

# MINUTES

## Board of Education for the County of Mingo

110 Cinderella Road, Williamson, WV 25661

### Special (Rescheduled Regular) Meeting

January 28, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

To access our live streaming, go to: **Mingo County Web Page** (mingoschools.com), at the top of the page under **Board tab**, click the last item in the drop-down menu, **Mingo District BOE live stream**

#### I. Call to order

President Slone called the meeting to order. The time was 5:05.

**All Board Members present:** Tom Slone, President; David Jewell, Vice President; John W. Preece, Braydan Goff, and Deanna Wellman. Superintendent, Dr. Johnny Branch was in attendance.

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

**Central Office Staff in attendance:** Patrick Billips, Director of Technology; Beth Daniels, CSBO / Treasurer (Chief School Business Officer); Tonya Hagy, RN, BSN Lead School Nurse; Rocky Hall, Director of Attendance and Safe Schools; Robert Channell, Director of Transportation; Mark Dean, Director of CTE/Secondary/Post-Secondary Learning; Kay Maynard, Director Child Nutrition & Wellness; Lesia Sammons, Coordinator of Guidance and Testing; Virginia Taylor-Mounts, Technology Integration Facilitator; Christie Tilley, Coordinator of Parent Involvement; Jennifer Toler, Professional Coordinator, Food Service Janet Varney, Director of Special Education; Leah Wireman, Director of Human Resources

**Special Guests of the NAACP included:** Reverend Mr. Frank Jones, Ms. Jada Hunter, Mr. Marvin Jones, Mrs. Justine Jones, Juanita Hooks

#### II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Goff.

There was a change to the order of the agenda. Item a under General Considerations will be going first.

#### VI. General Considerations

**a. Informational item: AAUW Mingo County Strong informative workshops and formal luncheon for the female Junior class of 2024-2025 – Jada Hunter, President**

Ms. Hunter made the presentation. She explained the event; how it happened and how we became involved. The event started in our county first began in 2019. It would give Junior girls a head-start in life. Among the workshops are, safe ty on the internet; how to handle themselves in unusual situations; preparing for college; financial preparedness; encouragement from an entrepreneur; and a catered formal luncheon. The event would happen on March 7, 2025. The group would like to visit the two schools during lunch and introduce the AAUW. Mrs. Gail Hall made comments.

**III. Action for Proclamation: Declaring February 2025 as Black History Month in the Mingo County School District- Honored Guests Williamson Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P.**

*Nancy Slone*

Executive Secretary to Superintendent  
Mingo County Schools

January 28, 2025  
Special (Rescheduled Regular)  
Meeting

Page 1 of 7

48 Reverend Franklin Jones introduced this section of the presentation. The NAACP wanted to get our schools  
49 involved in the Black History program in February. Black History activities had been ongoing for many  
50 years. They wanted students to work on projects to display at the South Side Mall. Every Monday night in  
51 February 2025, there would be a program at the Williamson Library that would feature some part of Black  
52 History. He encouraged participation. It was requested that a member of the NAACP be allowed to visit the  
53 principal each school and ask them to encourage their students to be involved in the program this year.  
54 The members of the NAACP were invited to visit an upcoming Principal’s meeting. Mr. Jones introduced  
55 members who were in attendance. Dr. Branch read the Proclamation and it was signed by the Board  
56 Members. Pictures were made.

57

58 **IV. Delegations**

59 There were several delegations:

60 Gretchen Hensley spoke regarding her son’s future. Susan Adkins spoke regarding the relationship between  
61 the Board and Central Office Staff. Pam Chapman, Lorraine Davis, and Leigh Ann Ray spoke on behalf of Dr.  
62 Branch.

63

64 **V. Departmental Updates**

65 **a. Curriculum/Instruction Update- Lesia Sammons, Mark Dean, Dr. Branch**

66

67 **i. Calendar adjustments due to inclement weather**

68 Mrs. Sammons gave the report. She explained option days (NTI) built in the calendar. Those were utilized  
69 during the bad weather, January 6 – 10, 2025. Additional (accrued time) days were used at some schools  
70 the next week because of water issues. Exams, report cards, and the second semester start date were  
71 adjusted.

72

73 **ii. ECA Mingo/Southern and student achievement**

74 Dr. Branch spoke regarding ECA (Early College Academy). There were 76 students on campus this  
75 semester. Instructors would be asked to add SAT style questions to their lessons in order to better prepare  
76 the 11<sup>th</sup> graders for that test. A meeting had been set up.

77

78 **iii. Aviation modules**

79 Mr. Dean spoke regarding this item. Mingo Central had an aviation program up and running this year with  
80 six students. They were partnering with a Community College from Ohio to design modules for the  
81 students. Mr. Dean toured the aviation wing and shared items they had. He handed out results of a survey  
82 that had been requested.

83

84 **b. Student Services/Attendance Update- Rocky Hall**

85 Mr. Hall gave the report. Daily rates for attendances had gone up. The county rate trended positive.  
86 Home school enrollment had gone up (313).

87

88 **c. Maintenance/Safety update- William Hensley**

89 Mr. Hensley gave the report. There had been a lot of snow recently. Maintenance men kept a check on  
90 the buildings. There had been water issues. He updated a few projects that were going on in the county.

91

92 **d. Transportation update- Rob Channell**

93 Mr. Channell gave this update. He spoke about the challenge’s transportation had faced during the past  
94 several weeks. Drivers were equipped with tools and refresher trainings regarding snowy and icy  
95 conditions. The turning spots accumulate ice and snow when roadways were cleared. Monthly inspections

96 had recently been done; all buses passed, easily. Radio's had a channel scrambled (2). A handout was  
97 provided explaining how drivers were paid for extra trips for schools.

98

99 **VI. General Considerations**

- 100 **a. Informational Item: AAUW Mingo County Strong informative workshops and formal**  
101 **luncheon for the female Junior class of 2024-2025 – Jada Hunter, President**

102 This item was presented first. See lines 37-44

103

- 104 **b. Discussion and possible action to approve the extension of Superintendent Dr. Johnny**  
105 **Branch's contract under the same terms and conditions as his current contract, said**  
106 **extension beginning July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029**

107 There was no discussion. Mr. Jewell made the motion approve the extension of the contract. Mr. Slone  
108 seconded that motion. There was a roll call vote. Mr. Goff, no; Mr. Jewell, yes; Mrs Wellman, no; Mr.  
109 Preece, no; Mr. Slone, yes. The vote failed with a vote of 3/2 to not extend the contract.

110

111 **VII. Consent Agenda**

- 112 **a. Approval of Minutes**

- 113 **1. Minutes of December 2, 2024, Attachment M12-2-24**  
114 **2. Minutes of December 19, 2024, Attachment M12-19-24**

115

- 116 **b. Bills, Transfers, Supplements**

- 117 **1. Payment of Bills - Attachment F1**

118 Bills presented for approval through January 21, 2025. The invoice list is available for  
119 review during public hours two business days prior to the meeting.

Fund	Amount
Fund 11	\$687,872.90
Fund 41	\$ 4,126.12
Fund 51	\$-
Fund 61	\$231,978.26
Fund 71	\$-

120

121

- 122 **2. Budget Transfers - Attachment F2**

123 Budget Transfers presented for approval

Transfers	
1	\$ 3,703.00
2	\$ 14,345.42
3	\$ 95,000.00
4	\$ 5,069.68
Total	\$118,118.10

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125

- 126 **3. Budget Supplements - Attachment F3**

127 Budget Supplements presented for approval

Supplements	
1	\$ 20,000.00
2	\$ 53,135.18
3	\$ 61,383.60
Total	\$134,518.78

128

*Nancy Slone*

Executive Secretary to Superintendent  
Mingo County Schools

January 28, 2025  
Special (Rescheduled Regular)  
Meeting

Page 3 of 7

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**c. Personnel Actions**

**1. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL**

**a. New Employment into Existing Position**

- i. Annette Chafin substitute teacher MCS (effective January 30, 2025)
- ii. Sandra Runyon substitute teacher MCS (effective January 30, 2025)
- iii. Abigail Warden Chaffins substitute teacher MCS (effective January 30, 2025)
- iv. Marcella Charles Casto substitute MCS (effective January 30, 2025)

**b. Resignation**

- i. Carolyn Hager Teacher / Gifted 50% / Coordinator of Transitions 50% MCS (effective June 12, 2025)

**c. Request for Leave of Absence**

- i. Gabriel Varney Teacher / Health & PE TVHS (January 6, 2025 – March 2, 2025)
- ii. Katlyn Blankenship Teacher / English TVHS (March 25, 2025 – June 16, 2025)
- iii. Andrea Gilman Counselor MCHS (February 7, 2025 – March 21, 2025)
- iv. Peggy Wolford Counselor WK8 (FMLA) (December 23, 2024-June 23, 2025, 6 months not to exceed 60 days) (Intermittent)
- v. Carolyn Hager Teacher / Gifted 50% / Coordinator of Transitions 50% MCS (January 13, 2025 – June 12, 2025)

**d. Retirement**

- i. Patricia Billips Teacher / Science BK8 (effective August 1, 2025)
- ii. Randall Crum Teacher / Social Studies BK8 (effective January 2, 2025)
- iii. Marcella Charles- Casto Principal MCHS (effective January 27, 2025)
- iv. Henry C. Moore Teacher / Math MCHS (effective December 31, 2024)

**e. Employee Discipline**

- i. Gabriel Varney Suspend without pay on the following days January 2, 3, 2025)

**2. PROFESSIONAL EXTRACURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS**

**a. New Employment for School year 2024-2025**

- i. Leeann Blankenship Coach / Baseball TVHS (effective January 29, 2025) (pending certification)
- ii. Mark Spaulding Assistant Coach / Baseball TVHS (effective January 29, 2025)
- iii. Whitney Ooten Assistant Coach / Girls Basketball TVHS (paid) (effective January 29, 2025)
- iv. Brittany White Assistant Coach / Softball LK8 (zero comp) (effective January 29, 2025)

**b. Resignations**

- i. Chris Ooten Assistant Coach / Baseball TVHS (effective January 10, 2025)
- ii. Teddy Hall Coach / Baseball TVHS (effective January 8, 2025)
- iii. Katrina Brewer Assistant Softball coach KK8 (effective January 16, 2025)

**3. SERVICE PERSONNEL**

- 178                    **a. New Employment into Existing Position**  
179                    i. Douglas Rice substitute custodian MCS (effective January 29, 2025) (pending  
180                    completion of training)  
181  
182                    **b. Resignation**  
183                    i. Abigail Warden Chafins substitute aide MCS (effective January 22, 2025)  
184                    ii. Kyle Trujillo substitute custodian MCS (effective January 22, 2025)  
185                    iii. James L. McCoy Bus Operator Tug Valley area (effective December 19, 2024)  
186  
187                    **c. Request for Leave of Absence**  
188                    i. Tonya M. Jones Aide MK8 (December 17, 2024 – February 18, 2025)  
189                    ii. Item  
190  
191                    **d. Employee Discipline**  
192                    i. **Cheryl Wolford** Suspend without pay on the following days November 20, 2024  
193                    ii. **Angela Fleming** Suspend without pay on the following days November 19-22, 2024  
194                    iii. **Rhonda Colegrove** Suspend without pay on the following days January 21, 22, 23,  
195                    24, 27, 2025

196                    *End Consent Agenda*

197                    Mrs. Wireman filled in the blanks for Extra Curricular positions being filled. **2. PROFESSIONAL**  
198                    **EXTRACURRICULAR ASSIGNMENTS, a. New Employment for School year 2024-2025**

- 199                    i. **Leeann Blankenship** Coach / Baseball TVHS (effective January 29, 2025) (pending certification)  
200                    ii. **Mark Spaulding** Assistant Coach / Baseball TVHS (effective January 29, 2025); iii. **Whitney Ooten**  
201                    Assistant Coach / Girls Basketball TVHS (paid) (effective January 29, 2025)  
202

203                    Mr. Slone pulled all of the Employee Discipline items. **c. Personnel Actions**

204                    **1. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL e. Employee Discipline, i. \_\_\_\_\_** Suspend without pay on the following  
205                    days January 2, 3, 2025), **3. SERVICE PERSONNEL, d. Employee Discipline, i. \_\_\_\_\_** Suspend without pay on  
206                    the following days November 20, 2024, ii. \_\_\_\_\_ Suspend without pay on the following days November  
207                    19-22, 2024, iii. \_\_\_\_\_ Suspend without pay on the following days January 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 2025  
208

209                    Mr. Preece pulled: **c. Personnel Actions, 1. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL, b. Resignation**

- 210                    i. Carolyn Hager Teacher / Gifted 50% / Coordinator of Transitions 50% MCS (effective June 12, 2025)  
211                    **c. Request for Leave of Absence, iv. Peggy Wolford** Counselor WK8 (FMLA) (December 23, 2024-June  
212                    23, 2025, 6 months not to exceed 60 days) (Intermittent); v. Carolyn Hager Teacher / Gifted 50% /  
213                    Coordinator of Transitions 50% MCS (January 13, 2025 – June 12, 2025)  
214

215                    Mr. Slone called for a motion on the Consent Agenda with the exception of the items pulled. Mr. Jewell  
216                    made the motion to accept, Mr. Goff seconded that motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.  
217                    Ayes had it, so ordered.  
218

219                    Mr. Jewell made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the pulled personnel items. Mr. Goff  
220                    seconded that motion. The vote was 5/0. The time was 6:45.  
221

222                    At 7:00 p.m. Mr. Jewell made the motion to return to regular session. Mr. Goff seconded that motion.  
223                    The ayes had it, 5/0, so ordered.  
224

225                    Regarding item. c. Personnel Actions, **1. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL, b. Resignation**

226 i. Carolyn Hager Teacher / Gifted 50% / Coordinator of Transitions 50% MCS (effective June 12, 2025).  
227 Mr. Jewell made the motion to accept. Mrs. Wellman seconded that motion. The motion passed with a  
228 vote of 5/0. The ayes had it, so ordered.

229 Regarding item c. Personnel Actions, 1. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL, c. Request for Leave of Absence, iv.  
230 Peggy Wolford Counselor WK8 (FMLA) (December 23, 2024-June 23, 2025, 6 months not to exceed 60  
231 days) (Intermittent);

232 Mr. Jewell made the motion to approve. Mrs. Wellman seconded that item. The item passed with a  
233 vote of 5/0. Aye's had it, so ordered.

234

235 Regarding item c. Personnel Actions, 1. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL, c. Request for Leave of Absence,  
236 v. Carolyn Hager Teacher / Gifted 50% / Coordinator of Transitions 50% MCS (January 13, 2025 – June  
237 12, 2025)

238 Mr. Jewell made the motion to approve. Mrs. Wellman seconded that motion. The motion carried with  
239 a vote of 5/0.

240

241 Regarding item c. Personnel Actions, 1. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL e. Employee Discipline, i. Gabriel  
242 Varney, currently a teacher at Tug Valley High School, suspend without pay on the following days  
243 January 2, 3, 2025),

244 Mr. Jewell made a motion to approve the discipline. Mrs. Wellman seconded that motion. The motion  
245 passed with 5/0, the ayes, had it, so ordered.

246

247 Regarding item c. Personnel Actions 3. SERVICE PERSONNEL, d. Employee Discipline, i. Cheryl Wolford,  
248 an Aide at Burch Pre K-8, Suspend without pay on the following days November 20, 2024,

249 Mr. Jewell made the motion to approve this item. Mrs. Wellman seconded that motion. The motion  
250 passed with a vote of 4/1. Mr. Preece voted no.

251

252 Regarding item c. Personnel Actions 3. SERVICE PERSONNEL, d. Employee Discipline, ii. Angela Fleming,  
253 secretary at Burch Pre K-8. Suspend without pay on the following days November 19-22, 2024.

254 Mr. Jewell made the motion to approve this item. Mrs. Jewell seconded that motion. The motion  
255 passed with a vote of 5/0. Ayes had it, so ordered.

256

257 Regarding item c. Personnel Actions 3. SERVICE PERSONNEL, d. Employee Discipline,  
258 iii. Rhonda Colegrove, bus operator, Tug Valley area, suspend without pay on the following days January  
259 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 2025

260 Mr. Jewell made the motion to approve the suspension. Mr. Goff seconded. The motion carried with a  
261 vote of 5/0.

262

## 263 VIII. Board Member Comment Period

264 Comments were made.

265 Mr. Preece made a motion to put on the upcoming workshop, an item to search for a superintendent. Mr.  
266 Goff seconded that motion. There was a roll call vote. Mr. Goff, aye; Mr. Jewell, no; Mrs. Wellman, aye;  
267 Mr. Preece, aye; Mr. Slone, no. Ayes had it.3/2.

268

## 269 IX. Superintendent's Update

270 Dr. Branch shared there was a safe schools funding application pending for Tug Valley High.

271

## 272 X. Adjournment

273 Mr. Jewell made the motion to adjourn.

274

275 The time was 7:13 p.m.  
276  
277  
278 **Next Regular Meeting**  
279 February 18, 2025

*Johnny Branch, E.D.* *3-5-25*  
Superintendent, Dr. Johnny Branch Date

Minutes approved 2-24-25