

COUNTY OF LOGAN

A special meeting of the Logan County Board of Education was held at the Administrative Offices of Logan County Schools, Conference Room on Monday, August 8, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Purpose of Special Meeting – Hire interim Superintendent and Personnel

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Board President Paul Hardesty. Those present were, Jeremy Farley, Debbie Mendez, Dr. Pat J. White, Darlene Dingess Adkins, Assistant Superintendent was acting Secretary. Member Dr. Ed White participated by telephone.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jeremy Farley.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

Public Speakers, Presentations and Recognitions

Ashely Collier – Requested to speak in Executive Session

Ethel White – Requested to speak in Executive Session

Acting Superintendent Darlene Adkins recommended approval of posted positions as well as other personnel action(s) that arise which are not a direct result of the posting, as provided by the Personnel Office:

Personnel

Mr. Hardesty pulled Personnel Item 3 A - Employment of Interim Superintendent for a standalone action item.

Mrs. Mendez made the motion to approve the personnel schedule as presented. Dr. Pat J. White seconded the motion. Motion carried; vote was 5-0.

B. ABOLISH

1. Director of Secondary Education/CTE – Effective immediately

2. Director of Title I/Pre-K – Effective immediately
3. Director of Transportation/Student Support – Effective September 23, 2016

Personnel Item 3 A Employment of Interim Superintendent

Mr. Hardesty read aloud the contract of Interim Superintendent Suzette Cook.

Mrs. Mendez made the motion to approve the hiring and contract of Interim Superintendent Suzette Cook. Mr. Farley seconded the motion. Motion carried: vote was 5-0.

Should the need be presented, President Paul Hardesty (or designee) recommended the Board enter into Executive Session in accordance with WV Code 6-9A-4:

Executive Session – WV Code 6-9A-4

At 5:07 p.m. Dr. Pat J. White made the motion to enter into Executive Session in accordance with WV Code 6-9A-4 for the purpose of Personnel. Mrs. Mendez seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was 5-0.

Ethel White and Ashely Collier addressed the Board in Executive Session.

Return from Executive Session

At 5:47 p.m. Dr. Pat J. White made the motion to return from executive session. Mr. Farley seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was 5-0.

No action was taken.

John Turner, Logan County Clerk, administered Oath of Office to Suzette Cook, Interim Superintendent of Logan County Schools.

Mrs. Cook stated she is excited to be here. I am not a stranger to Logan County Schools. I have been working with some of the schools for three years. I am excited to help the county to move forward.

Board Member/Superintendent Discussion/Comments

- Mr. Farley – Congratulations to Mrs. Cook. As a board - looking forward to working with you. We have 10 days before school starts. We have faith and confidence in our leadership team, at this point with you and Mrs. Darlene Adkins. I know that you all will work hard to do what we need to do. You have my complete confidence. If you need anything from me as an individual or this Board you have but to ask.
- Dr. Pat J. White – I have had the pleasure working with Suzette Cook for many years. Previous role as Director of Title I Programs in State Department, she was the final authority in approving budgets. Mrs. Cook is always fair and understanding - very helpful. As Mr. Farley has stated, we have a lot of positive things going on. Mrs. Cook will be a person that our staff will soon find that they can come and talk to.
- Mrs. Mendez – Welcome – there is a lot of challenges in front of you and us. Think you and Darlene will be a wonderful team. We look forward to many good things coming from both of you.
- Dr. Ed White – Excited - I feel we have a good leadership team in place to get things moving. Excited to move forward and to get things going.
- Darlene Adkins – Welcome - Very Excited can't wait to get started tomorrow.
- Mr. Hardesty – Mrs. Cook welcome - I am all about timelines - Board seated July 5, 2016 placed on notice at our first meeting regular meeting July 14, 2016 of retirement of the superintendent. That retirement was acted upon at our second regular meeting on July 28, 2016. We decided to purchase two months buy out provision of the contract. We collectively felt this Board of Education needed a fresh start. School starts August 18 our employees come back August 15. By our actions this evening, we feel we have achieved that fresh start. We are going in fully staffed in a new direction with new hope. We hope the moral of our employees change for the better, in quick manner. We have terrible moral in this system. This is going to change. Over the past week this Board has been in every press in West Virginia - newsprint, television, and radio. We are not going to focus on the fact there is an investigation on going into Logan County Schools. We feel like its time to let the investigators investigate - they will discern fact from fiction. That is not for me or my colleagues to do. We will get back to the business at hand and this is to educate the children of Logan County. That starts tomorrow morning with you and Mrs. Adkins and our fine staff. Hope it's a positive year for you and a positive year for Logan County Schools.

Announcements

Mr. Hardesty announced the following information: Next regular meeting will be August 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Vocational Center.

August 8, 2016

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mrs. Mendez made the motion to adjourn, with Mr. Farley seconding the motion. Motion carried, vote was 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY