

Monroe County Schools

News Release

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For immediate release - April 7, 2006

Several policies were approved by the Monroe County Board of Education in their regular meeting held on April 6, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the Board Office in Union, including a policy prohibiting the possession of pocket knives by students beginning with the 06-07 school year . The meeting had been moved to the 6th because of scheduling conflicts.

A revision of Monroe County Student Code of Conduct JG was approved, which would make the possession of a pocket knife by students on school property a Level III offense. Possession of knives with blades of greater than 3.5 inches has always been prohibited because of their being considered a deadly weapon by WV Code. The smaller pocket knives were previously allowed but at the request of the high school, the Board voted unanimously to prohibit their possession by students.

Revisions to the student/staff dress code were also approved on their second reading. The changes prohibit the wearing of outer coats in the building except with permission of the administration, and prohibits fish hooks in hats, as well as other metal items on clothing.

A policy on cell phone use by both students and staff was reviewed, as were comments by WVEA members, and then approved, following a thirty day comment period. Finally, a policy on booster clubs was approved, following a thirty day comment period. (Anyone wishing to receive a copy of any of these policies may contact the Board Office.)

Tim Berry, Director of Finance and Operations, reviewed the proposed budget for the 06-07 school year. He noted that the budget would be available for public comment and that there

would be a hearing on April 18, 2006, 7:00 p.m. at Mountain View School, at which time the Board would also approve the proposed levy rates.

Under New Business, budget transfers were approved, as was paying bills as presented. Several travel requests were approved: Valerie Turner to attend a 5-day mentorship practicum in Atlanta, GA, on April 7-13; and a request from Janet Boothe, Mentoring Program Coordinator, to take 70 students and 25 chaperones to attend the May 31, 2006, performance at The Wohlfahrt Haus Theater in Wytheville, VA.

Board members also approved allowing the Monroe County Technical School FFA Chapter to hold a consignment auction on April 29, 2006, at the Technical Center. They also approved the Head Start Grant for the 06-07 school year, and using 25% of Step VII money for personnel. They also approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the WV University Extension Service for the 4-H program, providing an additional \$5,000 of funding toward programming.

Under Personnel, the Board approved the resignation of Troy Sarver from Mountain View School, and the resignation of Lorrie Broyles as substitute teacher and Connie Brown as a substitute aide. The following teachers were hired as Title I tutors: Teresa Johnson, Kathy Martin, Kris Allen, Sally Wallace, Ann Jameson, Libby Canterbury and Donna Duncan. Gerry Phillips, Vicky Gibson, Diane Hoke and Lisa Hazelwood were hired for the REACH work camp as cooks. Robert Miller's request for a leave of absence as a substitute bus operator was approved through June 30. Bonnie Viars was recognized as a volunteer at Peterstown Elementary School.

Following the vote on personnel, the Board met in a 30 minute executive session for the purpose of discussing the assistant principal's position at Mountain View, as well as a student

disciplinary investigation.

Under the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Lyn Guy reported on the Amber View Project, which will involve taking information on all children in the school system, as well as photographs to be used in the case of a missing child. The program, which was developed by the WV High Tech Consortium and piloted in the counties of RESA VII, has been publicized on a number of television news programs and will be available to every county in the state with the 06-07 school year following the training of school photographers. Pictures would be taken at the same time as school pictures for the program. Guy said whether or not a child was enrolled in the program, named after the Amber Alert nationwide missing child alert, would depend entirely on permission from parents.

Guy also reviewed WV Report Card information on both Monroe County as a whole and individual schools.

Board members also discussed procedures for contacting individuals for children when there was an emergency at school. They noted complaints regarding failure to call appropriate individuals, and volunteers at school not following exact procedures as well as the danger of allowing students to leave school with someone other than their parents. They asked the superintendent to make sure volunteers were trained appropriately and that the emergency calling was done according to information provided by the parents.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon. The next regular meeting will be 7:00 p.m. at Mountain View School for the purpose of hearing from that school's Local School Improvement Council. At that time, the Board will also conduct a hearing on the budget, and reconvene the recessed meeting of 4/30/06 to approve the levy rates.