion. The motion carried with a vote of 3/1. Mr. Preece voted no.

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73 **d. Discussion and possible action: Board of Education replacement member**

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75 There had been three candidates.

	Marcum	Wellman	Sammons
Mr. Slone	no	no	yes
Mr. Preece	no	yes	no
Mrs. Dearfield-Hannah	no	no	yes
Mrs. McCormick	no	yes	no

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77 The final vote was a tie at two votes for Ms. Wellman, and two votes for Mr. Sammons.

78 There was discussion regarding putting out another advertisement for candidates. There would not have  
79 been enough time before the May 3<sup>rd</sup> time line.

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81 **VII. Informational Items**

82 **a. SBA funding award for Safe School Entrance to Tug Valley High School**

83 Dr. Branch addressed this item. The School Board Authority had granted some funding for the safe  
84 school entrance to Tug Valley high school. Last years estimate was \$673, 127. We would put in  
85 matching funds. Dr. Branch showed a floor plan and shared where the new entrance would be located.

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88 **b. Discussion regarding GameChanger, the drug misuse prevention program Item**  
89 Mrs. Maynard and Mrs. Hagy spoke regarding this item. GameChanger had been a Board Goal. That  
90 program was not free as previously thought. The program would cost \$30,000 per school. There were  
91 questions and answers. Several other programs were mentioned that we already have in place in our  
92 schools. It was suggested to enhance some of those programs at no cost to us.

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94 **VIII. Departmental Updates**

95 **a. Maintenance Report - William Hensley**

96 Mr. Hensley gave the report. Several items that had been on the CEFP were or almost completed: the  
97 Lenore roof, auditoriums at Tug Valley High and Burch Pre K-8, HVAC upgrades at Williamson Pre K-8  
98 and Tug Valley High, and the lighting project for Williamson Pre K-8. Regular work orders were also  
99 getting completed. The maintenance department had been helping Mingo Central High School get ready  
100 for an OCR visit and had been getting the preliminary work done to have scoreboards installed at their  
101 baseball and softball fields. There were questions and discussion.

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103 **b. Treasurer's Report - Beth Daniels**

104 Mrs. Daniels went through the report. Finance had been working to close the year and working on  
105 budgets and the county audit. There had been no findings noted from the auditors but the final report  
106 had not been sent. There was discussion regarding things that were to be finished at our schools and  
107 things yet to upgrade or do. It was mentioned that when we compare ourselves to athletic facilities in  
108 other states, those states provide funding for their schools. The state of West Virginia does not provide  
109 funding for athletic facilities in our state. There was discussion.

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111 **IX. Consent Agenda**

112 **a. Approval of Minutes**

- 113 1. Minutes of March 5, 2024, LSIC– Attachment M3-5
- 114 2. Minutes of March 19, 2024, Levy – Attachment M3-19
- 115 3. Minutes of March 19, 2024, Regular– Attachment M3-19

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117 **b. Bills, Transfers, Supplements**

118 **1. Payment of Bills -**

119 Bills presented for approval through April 5, 2024. The invoice list is available for review  
120 during public hours two business days prior to the meeting.

	Amount
Fund 11	\$389,304.23
Fund 41	\$7,400.05
Fund 51	\$65,977.45
Fund 61	\$236,401.97
Fund 71	\$122,309.36

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**2. Budget Transfers**

Budget Transfers presented for approval

March Transfers	
1	\$1,926.00
2	\$42,679.58
Total	\$44,605.58

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**3. Budget Supplements**

Budget Supplements presented for approval

March Supplements	
1	\$1,820.00
2	\$1,000.00
3	\$280.00
4	\$700.00
5	\$27,860.00
6	\$13,930.00
7	\$43,267.00
8	\$28,040.00
9	\$500.00
10	\$15,625.00
Total	\$133,022.00

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**c. Personnel Actions**

**1. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL**

**a. New Employment into Existing Position**

- i. Richard Blankenship substitute teacher MCS (effective April 17, 2024)
- ii. Mildred Ooten substitute teacher MCS (effective April 17, 2024)
- iii. Celia Wiedel substitute teacher MCS (effective April 17, 2024)
- iv. Shylah Alley substitute teacher MCS (effective April 17, 2024)

**b. Transfer into Existing Position**

- i. Walter Cline Coordinator of Special Education Transitions Itinerant MCS to Teacher / Special Education GK8 (effective July 1, 2024)
- ii. Heather Fitzpatrick teacher / Kindergarten KK8 to teacher / grade 1 KK8 (effective July 1, 2024)
- iii. Marsha Bays teacher / Special Education MK8 to teacher / grade Kindergarten MK8 (effective July 1, 2024)
- iv. Carolyn Hager teacher / gifted MCS to teacher /gifted 50% /Coordinator of Special Education Transition 50% MCS (effective July 1, 2024)

**2. PROFESSIONAL EXTRACURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS School year 2023-2024**

**a. Resignations**

- i. Marie White Assistant Coach / Cheer TVHS (effective April 10, 2024)
- ii. Ricky Bailey Coach / Baseball BK8 (effective March 20, 2024)

**3. SERVICE PERSONNEL**

**a. New Employment or Transfer into Existing Position**

- i. Jason Williams Custodian IV MK8 (effective April 17, 2024)

**b. Retirement**

- i. Peggy Runyon Aide / ECCAT MK8 (effective June 30, 2024)
- ii. Lana Lacky Cook III DES (effective May 24, 2024)
- iii. Harry Blankenship Teacher / HVAC MCHS (May 1, 2024)

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*Nancy Stone*

Executive Secretary to Superintendent  
Mingo County Schools

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- c. **Rescind**
  - i. Harry Blankenship Teacher / HVAC MCHS (effective June 7, 2024 retirement date) (From Board Meeting February 20, 2024)
- d. **Abolish Position**
  - i. Custodian III TVHS
- e. **Create Position**
  - i. Custodian IV TVHS

*End Consent Agenda*

Mrs. Wireman addressed the Board. She filled in the blank under c. Personnel actions, 3. Service Personnel, New Employment for Transfer into Existing Position i. Jason Williams Custodian IV MK8 (effective April 17, 2024)

Mr. Slone made the motion to approve the Consent agenda. Mrs. Dearfield-Hannah seconded that motion. The motion carried with a vote of 3/1 Mr. Preece voted no. He then changed his vote to yes. The motion carried to approve the consent with a vote of 4/0.

**XI. Board Member Comment Period**

Some Board members had comments. There was a moment of silence in honor of Bessie Baisden. (She had worked thirty-five years as a secretary for the county and had recently passed.)

**XII. Superintendent's Update**

Dr. Branch made several comments. He wanted to celebrate with Gilbert today regarding grant monies from Alpha for \$500. They had received grant monies from Delegate Dean for \$10,000 and another from Senator Swope for \$5,000. Gilbert was moving toward their goal to improve their facilities. Dr. Branch requested to observe a moment of silence for the Cross family.

Mr. Preece expressed his dissatisfaction regarding the Dingess playground. Dr. Branch answered his questions and explained that the equipment was purchased with Special Education funds. (The Pre-K playgrounds in this county were regulated by the DHHR.) Playground equipment that would not fit at Dingess Elementary was used at other schools in the county. Mr. Preece had other concerns he addressed.

There was discussion regarding the meeting date for the May 2024 regular meeting.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Mr. Preece made the motion to adjourn. Mrs. Dearfield-Hannah seconded that motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4/0. The time was 6:25 p.m.

**Next Regular Meeting**  
May 21, 2024

  
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 Superintendent, Dr. Johnny Branch      Date  
 Minutes approved 5-23-24