

Minutes, Special Meeting, August 16, 2017, 6:30 P.M., Piketon High School

Roll Call:       Cutler,           Present  
                  Jenkins,          Present  
                  Smith,            Present  
                  Stockham,        Present  
                  Wooldridge,     Present

**17-153 EXECUTIVE SESSION** Mrs. Jenkins motioned to enter into executive session to consider the employment and/or dismissal of a public employee. Seconded by Mr. Smith, and upon a roll call vote: Mr. Cutler YEA, Mrs. Jenkins YEA, Mr. Smith YEA, Mr. Stockham YEA, and Mr. Wooldridge YEA.

Upon return to open session:

**17-154 OPEN SESSION** Mr. Stockham motioned to return to open session. Seconded by Mrs. Jenkins, and upon a roll call vote: Mr. Cutler YEA, Mrs. Jenkins YEA, Mr. Smith YEA, Mr. Stockham YEA, and Mr. Wooldridge YEA.

**17-155 ADOPT AGENDA** Mr. Stockham motioned to adopt the agenda as presented by the superintendent. Seconded by Mr. Smith, and upon a roll call vote: Mr. Cutler YEA, Mrs. Jenkins YEA, Mr. Smith YEA, Mr. Stockham YEA, and Mr. Wooldridge YEA.

**Public Concerns**

Mike Carroll addressed the Board regarding free breakfast and lunch. He has heard rumors that it has cost more to offer free breakfast to students. He thinks this is a good thing because that means the kids are taking advantage of the program. Mr. Carroll related his personal experiences of being on the free lunch program when he was in school. Kids can be cruel and he was too embarrassed to turn in the forms for free lunch and often went all day without eating. Mr. Carroll coaches many kids in pee wee sports and knows that there are many kids that would benefit from free lunches. In his opinion, it is worth it no matter the cost.

**Personnel Concerns**

Mr. Wooldridge wants to keep an eye on the bus routes for the first few weeks of school and see how they go. He knows there were some delays on the first day of school but hopefully things will improve. Mrs. Conley stated that a lot of the kids don't know where they need to go, especially kindergartners, but the bus drivers did a fantastic job today.

**17-156 COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY OPTION** Mrs. Jenkins motioned to authorize the superintendent and treasurer to apply for the Community Eligibility Option (free lunch program). Seconded by Mr. Smith, and upon a roll call vote: Mr. Cutler YEA, Mrs. Jenkins YEA, Mr. Smith YEA, Mr. Stockham YEA, and Mr. Wooldridge YEA.

**17-157 TERMINATE PRITCHETT** Mr. Smith motioned to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Lewie Pritchett is currently employed by the Board as a Transportation Coordinator under an administrative contract of employment; and

WHEREAS, the contract of employment between Mr. Pritchett and the Board requires that Mr. Pritchett obtain a Commercial Driver's License no later than August 1, 2017, and that failure to obtain a Commercial Driver's License by August 1, 2017, will constitute grounds for termination of employment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pritchett failed to obtain a Commercial Driver's License by August 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the District's Superintendent has recommended that this Board initiate termination proceedings against Mr. Pritchett because of his failure to comply with a clear and express term of his employment contract and that he be suspended without pay pending the resolution of such proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pritchett has been informed of the charges against him, as alleged herein below, and has been afforded an opportunity to respond to such charges;

WHEREAS, this Board agrees with the Superintendent's aforesaid recommendations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 3319.16 of the Ohio Revised Code, that the Scioto Valley Local School District Board of Education intends to consider the termination of Mr. Pritchett's contract of employment for good and just cause. The basis for such consideration is Mr. Pritchett's failure to fulfill a clear and express term of his employment contract by not obtaining a Commercial Driver's License by August 1, 2017;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in this Board's judgment, the character of the aforesaid charges warrant Mr. Pritchett's suspension without pay pending final action to terminate his contract, and Mr. Pritchett is hereby suspended, without pay, effective immediately;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board intends to proceed with formal action to terminate Mr. Pritchett's contract at its meeting scheduled for August 16, 2017, unless Mr. Pritchett timely files with the District Treasurer a demand for a hearing before this Board or a referee, in which case the procedures appearing in Sections 3319.16 and 3319.161 of the Ohio Revised Code will be observed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Treasurer is authorized and directed promptly to furnish Mr. Pritchett a written notice, signed by the Treasurer, of this Board's intention to consider the termination of his contract with a full specification of the grounds for such consideration.

Seconded by Mrs. Jenkins, and upon a roll call vote: Mr. Cutler ABSTAIN, Mrs. Jenkins YEA, Mr. Smith YEA, Mr. Stockham ABSTAIN, and Mr. Wooldridge YEA.

**17-158 EMPLOY SECRETARY** Mrs. Jenkins motioned to employ Mary Thacker as 9.5 month secretary at Jasper Elementary. Seconded by Mr. Cutler, and upon a roll call vote: Mr. Cutler YEA, Mrs. Jenkins YEA, Mr. Smith YEA, Mr. Stockham YEA, and Mr. Wooldridge YEA.

**17-159 BOARD MEETING CHANGES** Mr. Stockham motioned to cancel the regular meeting scheduled for August 22, 2017 and to reschedule the September 12 meeting to September 19, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Cutler, and upon a roll call vote: Mr. Cutler YEA, Mrs. Jenkins YEA, Mr. Smith YEA, Mr. Stockham YEA, and Mr. Wooldridge YEA.

Mrs. Jenkins is requesting a Friday Update from the Superintendent about things that happen during the week including highlights, major issues or anything that has been addressed. Mrs. Jenkins would like it to be delivered through the board portal. She is requesting this to improve communication between the superintendent and the Board. Dr. Burkitt stated that this will reduce his board packet but the Board would probably receive information sooner. Mr. Cutler asked if Dr. Burkitt has taken on additional transportation duties. Mrs. Jenkins doesn't think that should interfere with providing an update. Dr. Burkitt said that he will do whatever the Board wants him to do. Mrs. Jenkins doesn't want this request to imply that the Board President isn't communicating. She thinks there is a lack of communication between the Board and the Superintendent. Mrs. Jenkins has asked for this before. Dr. Burkitt thought the Board was fine with him not doing the monthly superintendent report. Mrs. Jenkins feels that Dr. Burkitt probably doesn't give himself full credit by reporting his activities monthly. Mrs. Jenkins suggested that Dr. Burkitt ask to see an example of what the Unioto superintendent provides to his Board.

Dr. Burkitt will start next Friday. Communication can always be better. Mr. Wooldridge doesn't see a problem with each board member calling Dr. Burkitt for information.

Mr. Wooldridge asked about enrollment in the VoAg classes. Dr. Burkitt doesn't know an exact figure yet. He will report back to the Board. Mr. Wooldridge wants to sit down and discuss curriculum and invite business owners to speak to students. Mr. Wooldridge would like to start a FFA chapter. Ms. Shaw stated that Mrs. Hablitzel is planning to use her rise period for FFA. Mr. Owens said that there are 25 kids in Mrs. Hablitzel's rise period. Mr. Wooldridge would like to know what she is teaching. Last year, Mrs. Hablitzel touched on all 6 areas of the curriculum. That may need to change now that the CTC doesn't have a VoAg program anymore.

Mrs. Jenkins reached out to Mr. Dettwiller regarding an anti-bullying initiative that Portsmouth is doing as a result of the suicide of a student due to cyber-bullying. The football team will be wearing zero tolerance bullying stickers on their helmets. Mrs. Jenkins wants to commend our coaches for participating. Dr. Burkitt said that cyber-bullying is a tough issue for schools since kids are at home when it happens. Our school reach doesn't extend to the home. Our school resource officer has avenues that he can pursue to resolve the situation. Mrs. Jenkins would like the staff to receive a copy of the bullying policy so they know how to handle it. Each building has programs in place to help address the problem of bullying.

Mrs. Conley praised Officer Powell for his efforts in helping with drop off and pick up today. Mr. Mantell concurred that Officer Powell helped with the new parent pick up procedures at Zahns.

Dr. Burkitt stated that Officer Powell attended a conference this summer that provided him with lesson plans to use when talking to students about issues including bullying.

**17-160 ADJOURN** Mr. Stockham moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Smith, and upon a roll call vote: Mr. Cutler YEA, Mrs. Jenkins YEA, Mr. Smith YEA, Mr. Stockham YEA, and Mr. Wooldridge YEA.