

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
COUNTY OF LOGAN**

A regular meeting of the Logan County Board of Education was held at the Ralph R. Willis Career/Technical Center on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Board President Paul Hardesty. Those present were, Jeremy Farley, Debbie Mendez, Dr. Ed White, Dr. Pat J. White, Secretary – Patricia Lucas, Interim Superintendent.

**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**

Mr. Hardesty, Board President, did a presentation in regard to the JROTC Program, NCDD Program and budget issues. All items presented are documented statements from Board of Education agendas, board minutes, and letters to Board Members and the Superintendent of Logan County Schools.

Sargent Jeff Lambert – Chapmanville Regional High School JROTC Instructor, Chapmanville Regional High is a JROTC program. We were hired on good faith and we have done our job. The cadets here are a representative of that job. But first let me say that what Mr. Hardesty said is the truth, unbeknownst to us. Mr. O’Jeda has offered to tender his resignation, his pay will pay for 2 instructors. Logan and Man programs are fully funded by Logan County Board of Education. The Board must understand, if we lose the JROTC privilege for these young adults, we will never have this privilege again. We are in dire need of something positive in our schools and JROTC provides that.

All cadets present stated the Cadet Creed.

Preston Flemings - 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant at Man High, presented petitions to the Board with signatures to save the JROTC program.

Nikolas Alves - Cadet Colonel Logan High School NDCC - program addressed the stating how the program has benefited his life.

Steven Back – Battalion Second Officer and Senior Class President at Logan High School, explained the goals of the JROTC program, is to build model citizens, instill patriotism and pride. The program helps the school and community, teaches cadets to be part of the solution not the problem.

Samantha Mullins – Senior Cadet at Logan High School, addressed the Board how the JROTC has changed her life.

Joy Queen - Addressed the Board as a parent, asking when making budget cuts look how it will affect all students not just the 400 ROTC students. Look at the ones that will be left behind because they do not have a group to fight for them.

Marlene Collins. – Address the Board explaining how JROTC has made her son an honor roll student. Not every child is involved in sports, this program gives others something to be involved in.

Phyllis Adkins - Stated she supports the ROTC program. It has made Zac Ooten a different man.

Zac Ooten – Cadet at Logan High stated the ROTC has made him a better student more responsible more disciplined. Take this away from me would be taking a piece of me.

Roger Ramey - Stated if anyone of you were in the military, you would understand what this is all about. If you take this away for these young people, they will remember this rest of life. I will volunteer my time to help you find money to keep this program.

Bobby Bailey – Former Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class, stated how the JROTC program has helped him in life. Asking for the same opportunity for his brother, who is now a cadet.

Tonya Williamson – parent of JROTC student – What the program truly means to the kids. With programs and teachers being cut, students will be attending the same amount of time, someone will have to be paid to watch our kids. I understand budgets. Discipline, responsibility, creating a child to grow up to be an adult that is productive has no dollar tab. We know cuts have to be made, we are asking you don't make cuts that effect productive children. What will be offered in place of JROTC next year?

Robert Gibson - Man High NCDD Instructor - to take away something that will be so detrimental to these cadets - will be a grave injustice to them. Nothing you can replace it with will give them the same benefits. My cadets grades have went up since being in the program because of the discipline and study habits they have learned from the program. Discipline has changed over past 3 years, graduation rate has gone up.

Thomas Adkins – Spoke in support of JROTC program. If this is a budget issue, we can get money to cover short fall. Every student pay a onetime fee of \$50 a year will put a dent in it. Consolidate some of the programs. Go to companies to ask them to sponsor students.

Jeremy Frazier – Welding Instructor at Willis Career Technical Center - Addressed the Board concerning the proposed school calendars for 2017 – 2018. Two of the calendars proposed are year round calendars, one is a traditional calendar. As the welding instructor, it concerns me that the heat could be an issue with year round calendar. Heat exhausting or heat strokes could be an issue.

