

Madison County Schools

On fire for their future

Board Report

April 20, 2020

At this time and given the extraordinary circumstances public agencies are confronting, an opinion issued on March 18, 2020, issued as OAG 20-25 the Kentucky Attorney General stated that under the present state of emergency and the need to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 it is not “feasible” under KRS 61.840 to precisely identify and provide a physical location at which the public may attend and view a meeting held as a video conference under the Open Meetings Act. Instead, because of the public health necessity of imposing social distancing to help stop the spread of COVID-19, a public agency should precisely identify a website, television station, or other technological means by which the public may view a meeting conducted under the Act until the conclusion of the state of emergency.

The April 16, 2020 meeting of the Madison County Board of Education was held via video conference. The public was given a YouTube link to watch the meeting and the meeting was also streamed through Facebook live.

Board members present: Samantha Burford, Lori Cobb, Beth Brock, Becky Coyle and Brandon Rutherford
Board members were at their homes and Google meets was used for the virtual meeting.

Chair Samantha Burford called the meeting to order

Actions taken by the Board:

- Items approved on the Consent agenda
 - Minutes of March 12, 2020 meeting
 - Claims
 - The Record of the Superintendent’s Personnel Actions
 - Leaves of Absence
 - 2020-2021 KEDC Cooperative Membership Agreement
 - Emergency Substitute Certification for substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year
 - Two Student Shortened School Day Applications
- Action Agenda
 - Adopted a resolution regarding meeting protocols for the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (summary below)

RESOLUTION SUMMARY REGARDING MEETING PROTOCOLS FOR NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

On March 6, 2020, Governor Beshear issued a state of emergency regarding threats to public health presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thereafter, the Kentucky Finance and Administration Cabinet issued a Memorandum for protocol for public meetings.

The Meetings Protocol recommended that public meetings of state and local bodies meet via teleconference.

This Resolution adopts the recommendations for the Madison County Board of Education meetings to be conducted by videoconference until further action of the Board.

The Resolution further, with particularity, describes the manner of notice; conduct of the meeting; and the availability of the viewing of the meetings by the public

- Approved the Madison County Board of Education Resolution Regarding Non-Essential Classified Personnel Attendance During the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) –

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-215, declaring a state of emergency throughout Kentucky pursuant to his power under the Kentucky Constitution and KRS Chapter 39A regarding the threats to public health presented by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, On March 12, 2020, the Governor recommended the closure of all schools in Kentucky and as to date has not recommended the resumption of in-person teaching or student attendance; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-257 suspending all in-person government activities at the state, county and local levels that are not necessary to sustaining life-sustaining businesses and to practice the guidelines of Healthy at Home; and

WHEREAS, all non-essential classified employees of the Madison County Board of Education shall remain off school premises or property until further notice and are encouraged to remain Healthy at Home; and

WHEREAS, SB 150 signed by the Governor on March 31, 2020 provides “A local educational agency, State, institution of higher education, or other entity that receives funds under “Education Stabilization Fund”, shall to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus;

NOW, THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Madison County Board of Education:

On Motion of Beth Brock seconded by Becky Coyle, the Board hereby resolves, and orders as follows for the duration of the above declared state of emergency:

1. All non-essential classified employees of the Madison County Board of Education shall remain off school premises or property unless designated essential by the Superintendent.
2. All classified employees of the Madison County Board of Education shall be deemed non-essential unless otherwise instructed by the Superintendent.
3. All classified employees not designated by the Superintendent are encouraged to follow the Healthy at Home guidelines recommended by the Governor including practicing social distancing and staying at home when possible.
4. Compliance with this Resolution shall constitute fulfillment of all classified employees’ contracts and pursuant to SB 150 all classified employees shall be paid according thereto.

- Approved extra duty pay for food service staff, bus drivers and para-educators that are involved in meal preparation and delivery during the COVID-19 state of emergency.

Rationale- The Recommendation for extra duty pay of \$3.00/ per hour of work for classified staff

- Approved Madison County Board of Education Section 125 plan with American Fidelity and authorized Mr. Mark Woods to electronically sign the plan document on behalf of the district
- Approved the Design and Development plans for the Berea CTC
- Approved the BG-2 for the Berea CTC
- Approved the BG-3 for the Berea CTC
- Approved the Monthly Finance Reports
- Approved the BG-5 Closeouts for White Hall Elementary, Silver Creek Elementary and Foley Middle
- Renewed the audit contract with Heartland CPSs and Advisors, PLLC (previously identified as Stiles, Carter and Associates) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 for \$26,800

Reports presented to the Board:

- Instruction Report- High School Report giving by high school principals, Brandon Frtiz and Brandon Watkins
- Construction Report- Tony Thomas, Clotfelter-Samokar Architect
- Finance Report given by Mark Woods, CFO
- Superintendent Report- Superintendent David Gilliam

Showcase

Due to the state of emergency due to COVID-19 there was no Showcase

Recognition

Due to the state of emergency due to COVID- 19 there was no Recognition

Comment from the Board

- Lori Cobb said that she was so proud of the MCS administration, teachers, principals, students and staff that have been “thrown a curveball” (COVID-19 State of Emergency) and everyone has accepted the challenge and is doing fabulous job. She said that as a parent she really wanted to thank the teachers. Their communication has been fabulous, and her children are getting phone calls daily from teachers and the experience has been as good as it can be. She also said that the teachers really care about the students of Madison County and if you didn’t know that before you should know it now. She went on to say that everyone has risen to the challenge in a great way including Dr. Gilliam and his staff and that she is super proud everybody and she appreciates what everyone is doing.
- Becky Coyle said she has enjoyed watching, and proud to see the creativity of teachers and staff in continuing to educate the students of Madison County and she thanked everyone for everything they are doing to get us all through this. (COVID-19)
- Beth Brock said she has also enjoyed seeing the creativity from principals and teachers. She has loved seeing principals saying the pledge in the mornings on Facebook with their students.... projects, parades etc. She thanked the FRYSC staff, Food Service and Transportation staff for taking care of our most vulnerable students during this time (COVID-19) and that their needs are addressed. She stated that everyone in the district has gone above and beyond and she couldn’t be prouder. She said that she realized it is a sacrifice on a lot of levels.

- Brandon Rutherford also thanked the food service staff, bus drivers, para-educators that are serving over 100,000 meals a week. He said it was amazing to see. He stated that he had maintained his social distancing but had visited a couple of schools where meals are being distributed and it is very impressive. He said that they have a very good system. He wanted to commend all those people working together to get kids fed.
- Samantha Burford said that she was proud of everyone in the district at every level and the quality of the MCS staff is unbelievable. She said that her and her kids have enjoyed watching the teacher parades, student's highlights and all the things that students and staff are doing. She stated, "like Mrs. Cobb said, my kids are getting calls from teachers, sometimes twice a day.... To be such a gray area it has been quite amazing.

For privacy purposes the Personnel Actions and Leaves are not published in the Board Report. Documents from the Madison County Board of Education meetings can be obtained through an Open Records Request.