

SPECIAL MEETING #19

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

Board President Lara Courrier called for a special meeting regarding a proposal to close three primary schools – Frankfort Intermediate School, Fort Ashby Primary School, and Wiley Ford Primary School – and to consolidate them into a New Frankfort Primary School yet to be constructed.

The Mineral County Board of Education met in special session at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, February 25, 2021, in the Administrative Office at 36 Baker Place, Keyser, WV, with the following in attendance:

Note: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was available via tele/video conferencing.

Board Members:	Lara L. Courrier, President	(06-30-2022)
	Mary J. Baniak, Vice-President	(06-30-2022)
	Donald C. Ashby, Jr.	(06-30-2024)
	Thomas C. Denne	(06-30-2024)
	Terry G. Puffinburger	(06-30-2022)

Administration:	Troy L. Ravenscroft, Superintendent
	Kelli Wilson, Assistant Superintendent/Director of Special Education
	Rhonda Martin, CSBO/Treasurer
	W. Scott Staley, Director of Administrative Services
	Denise Bruno, Executive Secretary

Other:

Pledge of Allegiance – led by _____

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The motion of -- and second of – passed unanimously **to approve the agenda as presented.**

ACTION AGENDA

OTHER ACTION

1. PROPERTY:

The Superintendent presented a proposal, written reasons and supporting data to close three primary schools -- Frankfort Intermediate School, Fort Ashby Primary School, and Wiley Ford Primary School -- and to consolidate them into a New Frankfort Primary School yet to be constructed, **to take effect with the end of the 22-23 school year, pending SBA funding.**

In accordance with West Virginia Code 18-5-13a and West Virginia Board of Education Policy 6204 governing the closing and consolidation of schools, **the motion of – and second of – passed unanimously to approve the following, as presented:**

1. That the Board approves, as to form, the written reasons submitted at this meeting by the Superintendent;
2. That the Board directs the Superintendent to cause a Class III legal advertisement to be published of the proposed action by the Board of Education and the required public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation, as follows:
 - a. the Frankfort Intermediate School public hearing will be held on March 29, 2021 at Frankfort High School, beginning at 5:00 p.m., at which time members of the public may be present, submit statements and testimony, and question county school officials;
 - b. the Fort Ashby Primary School public hearing will be held on March 29, 2021 at Frankfort High School, beginning at 6:00 p.m., or at the conclusion of the Frankfort Intermediate School Public Hearing, whichever is later, at which time members of the public may be present, submit statements and testimony, and question county school officials; and
 - c. the Wiley Ford Primary School public hearing will be held on March 29, 2021 at Frankfort High School, beginning at 7:00 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Fort Ashby Primary School Public Hearing, whichever is later, at which time members of the public may be present, submit statements and testimony, and question county school officials; and
 - d. at the conclusion of the final public hearing and at the same place, the Board will take formal action on the Superintendent's proposal to close and consolidate the three schools;

with these provisions:

- a. if, due to inclement weather or other cause, any hearing cannot be held on the scheduled date, the hearing will be held on March 30, 2021 at the same location and time as the originally scheduled hearing;
- b. if at the time a hearing is called to order, the Board determines that the location is of insufficient size to accommodate all those who desire to attend, the hearing shall be recessed and moved to a new location of sufficient size to accommodate all those who desire to attend. If that happens, the new meeting location shall be posted at the original meeting location;
- c. due to the current pandemic, the hearings will also be made available via tele/video conferencing;
- d. in the event a public hearing is not completed by 11:00 p.m. on the scheduled date, it will be recessed and will be reconvened on March 30, 2021 at the same location and time as the originally scheduled hearing; The public hearings and any reconvened sessions of the public hearings shall end at the conclusion of each hearing's business or 11:00 p.m., whichever occurs earlier; and

- e. the Board shall consider any written material concerning the proposal if the material is submitted to and received by the Board before the end of the last hearing, to include any findings and recommendations from any local school improvement council representing a school proposed for closure.
- 3. That for at least 30 days prior to the date of the first hearing, a copy of the notice of hearings shall be posted in conspicuous working areas at all the board’s schools, including those proposed for closure, and at all bus garages and maintenance areas in the county, for all professional and service personnel to observe.
- 4. That the written reasons and supporting data the Superintendent presented to the Board at tonight’s meeting serve as the reasons and supporting data that, by law, must (a) be made available for public inspection at the office of the Superintendent during the 30 days preceding the date of the first hearing and (b) delivered in duplicate to the principal and in duplicate to the chair, if any, of the LSIC representing each school which is proposed to be closed.
- 5. That the Superintendent, on behalf of the Board, comply with all procedures that are required under the statute and State Board policy for the public hearings.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: March 2, 2021 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT.

The President adjourned the meeting at _____ p.m.

DATE APPROVED

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY