

The McCreary County Board of Education met in Special Session on May 06, 2015 at 6:30 PM at the Board of Education Central Office. Chairman Kidd welcomed everyone then called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call. Present were: Brandon Kidd, Deborah Gibson, Nelda Gilreath and Rhonda Armijo. Absent from the meeting were: Roxanne Shook and Superintendent Wright. Also present were: the media, school system staff and interested parties.

APPROVE AGENDA - #9637

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Gibson and a second by Ms. Rhonda Armijo to approve the agenda as presented. Members voted as follows:

Shook – Absent; Gilreath – AYE; Armijo – AYE; Gibson – AYE; Kidd - AYE

ACTIONS WITH DISCUSSION

Superintendent Contract with possible action

At this time, Chairman Kidd shared that the Board would be entering into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent Contract with possible action. Concerned Members of the audience asked to speak when and if the Board had taken any action on the Superintendent's Contract. Chairman Kidd said he would give everyone who wanted to speak the chance to speak after they returned to Open Session.

APPROVE ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to KRS 61.810 (c) - Proposed or Pending Litigation - #9638

A motion was made by Mrs. Nelda Gilreath and a second by Ms. Rhonda Armijo to Enter into Executive Session pursuant to KRS 61.810 (c) Proposed or pending litigation at 6:34 PM. Members voted as follows:

Shook - Absent; Gilreath - AYE; Armijo - AYE; Gibson - AYE; Kidd - AYE

APPROVE RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - #9639

A motion was made by Mr. Brandon Kidd and a second by Mrs. Nelda Gilreath to return to open session at 6:53 PM. Members voted as follows:

Shook – Absent; Gilreath – AYE; Armijo – AYE; Gibson – AYE; Kidd – AYE

Chairman Kidd, informs us that the McCreary County Board of Education met in Executive Session and no final action was taken

APPROVE ACCEPT LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM ARTHUR D. WRIGHT - #9640

A motion was made by Mrs. Nelda Gilreath and a second by Ms. Rhonda Armijo to approve accepting the letter of resignation from Arthur D. Wright effective December 31, 2015. Members voted as follows:

Shook – Absent; Gilreath – AYE; Armijo – AYE; Gibson – AYE; Kidd - AYE

APPROVE ACCEPT LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM ARTHUR D. WRIGHT - #9641

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Gibson and a second by Ms. Rhonda Armijo to approve accepting the leave of absence from Arthur D. Wright effective immediately through December 31, 2015. Members voted as follows:

Shook – Absent; Gilreath – AYE; Armijo – AYE; Gibson – AYE; Kidd - AYE

APPROVE ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ARTHUR D. WRIGHT - #9642

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Gibson and a second by Ms. Rhonda Armijo to approve Entering into a Settlement Agreement on Behalf of the McCreary County Board and authorize Chairman, Brandon Kidd to sign the agreement. Members voted as follows:

Shook – Absent; Gilreath – AYE; Armijo – AYE; Gibson – AYE; Kidd – AYE

APPROVE APPOINT INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT - #9643

A motion was made by Ms. Rhonda Armijo and a second by Ms. Deborah Gibson to approve appointing the Interim Superintendent and appoint Aaron Anderson. Members voted as follows:

Shook – Absent; Gilreath – AYE; Armijo – AYE; Gibson – AYE; Kidd - AYE

APPROVE ADJOURN - #9644

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Gibson

At this time, a member of the audience asked if they could speak now, they would like to speak in open forum. Chairman Kidd asked that if anyone present would like to speak, to give their name and they had 5 minutes to address the Board. Mrs. Angela Loudermilk stated her name and asked to address the Board. She stated that she worked at Pine Knot Primary School. She wanted to know if we were paying for someone who was not going to be here. Ms. Gibson, Vice-Chairman, and Chairman Kidd answered No, that he was taking a leave. Mrs. Loudermilk asked what the settlement was and Mr. Hoover, Board Attorney, shared that, per the terms of the Settlement Agreement the Board could not discuss the terms of the settlement. This was Mr. Wright and his Attorney's request. Mr. Hoover shared that there is a procedure to follow when asking for an Open Records request. Anyone wishing to can obtain a copy of the Settlement Agreement may do so by submitting a written request made to the McCreary County Board of Education mailed or hand-delivered to the Central Office. Mrs. Loudermilk shared her concerns for the Student/Teacher ratio being raised and the other cuts made by the Board. She explained that this will have an impact on the students. Mr. Bryson Loudermilk stated his name and shared information on his class sizes and the impact that raising the student ratio will and might have on students. Chairman Kidd explained to the interested parties in attendance that this meeting was a Special Called meeting and that they couldn't speak on items not on the agenda (budget cuts and Student/Teacher ratio's). He also shared that the Board takes suggestions from the Superintendent and that they look at the numbers and money. They also look at the education and that all these factors matter. Mrs. Loudermilk asked the Board if Superintendent Wright presented a balanced budget to the Board. Chairman Kidd stated, no, the budget he presented did not balance. There was discussion from interested parties in the audience regarding the funding for the Academy. Vicky Jones, Parent, stated her name. Ms. Jones shared that she owns a daycare and her thoughts regarding the three Instructional Supervisors and the Preschool issues. Mrs. Mitzi Stephens, DPP Director, stated her name. She wanted to ask the Board if they had seen the responsibilities that the Central Office staff have. Chairman Kidd stated that was not their job which caused several interested parties to speak out that it should be their concern. Many interested parties were speaking at the same time which caused Mrs. Nelda Gilreath to speak out and ask that one person speak at a time. Mrs. Stephens stated that the Board made cuts without any knowledge of what we do over here. She stated that Central Office is the hub for KDE (Kentucky Department of Education) and the school system and keeping Teachers abreast of what they are required to do from KDE. She shared a comment from one of the Food Service Auditors that was here the week before. He asked who was going to take care of the Food Service Summer Feeding program. Ms. Jones asked Mrs. Stephens, how can you take care of the Preschool when you are over here? Mrs. Stephens shared that she wears many hats and that she does the best that she can for each job. Mrs. Stephens explained that with these additional cuts that more job duties would be added to the Administrators duties who are left. She said that this will impact the Teachers and Students. Mrs. Stephens stated that it is our

job to make sure the Teachers have what they need to take care of our schools.

Chairman Kidd responded to Mrs. Stephens comment, that every time they try to visit they have OEA called on them, so they don't do it. Mrs. Stephens invited the Board to come see what she does. She explained to the Board the process and procedures that are required for Preschool Teachers now and the training required to do the evaluations. She asked the Board that you don't ask us about our jobs, so how can you make informed decisions about what we do when you're not in here doing our jobs or know what we are doing. Ms. Gibson responded that she visited the Preschool and that it was a filthy place and unsafe for our children. She said if OEA or OSHA or the Fire Marshall were called, they would close the Preschool in a heartbeat. There was more discussion on the Preschool. Mr. Loudermilk stated that he wanted to redirect the focus on a comment that was made earlier. For the record, he stated our CORE's are not going down; they are improving. Our PLAN scores have gone up, our ACT scores have gone up; our EOC scores are getting ready to go up, our KOSSA tests are going to be or will be the best it's going to be in just a few short weeks. Our On-Demand will improve. He said that he can guarantee and the Black Box test was the highest it's been in a while. Now that all these tests are improving, you want to take credit on cutting a school that they have improved on. Why would you do that? Ms. Gibson shared that you have to go by Student/Teacher ratio. Mr. Loudermilk asked again, why would you do that whenever a school is climbing. He asked, why pull the rug out from underneath them and make them more handicap by raising the ratio? He shared that even the State mandates and recommends that you do a 25 to 1 ratio. Student, Kylie Martin stated her name and asked to address the Board. Ms. Martin stated that the Board said they were there for them (students). She wants to know why would all the cuts be pulled from the one school. Why weren't they distributed throughout the other schools? Ms. Gibson shared that the cuts were made on the other schools in the district, too. Ms. Martin stated that the high school was cut 4 Teachers and this was going to cause them to lose the Career & Technical classes which include: HOSA, Ag, Auto and Construction and Carpentry. Ms. Martin shared with the Board the accomplishments that the students in these classes have had through testing and competition and how this is making the students ready for college and the work force. She also was worried that this budget cut would impact the Dual Credit class and this would personally affect her. She asked the Board how's that working for me? Ms. Gibson shared that would be a Site Based decision. There was more discussion on the test scores and the Student/Teacher ratio. Mr. Todd Martin stated his name. He asked the Board, what is the purpose of sending our Superintendent home and keeping him paid? Chairman Kidd said that he resigned. Mr. Martin asked Yes, because why? Then Mr. Martin asked, why don't all you step down and let us hold an election and put someone in there that will listen to us? Mr. Brad Coffey stated his name. He shared that they (concerned Parents) met with Mrs. Privett (MCHS Principal) the previous evening before the SBDM Council meeting. He shared his concern that Mrs. Privett and many other Teachers have been put in a bad position. He explained that he understood that things/issues needed to be resolved with the PE and Music positions but that a balanced budget had been presented. He shared his experience as a student in Ag classes got him where he is today and that he is very grateful. He explained that Mrs. Privett said she would leave the Ag classes alone, but that he knows this will put pressure on her to go somewhere else to adjust the classes because of the reductions. There was discussion

regarding field trips and who paid for them. Several interested parties at the meeting stated that the class/club do their own fundraising to pay for field trips. Mr. Coffey stated that he respected Mr. Wright. He stated that he hates that personal vendetta's have got in the way. He said, our kids are going to be upset and how are our kids and Teachers going to function well when spread out and worrying if the Superintendent is going to be forced to resign? It's not fair to them or our children. Our children should be enjoying going to school and having a good time and enjoying what they are learning. Mr. Coffey stated that he had a great deal of respect for you all (Board), but he lost a lot of trust tonight, a lot of trust. Ms. Becky Stephens stated her name and that she works at PKPS, but that she wanted to speak as a parent. She shared how upset her Daughter was when she heard the Ag classes were in jeopardy. Her Daughter has been involved in these classes for the past 3 years and will be a Senior next year and planned to complete her 4 years of Career and Technical classes then. Ms. Stephens also shared that as an alumni member of FFA that last year they held a softball tournament fundraiser that made over \$10,000 to pay for their camp, State and National trips. Ms. Teresa Alcorn stated her name and that she is a Teacher at the high school. She brought the discussion back to the Superintendent's Contract which was the reason for this special called meeting. She understood that these other things could not be discussed and asked if there could be a special called meeting to discuss the Student/Teacher ratio and budget cuts. Chairman Kidd said yes and Ms. Gibson said it could be added to the agenda. Mr. Barry Baird stated his name and that he is a Teacher at MCMS. He stated that since Mr. Wright resigned and that we need to move forward and hopefully move forward as a school system and that includes you all (the Board Members) that they answer one question for him. He said the next process is to hire a search committee. He wants to know if the Board will honor the search committee's recommendation of who they feel would be a good Superintendent. He asked each Board Member to respond with a yes or no. Mrs. Gilreath said she would take their recommendation into consideration and others said they would want to interview all applicants. There was discussion from interested parties regarding the Board Members responses to Mr. Baird's question and there was more discussion on the reason Mr. Wright resigned. Mr. Mike Jones introduced himself and he shared with the Board that he was a previous employee and that he was harassed by Mr. Wright, a Supervisor here and a previous Board Member and that he lost his job. He stated that he was told if he didn't get a certain person in, he would lose his job. He explained that he wrote the grant for the Community Service Program and held that position for 6 years. He lost his job with the first round of major budget cuts that was presented. The grant he wrote for his position was applied toward another employee's salary. He lost his job. There was more discussion between interested parties. Chairman Kidd took a roll call from the Board and adjourn the meeting.

APPROVE ADJOURN - #9644

A motion was made by Mrs. Nelda Gilreath and a second by Ms. Rhonda Armijo to approve adjourning the meeting. Members voted as follows:

Shook – Absent; Gilreath – AYE; Armijo – AYE; Gibson – AYE; Kidd - AYE

Chairperson

Secretary