Austin Beavers - Cadet Commander of Tiger Battalion asked the Board, please do not cut this program. The cadets are a family. His message to the cadets - if we do lose JROTC, the cadets are not to be mad at the Board members. Understand, that cuts have to be made. If it happens to us so be it. We are men and women enough to know that things have to happen.

Austin Adams- Cadet Sargent Major at Chapmanville Reginal High School - thanked the public and cadets for their support. As a result of the mentoring of my instructors I now have a future, goals, and a scholarship for the college of my choosing. These stories of the cadets show you the benefits of the program.

Eric Morris - Cadet Major Battalion Executive Officer at Chapmanville Reginal High School - shared insight how beneficial this program is to the students. Being a cadet makes you a part of a family – making you feel you belong. Influence in my life to set goals and push myself - better morally and academically. The program set me on a path to make something of myself. I implore you to look for other ways for necessary funds. Everyone in this room is leader.

Kiara Eldridge – Chapmanville Regional High School JROTC – here to tell you not only about the past but what we are going to do in the future. Yearly event is service learning projects, which involves all cadets. I have become a very strong leader from this program. Without JROTC it will be like taking away our home.

Ciera Conley – Chapmanville Reginal High School JROTC – Told the Board what an average week in the JROTC is like. All cadets are certified as first aid responders. We involve everyone in our projects, including special needs students we are their friends and family. Next year our marksmanship and drill teams will be ready to go, we have worked toward this since my freshman year. Both of these offer scholarships to cadets to go to college for many that can't afford it. Please reconsider because it will deeply affect everyone in this room as well as the community.

Mr. Hardesty thanked everyone for maintaining a professional meeting. Sit here before you in a bad situation. We looked at the option to make a centralized program, but with graduations requirements, we could not. We have documentation from the Army if we do not hire 2 additional instructors for each school by June 8, program will be cancelled. This was received on 3/17/17. We are not making a decision this evening. We will take into consideration what you have said.

Mrs. Lucas stated the timeline on when the proposed personnel cuts will be acted upon at the April 6, 2017 Board meeting.

### **Comments on the Proposed 2017 – 2018 School Calendars**

Per WV Board of Education Policy 3234 the Logan County Board Education Must Provide Time for Public Comment on the Proposed 2017-2018 Logan County School Calendars

Darlene Dingess Adkins, Assistant Superintendent, addressed the board in regard to the proposed school calendars. Faculty Senate representatives requested each school faculty have input into the school calendar. Each school was asked to submit a calendar to the committee. Only 3 calendars were submitted. Central Office submitted 3 calendars. The calendar committee looked at each calendar and the committee selected 3 calendars to be considered. Every staff member will vote on their calendar selection and that calendar will be presented to the Board for approval.

Jeremy Frazier – Welding Instructor at Willis Career Technical Center - Addressed the Board concerning the proposed school calendars for 2017 – 2018. Two of the calendars proposed are year round calendars, one is a traditional calendar. As the welding instructor, it concerns me that the heat could be an issue with year a round calendar. Heat exhausting or heat strokes could be an issue.

*Interim Superintendent Patricia Lucas recommended approval of the following action items:*

#### **Approval of minutes**

Mr. Farley made the motion to approve the minutes from the Thursday, March 09, 2017 special meeting and regular meeting. Mrs. Mendez seconded the motion. Motion carried, vote was 5-0.

#### **Action Items**

Dr. Pat J. White made the motion to approve the following action items. Mrs. Mendez seconded the motion. Motion carried, vote was 5-0.

- a. Right Away Easement – Appalachian Power Company – New Chapmanville Elementary School
- ~~b. Approval to Request Proposals for Audits of Financial Statements FY 2017, 2018 and 2019, and appointment of Rhonda Justice, Jason Jude and Jeremy Farley to serve as Audit Committee~~
- c. Out of State Travel
  - i. Man Elementary School 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grades request to travel to Columbus Zoo and Center of Science and Industry, Columbus OH, April 28, 2017, via school bus
  - ii. Logan High School Beta Club request to compete in competition at the National Beta Convention – Orlando, FL, June 28 – July 3, 2017
  - iii. Maintenance Employees, Brent Mathis, Ron Berry, Bobby Basadre, and John Mason, request to attend Liberty Distributors Seminar, March 15, 2017, Chesapeake, OH
- d. Parent Volunteers
  - i. Chapmanville Regional High School
  - ii. Logan Middle School
  - iii. Man High School
  - iv. Willis Career Technical Center

**Action Item 4 B pulled to be a standalone item**

Approval to Request Proposals for Audits of Financial Statements FY 2017, 2018 and 2019, and appointment of Rhonda Justice, Jason Jude and Jeremy Farley to serve as Audit Committee

Mrs. Mendez made the motion to approve the following action items. Dr. Pat J. White seconded the motion. Motion carried, vote was 4-0 -1. Mr. Farley abstained, he is a member of the committee.

**Superintendent's Report** No report was given

*Interim Superintendent Patricia Lucas recommended approval of the following items presented by the Finance Office:*

**Finances**

Mrs. Mendez made the motion to approve the finance items as presented. Mr. Hardesty seconded the motion. Motion carried, vote was 3-0-2. Dr. Pat Joe White and Jeremy Farley abstained due to a travel reimbursement on vendor list.

a. Budget Supplement(s) -	00.00
b. Budget Transfer(s) –	\$2,055,542.00
	\$824,036.13
c. Schedule of Invoices:	
i. County -----	\$580,604.76
ii. Purchase Card-----	\$58,695.56
iii. Food Service -----	\$23,365.40
iv. IASA -----	\$10,143.25
v. Permanent Improvements-----	91,291.68
vi. Vocational -----	<u>\$14,975.37</u>
<u>Total</u> -----	<u>\$779,076.02</u>

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

**Personnel**

Mrs. Mendez made the motion to approve the personnel schedule as presented. Mr. Farley seconded the motion. Motion carried; vote was 5-0.

**PROFESSIONAL**

PENDING CERTIFICATION/CIB

A. EMPLOY

1. **Harvey, Samantha** – substitute teacher – Effective March 27, 2017
2. **Hicks, Ty** – Logan Middle School – long-term substitute – Spanish – Effective March 27, 2017
3. **Meade, Amber** – Itinerant – School Nurse – from substitute list - Effective March 27, 2017

B. ATHLETIC

1. **Corns, Trevor** – Man High School – Assistant Baseball Coach – Effective March 24, 2017 - No longer Assistant Baseball Coach - at no expense to the board – as stated on the February 9, 2017, agenda
2. **Noe, Keith** – Logan High School – Head Soccer Coach – Effective March 24, 2017
3. **Perry, Cody** – Logan Middle School – Assistant Softball Coach – certified authorized coach at no expense to the board – Effective March 24, 2017
4. **Sheppard, James** – Logan High School – Assistant Football Coach – Effective March 24, 2017

C. WELLNESS COACH - \$25.00 per hour for a maximum of 10 hours; paid at the completion of the school year

1. **Brumfield, Belinda** – Man Elementary School – Effective March 27, 2017
2. **Justice, Teresa** – Buffalo Elementary School – Effective March 27, 2017
3. **McComis, Gary** – Logan High School – Effective March 27, 2017

D. RESIGNATION

1. **Bates, Drema** – substitute teacher – Effective March 13, 2017
2. **Caldwell, Aime** – Logan Middle School – Head Golf Coach – Effective February 24, 2017
3. **Green, Zachary** – Logan Middle School – long-term substitute – Spanish – Effective March 14, 2017 – will remain on the substitute list
4. **Noe, Keith** – Chapmanville Regional High School – Assistant Soccer Coach – effective March 24, 2017
5. **Sheppard, James** – Logan Middle School – Assistant Football Coach – Effective March 24, 2017
6. **Trivette, Rebecca** – Logan Middle School – Multi-categorical – Effective March 14, 2017

**SERVICE**

PENDING CIB/PAPERWORK

A. FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

1. **Savage, Lisa**-West Chapmanville Elementary School-Special Needs Supervisory Aide, effective March 1, 2017 through April 13, 2017.

B. RESIGN

1. **Gillman, Sandra**-substitute cook, effective March 17, 2017.

C. TERMINATION

1. **Walls, Sherry** -Logan Bus Garage-Bus Operator, effective immediately.

D. TRANSFER

1. **Frye, Nancy**-Chapmanville Bus Garage-Bus Operator-Bus Run C-28-from Chapmanville Bus Garage-Bus Operator-Bus Run C-4, effective March 27, 2017.

**Board Member/Superintendent Discussion/Comments**

- Mr. Farley - State for the record. This is lengthy, but I want to read in the record here today to be perfectly honest. Proud of cadets to stand up not easy and pour your heart out. I commend them and instructors - they are doing a good job. It is evident. I am proud of 341 enrolled in Logan County Schools. I am a numbers person, that is out of 1853 high school students. Board has to take into consideration 5846 students, and currently have 805 employees those within the state aid formula and those by law we have to have, and 11 do not fall into that. There are major decisions that have to be made. I appreciate all folks who have called me and messaged me, not all of them have been nice. Talking about things people are passionate about because it touches their lives. I understand. This board must weigh all factors. We are dealing with a lot of livelihoods, a lot of kids. ROTC has been a good program – I think we are seeing the impact of that. A lot of misinformation past couple of weeks. Mr. President was right, this board agreed appropriate thing to do for our employees, because they go out of their way everyday to provide ground level for our students. To sit down with them as professionals, let them know what their status was, answer any questions. That's not easy, I commend the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, and the personnel folks. Nobody wants to tell someone else they may not have a position.

No good personnel cuts. None. Many of you in attendance tonight are here to voice your opinions or hear opinions concerning the proposed cuts. This board appreciates all input into those decisions that we must make. I also want the public to know that I understand these decisions have a direct impact on our students, employees, and communities. So, I sincerely appreciate all their viewpoints tonight. I also appreciate those comments I've received by text, email, and phone or in person.

When I was seated as a new member of this board on July 5, 2016, I knew Logan County Schools would face financial challenges. It was immediately apparent that changes would have to be made. These challenges and changes have been well documented. In fact, Mrs. Lucas is our third superintendent within the last nine months, and so far, I'm impressed with her job performance.

As a board, I feel like we've been upfront and honest about the issues facing our school system. Practically every meeting we've told the public about the changes that could take place. In fact, we have given everyone notice that personnel changes would be especially difficult because of the loss of enrollment. Between last school year and this school year we lost 230 students; or looking at the last five years, that's 580 students lost. To put it in perspective, that's equivalent to losing all students at Chapmanville Middle School, or losing all students at Man High School and South Man Grade combined; or to losing all students at Logan Grade, Justice Grade and Verdunville Grade combined. Think about that for a moment how many students have exited our county. That is beyond this Board's control.

We've seen people fleeing Logan County, and most of the counties in southern West Virginia. According to the Charleston Gazette-Mail, Logan County's population decreased by 814 last year alone. That's a loss of 2.36 percent last year alone, and that trend remains true for most southern counties. It hurts me to say that perhaps the only business that's done well here lately is the repo man.

Despite this five-year trend of decreasing enrollment, and despite the continued erosion of local tax collections, previous boards did not make appropriate, timely, or incremental cuts to personnel budget. And for those who might say I'm blaming other people who aren't here to defend themselves, two of those folks are sitting here, and I will say it to their face, this is not personal - it is about the business of the school system. They will have a chance to make comments on what has transpired over the past several years. In 2013 this school system had 6,426 students and operated 44 personnel over the state aid formula. Today we have an enrollment of 5,846 and we are 86 positions in excess of the state aid formula; and we are projected to be 94 positions over on July 1, 2017 if cuts are not made. But in reality, we are looking at being a potential 134 positions over if the WV Legislature passes their budget with a five percent cut to the state aid formula. None of that has to do with this Board sitting here now, these are factors outside of our domain. This is what is going on in the state.

In the past, the board has relied heavily on line item funding in Logan County's Excess Levy to pay for these overages in personnel. In the past, the levy collections were strong enough to pay for the overages, but unfortunately, this wasn't the case last year, nor is it the case this year, and we are projected to collect nearly 2.5 million less next school year. That's out of a 11.7 million levy. Any personnel overages exceeding the state aid formula not paid from the designated line items in the excess levy must come out of unreserved funds.

Previous boards have allowed this type of funding to happen, and I believe it is an unsound and unsustainable policy to use Unreserved Funds for anything other than one-time capital improvements (such as construction or maintenance) and unforeseen emergencies.

With this grim outlook in mind, we find ourselves here today, considering significant personnel cuts. But to be perfectly honest, the proposed cuts are fewer than I would and have advocated for, to help ensure that we can keep our school system operating without serious long term financial constraints. Even though numbers have ranged from 50 to 70 potential cuts, I have advocated a full 86 cuts. As I say that, I know each one of those positions are good hard working folks that don't deserve to lose their jobs. I know some of the people being affected by our decisions are my friends, some are my supporters. Some are even my favorite teachers from high school. However, I'm placed in a position where I know cuts must be made and many people will be negatively affected. In the past, I've told my colleagues and the public both that I would work to make sure this school system is solvent and meeting the educational needs of our students and communities. This looming budget decrease will make everyone's job harder, but let me state once again, for the record, I'm more than willing to work cooperatively with my colleagues to make the best decision possible. I say that because most of my past two weeks, and rightfully so, because it is a good program the JROTC. People are very passionate about it. I am also the person that. We have to make those decisions for everybody. That includes bus drivers, teachers, everyone else as well. I apologize, I don't want people to think that we don't understand. That does not have anything to do with the situation. I apologize for being emotional, but like I said - some of these people are my friends. Our community has hurt for a long time. No good personnel cuts, absolutely none. Mr. President your presentation very insightful. I have done independent research, and a lot of that stuff I found as well. Kids have absolutely been cheated because of decisions. People can say they did not know about decisions, easy to play politics easy to tell people that. We are elected to this board to make decisions, you can't delegate those decisions and say I didn't know anything about this. You may not have, but you are going to get the blame anyway. I know that Auditor McKuskey was here, I would ask that forensic audit to look into that program. I want answers no matter what we decided. I want answers to see if anything unusual occurred there. Because, one way or another I have to tell bus drivers, the cooks, Special Ed teachers, 5 assistant principals, social studies people, core subject teachers, math, science. The lady talked about her special needs child. I should wrap it up. It's been a long day. I am not an emotional person. None of this is easy, I have the utmost respect for my colleagues and Mrs. Lucas having the hard part of this. Don't know if 62 or 60 cuts are enough, based on the number I have seen. I am willing to listen to my colleagues and be able to work that out. I again apologize for getting emotional. I heard a lot of compelling stories tonight, those are things that I will take everything into consideration. But I also think there are a lot of stories we did not hear, from folks out there that are going to be RIF or transferred. They depend on that salary. It is just a terrible situation.

- Dr. Ed White - Jeremy effectively laid out our budget woes. Past Boards and administrations fell into a habit of overspending, easy to do when money flows so freely. You have 4 or 5 million dollars extra to throw into a fund, things good - plenty of money- those days are over. We have to go on budget with what we have - only hire as much as we can afford to pay. Can't pay teachers up till April and say we can't pay you anymore. We are in a real bind, money running out. I have a real passion to preserve ROTC for a number of reasons. My background in child advocacy, situations where ROTC has saved a life, more than once. It has turned kids around, helped with drug problems, helps community as much as it helps the schools. The program can turn people who would be potential liabilities – turn them into productive citizens. We don't have money to invest, we are going to have to be creative to keep going. Talked to people to help find funding. Have to meet budget that is a sad reality.
- Mrs. Mendez - Been and emotional evening. I was part of that board - I was a new member I am going to say that did know what doing half of time. But I have learned very fast. I can honestly say, that a lot of that stuff was not told to me. Might not be what you want to hear, but it is the truth. I have big shoulders - I will take responsibilities for that. I have learned a lot, unfortunately under supervisor of one person. I don't have excuses. I did not have the wisdom I do today. I was asking questions, I was demanding answers, I was starting to be bolder. ROTC, I am personally for it. As a board stand - financially we have to meet budget. Mr. Hardesty has been nothing but honest. Never had a private meeting. Never has he stood up and said anything, twisted anybody's arm or insinuate we had to vote his way. Never – Never – Never. He has always treated every person on this panel with respect. A lot of things were said - a lot of bad things were said about him that were not true. Therefore, I apologize. Your presentation showed a lot to me and everybody else. I know we have a lot decisions to make that are not going to be favorably. You won't understand them, but they have to be done. The sign says our decisions impact children, I look at that sign - that is what I think of. Do we agree - not always - can we reason – not always, but that makes us stronger. That is not saying that I don't respect him, I have a lot of respect for this man. I respect everyone on this panel equally. I admire Trish and personnel going to talk to the people. I have people telling me they appreciate her for telling them the reasons why. She has went beyond what we could ask of her. A lot of that is dedication and that impacts children. How we treat people is how we teach our children.
- Dr. Pat J. White – I had the opportunity to attend Justice Grade Leadership Day. Projects were great. Thank Paul for his presentation. It took a lot of research to pull that data together. A lot of that of data was very new to me. I will say to you, that once again, I am making no apologies - some of that data never reached us. Some of that data we did ask questions about – we were told – we would bring information next

time. Being on Board of Education, a lot of things happened in two weeks. I take full responsible things I should had been more cognizant of. Some of that data we did not receive. Some of facts shocking to me. I have received calls and people stopped me and I explained my position. We have not taken a vote. Tonight's meeting - productive in getting information that is necessary to make decisions. In past couple of weeks, my name has been tossed around by some people on social media that I attended a meeting – that did not even exist or never held. If you know me, I am the last person in the world that could be intimidated. Nothing anyone could say to change my mind – once I have made up my mind up. I am a fair person and open to all suggestions. Been on this Board over 6 years, a lifetime educator. Someone asked how much we made, I make \$105 per meeting after taxes. Appreciate working with everyone on here. We had some good alternatives presented here tonight – we will take under consideration – before we make our final decision. Make best decision for kids and personnel and Logan County Schools.

- Mr. Hardesty - My history on this board - I ran in 1994 – Logan County School system was taken over by the state in 1992. State put in their own superintendent, told us you five people sit up there – open the meeting and say pledge. We will take care of finance, personnel and maintenance, at the end of the meeting you can adjourn, that's your function until you can get things together. That lasted for two years, no original thought or ideas. Boards prior to me squandered things. I went to Charleston - asked what do we have to do to get back control of our school system. We were the first intervention county. We made history and not in a good way. In 1996 we were restored to full status to run our school system. There was a 3 – 2 pattern vote that went on for 6 years. Three Board members had to make the tough decisions. With that pattern so of you stand up and clap – but people in Charleston only shake their heads.

Worst meeting I ever attended was at Sharples Elementary PK- 6, for school of 36 kids, had over 500 people there. Tough decisions have to be made in tough times.

This is a great program, I qualified that in my opening remarks, kids have done nothing wrong. We may find a creative way to keep open for one more year, but if the legislature cuts 5 percent we are in the same predicament next year, with no option. This is for an elective that the State of WV does not even recognize for your child to graduate. What about 5800 kids that have to have core classes to graduate? AFT, WVEA and WVSSAP representatives have told me – you are laying off all these classified positions that have panel rights. If one of our members come asking to grieve, you are keeping positions that don't have panel rights. ROTC not in matrix as panel rights for teachers. I fully expect them to say you cut our people off, you cut our transportation aides off, you cut our special education teacher off, you cut of general education teachers off, and you cut a math teacher off.

Chapmanville High is going irate over this program, no public outcry because math proficiencies is at 4 or 5 %. Nobody beats our doors down for that, but they sensationalize on Facebook it does not have to be true, they just put it out there. This is not personal. We have been dealt a bad hand, I don't expect you all to understand that. We are going to try to make an educated decision. I am going to try to call some people tomorrow to try to get money for this program, it will put band aid on something that need a tourniquet. These kids break my heart. This one girl, I talked to at the capital the other day, she touched my heart. I care about all of our employees. If I would have looked at you 10 – 15 years ago and said I am going to take the librarians out of the schools, I would have told you – you are crazy. We are looking at that option now – it is that bad. I am not trying to exploit, sensationalize or editorialize, I presented you nothing but board documents. I believe these people never saw some of them.

I had no intention of running back on this board. I have not been on a ballot in 18 years. Last year some of you people that work in the school system said - you need to run our school system is in the tank. I said my wife would kill me. They said there is going to be a vacancy occur, how about come on for 6 months and help get it back in order. You do have experience almost 2 terms. I sent in a letter stating I have an interest to serve the 6 months, then let the voters decide who to put in there. I could not garner an interview. I was more qualified than other 9 combined. I was not mad I was humiliated. Why could I not get an interview? The last night before filing, I told my wife there is something they don't want me to find. That's got to be it. It's not about the salary, I don't want the head ache, but there is something down there they don't want me to be a part of. I could not figure it out.

Told the people – I am at a different time and place in my career. When I was in my early 30's when I made decisions –did I keep politics in corner of mind when I made them – I say absolutely. I was starting a career like everybody else. Anyone starting a career and want to aspire to another office, and tell you they don't weigh to some political factor - is lying to you. But now fast forward I am now 54 years old, I don't want to go anywhere else in the political spectrum. I only ran because they challenged my manhood and I wanted to find out for myself what they were trying to hide. So I ran and I won. Guess what ladies and gentleman, I have found out what they were trying to hide. It is not good. Promised you all I would be transparent, I have done that since the day I took the oath and they put me in this seat. This seat not comfortable tonight – not very attractive. But it's my seat and my job. We are going to make a decision based on facts. I have the matrix here – 70 projected cuts. Behind every cut is a face. We have elected officials at the legislature – they have came up to me this week and said - if you can save program in Chapmanville save it. Others did not talk to me just went to social media and starting wearing me out. That is why I was so compelled to present facts. I have spent the last two weeks reading agendas pulling documents. Amazed what I found – but really I am not. I tried to put together nothing

but facts. I did not give you anything that was not factual, this is what I call transparency. Cuts and people mean something to me.

The Director of WV Regional Jail Authority needs employees - my people need jobs. Regional jail system has 40 openings, civil service jobs with benefits not teaching jobs, but good jobs. Transportation from Logan will be provided to the work site in Charleston. I care about these people, there are families behind people. I understand that if we pull the plug on the program, the program goes. I got that. I am struggling with that. I am not going to lie to you. Cadets from Logan and Man, I am truly sorry. I did not create your situation, I don't think those programs are salvageable. I don't think we can incur the cost of hiring two additional people while cutting off classified people – to fully fund the NCDD programs. They may out vote me - that is their will. I am trying to be honest. We need to come together as a county. We are torn apart. Whenever someone don't get their way, they take to Facebook and want to lynch somebody. I find it disgusting. I find it appalling. There should be a law if you put something out there and can't substantiate the facts your will be personable liable. In my business I represent 30 companies. My creditability is all I have in my business. You lose your creditability you lose your clients. I take that very serious. This Facebook thing and trying to lynch somebody has to stop. I have neighbors that read this stuff – dear friends say they like it. How can they like it, it's not the truth. I choose this job. I got big shoulder. I'll take it. I got a daughter and a wife a family, they did not choose - this it's not fair. All I saying is judge us by our deeds nobody else's. Judge us by what we do. We'll give account of every vote we make, we have to. Pray for this board pray for this school system. We have tough decision to make.

*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**

No Executive Session was held.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. Ed White made the motion to adjourn, with Dr. Pat J. White seconding the motion. Motion carried, vote was 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY