The Pocahontas County Board of Education met on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, in Marlinton Elementary School's music room for the Local School Improvement Council meeting at 3:30 pm followed by the regular board at 4:45 pm.

Present:
Emery Grimes, President
H. Samuel Gibson
Dr. Sue Hollandsworth, Vice President
Morgan G. McComb
Andrew "Frosty" McNabb

Meeting called to Order.

Sherry Radcliff swore Mr. McNabb as a newly elected Board member.

Opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA MINUTES

On the motion of Mr. McComb and seconded by Dr. Hollandsworth, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the November 12, 2024, Board meeting.

AGENDA

On the motion of Mr. McComb, seconded by Dr. Hollandsworth, the Board unanimously approved the agenda with the following corrections:

1. Agenda item number ten should read "Summers County High School" not Summersville.
2. Add volunteer boys' basketball coach for Green Bank Elementary/Middle School - Stephen Simmons
3. Sam Gibson asked for an Executive Session but was denied because his request did not meet the criteria according to President Emery Grimes.

DELEGATIONS

No delegations were present.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- Superintendent Bostic provided an update on the positions currently open: At Green Bank Elementary/Middle School: a school counselor, third grade teacher, kindergarten teacher and a special education teacher. At Hillsboro Elementary School we have a special education teacher and a special education aide, if approved tonight, and a half-time physical education teacher. At the High School we have a social studies teacher position vacant. The Board approved a dean of students position that will be posted this week in place of the high school counselor after repeated postings. Superintendent Bostic explained that she has reached out to other counties for examples of their Dean of Student postings to develop this position. Some counties are working on split positions. She further explained that she has been working with different agencies, exploring other options such as virtual counseling. The county has been working with the West Virginia Department of Education's certification department as well as the head of

counseling, Stephanie Hayes, for options. The county has to offer a school counselor, and the position requires a master's degree in school counseling, not just a counseling degree. Superintendent Bostic has been in constant contact with Dereck Lambert and Lauren Landry, concerning the High School audit. She would like to schedule another meeting with the State Department, the high school staff, and central office staff to discuss progress and what needs to take place moving forward.

- Superintendent Bostic expressed appreciation to Kristi Hamons for the substitute teacher campaign which has provided four applicants as of date.
- The numbers for the parent/teacher conferences that the board requested are as follows: Hillsboro Elementary had 81%, Green Bank Elementary/ Middle had 45%, and Marlinton Middle had 40% but Mrs. Scotchie noted that this does not account for parents that may have more than one student.
- We should have a response regarding the School Building Association needs grant around December 15th.
- Superintendent Bostic provided a reminder about the Safety Forums at Pocahontas County High School on December 4th and at the Wellness Center in Marlinton on December 5th.
  The following organizations will present at these meetings:
    a. West Virginia Department of Education
    b. Pocahontas County Schools
    c. Pocahontas County Homeland Security and Emergency Management
    d. Pocahontas County Sherriff's Office
    e. Pocahontas Memorial Hospital
    f. Department of Highways
    g. Marlinton Fire Department

These groups will present their protocols concerning emergency events.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/ACADEMIC UPDATES

1. **Student Representatives:** Riley Pollack and Joseph VanMeter Student members were not present.
2. **Literature Fair Winners:** Stephanie Burns, Federal Programs Coordinator/Instructional Coach, provided information regarding the event and the winners. The county Literature Fair took place on October 14th at Pocahontas County High School. Mrs. Burns thanked the individuals that helped, all the staff supporting the students and setting up all the various school fairs and the many community volunteers that judged the projects. Several students, through diligence and hard work, placed first in the county fair and several placed well in the regional fair .A first place winner in the county fair, regional fair and best of show at regional was Woodrow Hudson. There were two class projects that took first place on the county level and proceeded to the regional level: Ms. Hardesty's and Ms. Herold's class.
   Please see a list of all Literature Fair winners at the end of the minutes.
3. **Technology News:** Kristi Hamons, Technology Coordinator, provided the technology quarterly report. The projects that have been completed since the last presentation include: Wi-Fi in the press box at the high school, adding drops/switches at Green Bank, a

new lab at Green Bank, upgraded bus garage personal computer's through-out the county, installation of interactive boards throughout the county, and emergency wi-fi access for Green Bank. Ms. Hamons explained that the entire technology department worked on these projects.

Upcoming projects are Digital signage at Green Bank, Wi-Fi to the field house for more access in the event of an emergency, and switch replacements as Marlinton Elementary and Hillsboro Elementary.

Ms. Hamons attended a communicator's meeting and learned about county communicators and how their job is to basically help push out information and communication to staff, parents and the community. Some updates with this communication are: six new pages added to the website, electronic absence excuse notes for each school, a "Substitute Teacher" campaign, daily posts to social media with positive messages emphasized, video content from coaches and educators, and part of safe schools' forum planning.
Another aspect Ms. Hamons is working on is getting our message out with the creation of the following additions to our county website: About us which describes our mission and events, an attendance page, nursing and health services, military families, pre-school page, safe schools, and a substitute teacher page. Ms. Hamons presented a status sheet on the performance and involvement since she started pushing the communications and enlarging the website: reaching people is up 73.1%, content interactions is up 47%, the Facebook page has 773 followers and link clicks is up 32.5%. These percentages are based on the second nine weeks. Future planned projects include feedback with surveys, community engagement ideas including a fresh county logo, establishing an alumni network, expand communication channels, and establishing a re-group emergency communications from 911/EMS. This system would be installed on all staff computers providing a pop-up notice across computer screens for alerts.
Ms. Hamons provided updates regarding the Wi-Fi capability at Green Bank School. The technology department has tried the following to resolve Wi-Fi issues. Lifi which was not reliable, added drops but the cords become an issue, modified point-to-point 60 GHz system-still involved hardwiring devices and a 60 GHz system would cost $1.4 million. Some proposed steps forward are to invite GBO administration to a Board meeting, ask GBO for viable options to access standard Wi-Fi at Green Bank school during school hours. The IT department suggest a schedule-based solution. Morgan McComb stated we need to move forward with a meeting. Mike O'brien informed the tech department that with the resolution the emergency management has made some progress with the GBO and Ms. Hamons feels if we are going to have a discussion with them, we should strike while the iron is hot. The legislature will have to make the final decision. Tim Walker mentioned that we could put filters on the equipment.

4. **Pocahontas County High School Review:** High School Leadership Team's provided their update the board on what the High School has been facing during and after the WVDE's investigation into the school's comprehensive counseling plan, scheduling process, transcripts and their requests for support. West Virginia Department of Education worked with the Leadership Team on November 12th and 13th with a focus on senior transcripts. There are a total of 79 seniors: 41 needing immediate transcript corrections and ten are more nonemergent transcript correction issues. Issues range from duplicate courses in which one course will need to be removed resulting in changes in class ranking and GPA,

inappropriate naming conventions on transcripts that indicate credit was earned through credit recovery, incorrect courses transcribed on transcripts (mainly regarding transfer students), applying weights to some courses from the past and awarding credit recovery that was overlooked.

Mrs. Rose-Taylor explained that the focus on November 12 and 13 was on senior transcripts, however, all grade levels will undergo transcript corrections after the seniors are corrected.

The WVDE outlined what needs to be changed on transcripts but are unable to provide training in how to make these changes on WVEIS. PCHS needs to request training from WVEIS on how to properly correct transcripts. Mrs. Rose-Taylor noted that principals do not transcribe, WVDE notes this is not something any principal across the state does yet it will be expected of PCHS admin.

Mrs. Rose-Taylor requested immediate help in the form of support from central office staff. She requested a contracted high school counselor position be created in order to fix the senior transcript issues and train the Dean of Students as they correct the 10th-12th grade transcripts. The Dean of Students will need a mentor and training.

She noted that the WVDE informed the staff that the transcripts are not to be corrected until the school's investigation is presented before the West Virginia Board of Education meeting on December 11. The findings will need to be conveyed to students and families by the central office after that meeting. Mrs. Rose-Taylor expressed concern that this will be swept under the rug.

She continued to state that unfortunately, the school has not had support from the necessary central office staff in dealing with our many issues at PCHS. After our meeting on November 11 and 12, they did not have follow-up conversations or next steps with Ms. Shiflet or Mrs. Bostic. Mrs. Bostic has been in communication about the Dean of Students posting. Mrs. Rose-Taylor noted that PCHS needs support and guidance.

The high school team reported that the Special Education Director has done an outstanding job of supporting our Special Educators and Administration. Mrs. Tritapoe has hired various consultants throughout the year, most impressively hiring a transition consultant who meets with staff and administration on an as needed basis. This is the type of support the High School is requesting. We need focused and ongoing support with scheduling, PEP plans and support for our Dean of Students and Administration.

Superintendent Bostic noted that a recent email from the State Department stated that the audit results won't be presented until the January State Board of Education meeting.

Some of the Board Members had questions about bringing up other counselors in the county to help with the transcripts but Ms. Shiflet informed them these counselors would need to be trained to make the necessary corrections and provide the documentation needed. Superintendent Bostic said she would reach out to the lawyer to check on using the other counselors within the county.

Ms. Rose-Taylor stated the state told them that they don't come in and fix problems they train staff to fix their own problems. Mr. Gibson requested that a posting be created for a contracted counselor and was provided information about contracted positions. Some of the board members asked to check with Mrs. Ruth Bland about contracting to assist in fixing the transcripts. Mr. McComb stated we need to make sure that what they are doing is correct before we do it. Mrs. Rose-Taylor is requesting more support from central office with the scheduling system and training on the program. She also added that Mr.

Derrick Lambert mentioned creating a cohort to address these training issues with the transcripts. The board informed the staff that they would support them as much as they could. Superintendent Bostic stated she would check with the State Department about what we should do about contracting for help.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on the motion of Mr. McComb seconded by Dr. Hollandsworth the following were unanimously approved: Consent Financial Requirements:

a. Payment of Vendor Listing = **$246,177.72**
b. Payment of Local Government Purchasing Card = **$109,028.47**
c. November 6, 2024 Employee Payroll = **$295,783.30**
   November 19, 2024 Employee Payroll = **$293,944.91**
d. Bank Reconciliation for the month of August 2024
e. Bank Reconciliation for the month of September 2024
f. Grant Awards
g. Budget Adjustments
   Sherry presented the numbers to the Board if we are cut to actual count of students instead of receiving monies for 1,400 students.

APPROVAL OF TRIP TO GREENBRIER HOTEL

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on the motion of Mr. McComb seconded by Mr. McNabb the Board unanimously approved Ms. Mullen-Lambert and four students to participate in the annual Hospitality University on January 28, 2025.

APPROVAL FOR FORESTRY TRIP

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on the motion of Mr. McComb seconded by Mr. Sam Gibson the Board unanimously approved for Mr. Garber and nine forestry students to go to Mountain Gateway Community College in Clifton Forge, VA on December 4, 2024.

APPROVAL FOR MARLINTON MIDDLE TRIP

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on the motion of Mr. McComb seconded by Mr. McNabb the board unanimously approved for a group of between 100-110 students and chaperones from Marlinton Middle School to go on a CTE experience at WVU, Morgantown, WV on December 6, 2024.

APPROVAL FOR POCAHONTAS COUNTY GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO TRAVEL

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on the motion of Mr. McComb seconded by Mr. Sam Gibson the Board unanimously approved for the Pocahontas County Girls Basketball Team to travel to Summers County High School, Pipestem, WV, for a basketball tournament on December 20, 2024.

APPROVAL FOR ATTENDANCE EXCEPTION

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on the motion of Mr. McComb seconded by Dr. Hollandsworth the Board unanimously approved for six students at Pocahontas County High School to be granted an attendance exception for the 2024-2025 school year to have a partial day schedule and then report to work.

APPROVAL MOU M3T PROJECT

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on the motion of Mr. McComb seconded by Dr. Hollandsworth the Board unanimously approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Pocahontas County Board of Education and the M3T Project related to Jennifer Naile-Cook's participation as an M3T Fellow for the term August 2024-July 2025.

APPROVAL OF PARENT COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on the motion of Mr. McComb seconded by Mr. Sam Gibson the following were unanimously approved:

Amanda Bosley	Amy Henry-Morgan
Samatha Mitchell	Nathan Rittenhouse

APPROVAL OF SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on the motion of Mr. McComb seconded by Mr. Sam Gibson the following were unanimously approved:

Green Bank Elementary-Middle School:

EMPLOYMENT:	TODD JONES, as Head Basketball coach (girls) at Green Bank Elementary/Middle School effective December 4, 2024, for the 2024-2025 athletic season with a supplement of $1,125.00.
REASSIGNMENT:	SARAH BROWN, from Title I teacher at Green Bank Elementary/Middle School to Teacher of Kindergarten at Green Bank Elementary/Middle School effective December 4, 2024, for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.
VOLUNEER:	STEPHEN SIMMONS, as volunteer coach of Green Bank Elementary/Middle School's boys basketball team for the 2024-2025 school year.

Hillsboro Elementary School:

CREATION OF POSITION:	Special Education /Classroom/Bus aide position at Hillsboro Elementary School effective for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

REASSIGNMENT: PAULENA SCHOOLCRAFT, from Special Education/Classroom/Bus Aide to ECCAT Special Education/Classroom/Bus Aide 2nd grade. (pending ECCAT certification)

Marlinton Middle School

MENTOR: DENISE SHARP, as Mentor for ABBEY COX at Marlinton Middle School effective for the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of $25.00 per hour for 50 hours for a total of $1,250.00.

Pocahontas County High School:

RESIGNATION: DAVID MOORE, as Volunteer Head Golf Coach for the Pocahontas County High School Golf team effective November 22, 2024.

Pocahontas County Schools:

EMPLOYMENT: Of the following as Substitute Teacher for Pocahontas County Schools, at state minimum professional salary for the 2024-2025 school year.

Peter Monico, Jr.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD:

Emery Grimes: Requested to schedule budget meetings. He would like the budget to be reviewed before personnel season. He wants to try and educate the public about the different categories, so they understand certain funds are non-negotiable.

H. Sam Gibson: Stated concern regarding the issue with school counselor at the High School. He asked if the cardboard trailers get recycled. He expressed application for the two- and three-hour delays. He stated that the absentee policy is a problem. The state is trying to keep chronic absenteeism limited.

Morgan McComb: Stated that the board members cannot respond to e-mails with a "reply to all."

Dr. Sue Hollandsworth: Dr. Hollandsworth asked the members if the Christmas trays would be continued and that a date would need to be set for delivery to the school locations.

Frosty McNabb: He has received questions from Marlinton Middle School about a guest network for after school activities. They have access to a phone for emergency situations at the school.

Next Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday December 17, 2024, beginning at 6:00 PM at the Board Conference Room in Buckeye, WV.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr. McComb, seconded by Mr. McNabb the Board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

REASSIGNMENT: PAULENA SCHOOLCRAFT, from Special Education/Classroom/Bus Aide to ECCAT Special Education/Classroom/Bus Aide 2nd grade. (pending ECCAT certification)

Marlinton Middle School

MENTOR: DENISE SHARP, as Mentor for ABBEY COX at Marlinton Middle School effective for the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of $25.00 per hour for 50 hours for a total of $1,250.00.

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	Adalyn Beverage		
Independent	Sarah Abbott		3rd Place
Independent	Genevieve Guyette		
Partner	Paisley Sloan Emma Pugh		2nd Place
Independent	Shelldon Maitland		2nd Place
Partner	Alida McNeel Kendyl Hummel		1st Place
Independent	Rufus Morgan		
Independent	Sullivan Seldomridge		3rd Place
Independent	Titus Rittenhouse		
Independent	Jenifer Taylor		
Partner	Avery Smith Cadence Carr		2nd Place
Independent	Daisy Hefner		1st Place
Partner	Garrett Broce Anthony Burdette		
Independent	Kysor Calhoun		
Partner	Tyrell Davis Sadie Mason		2nd Place
Independent	Lane Wilfong		
Partner	Trey Sattler James Smith		1st Place
Independent	Zara Fanning		1st Place
Partner	Amelia Hicks Carrigan Hicks		2nd Place
Independent	Madelyn Rittenhouse		
Partner	Emma Anderson Roxie Thompson		1st Place
Independent	Skyler Bernarding		3rd Place
Partner	Chloe Annett Julia Brown		
Partner	James Monico Ace Gregory		
Independent	Eli Beezley		1st Place
Independent	Cade Wagner		
Independent	Nadiya Kerr		1st Place

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr. McComb, seconded by Mr. McNabb the Board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

Secretary

President

List of Literature Fair First Place County Winners for 2024: Elementary, Middle, and High School

	Students	County Fair	Regional Fair
Class	**Mrs. Hardesty's Class -** Colton Armstrong Cole Buzzard Konnor Hamons Michael Hefner Grant McClure Landen McMillion Isaiah McNeel Jerico Moore Ella Pugh Micah Scotchie Elliott Seldomridge Kimberlyn Teter Kayne Tingler	1st Place	1st Place
Class	**Mrs. Herold's Class –** Noah Alderman Kinley Beverage Aramis Brown Heather Callison Chloe Curry Laylonee Fleming-Thomas Mazey Goldizen Darren Ryder Colton Wilfong		
Independent	Braxton Taylor		
Independent	Lydia Rittenhouse		
Independent	Woodrow Hudson		BEST OF SHOW 1st Place
Independent	Isabella Nelson		2nd Place
Independent	Marcie Dilley		2nd Place
Independent	Oliver Feather		2nd Place
Partner	Isabella Eilers		3rd Place