

Administrators' Meeting
Washington County Public Schools - Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 10:00 a.m.
School Board Office, 812 Thompson Drive, Abingdon, VA

Present were:

Scott Allen	Jason Lester
Kendra Addison	Judy Honaker-Martin
Debbie Anderson	Jeff Noe
Ted Casler	Connie Phillips
Melissa Caudill	Randy Poole
Megan de Nobriga	Brian Ratliff
Andrew Hockett	Felicia Sikes
Kelly Holmes	Marie Stanley
Scott Keith	Chad Wallace
Jimmy King	Tammy Williams
Sherry King	Tom Williams
Cindy Jackson	Allyson Willis
Brian Johnson	Amanda Yarber
David Lambert	Barry Yost
Janet Lester	

Opening – Dr. Ratliff

Dr. Ratliff opened the meeting by welcoming the group.

Blood Assurance

Kelly Hill with Blood Assurance gave a presentation about Blood Assurance. She described who they are, why you should give, and how it works. Kelly said they are a non-profit, full-service regional blood center serving 51 counties and more than 76 health care facilities and they would like to partner with Washington County Public Schools. Ms. Hill shared how they can help schools by participating in the half pint program, noting that each time you donate, you could be saving three lives in your hometown. She discussed that high school students could also donate or find a surrogate donor, and they offer twelve \$1500.00 scholarships each year.

Connie Phillips

Ms. Phillips discussed the Supreme Court decision on the Endrew F. vs. Douglas County School District case in reference Endrew F. a student with autism who has impairments in communication and social skills. Ms. Phillips said they will need to develop an IEP that offers meeting education needs for each child. She said to remember that school authorities must be able to explain why they chose the IEP goals, services, and accommodations that they have selected and who they rejected. She stated that all schools must be realistic in establishing the PLOP and goals for IEPs.

Discussion

Dr. Ratliff said to remember what IEP (Individualized Education Plan) stands for. It is a legally binding document that spells out exactly what special education services your child will receive and why. The plan will include the child's classification, placement, services such as a one-on-one aide and therapies, academic and behavioral goals, a behavior plan if needed, the percentage of time in regular education, and progress reports from teachers and therapists and is tailored specifically to each child.

Connie reviewed the different takeaway points:

1. Rowley is still good law and was not overturned.
2. For students who are educated in the general education setting and capable of grade level work, examinations, grading and grade level advancement will establish the provision of FAPE.
3. Student for who grade level advancement is not a realistic expectation will receive FAPE if offered "...an IEP reasonably calculated to enable the child to make progress appropriate in light of the child's circumstances.
4. The development of the PLOP is critical as it will define the child's circumstances and expectations.
5. School districts must be realistic in establishing the PLOP and goals for IEPs.
6. The goals must link to the PLOP and be ambitious and rigorous, but not place unrealistic expectations for progress.
7. IEP decisions must be individualized.
8. Deference will be given to the judgments of the public school professionals as to whether the IEP provision offer FAPE for the individual student.
9. Parents must present any disagreements to the IEP team for discussion and decision-making.
10. School authorities must be able to explain who they chose the IEP goals, services, and accommodations that they selected and why they rejected the parents' request
11. IEPs should not be similar from a year-to-year, or it will appear that the student did not make progress.
12. Students with disabilities are not guaranteed a particular outcome from the provision of the IEP services.
13. The appropriateness of IEPs is judged on a prospective basis.

Ms. Phillips discussed the information that needs to be recorded, and the importance of developing goals to help each child make progress appropriate in their circumstance.

Substitutes

Chad Wallace discussed the process in using substitutes. He stated that we need to make sure to discuss the procedure when they are applying and that we need to have their application on file and they must have at least 30 hours of college credits to qualify. He stated if problems arise with substitutes, we must make sure it is recorded and to please let them know if their assistance is needed. And that we are currently working to provide additional training for substitute's teachers.

Coaching Positions

Dr. Wallace reviewed the ACA (American Coaches Association) requirements. He said that if they are coaching this is all they can do because of the number of hours allowed. However, if they are contracted with us, then they can coach and that it does not fall under ACA requirements. If anyone has a question to please contact him.

Visitor Parking

Discussed issues with visitor parking at schools. Dr. Wallace indicated that everyone's buildings have visitors parking and to be mindful that parking always needs to be available to accommodate visitors.

Dr. Ratliff said to think about their staff and maybe take a look at reserved parking for visitors. He said to be sure to consider that community members need parking and we need to be able to accommodate them at all times and what message would we be giving if it is not being provided.

School Calendar

Dr. Ratliff discussed with board dates for graduation after discussion that decided that the last day of school will be May 17, 2017. However, it will let out 2 hours early. The summer schedule will be out in the next couple of days he is still reviewing this. Dr. Ratliff said he wants the offices to remain open from 7 to 4 Monday – Thursday for the public. He discussed it is expected from the staff that everyone will need to get their 40 hours weekly and it is up to them to work with the staff to accommodate different situations. He stated that the summer schedule will begin on May 26.

Comments:

- Said they appreciate the opportunity to work a four day work week.

Dr. Ratliff informed them to pick up the art work that students had provided for VSBA contest.

School Nutrition Program

Dr. Ratliff discussed the School Nutrition Program and how important it is for us to pave the way to make a difference in student learning. Dr. Ratliff received a call from Eddie Oliver with Virginia No Kid Hungry in Richmond to thank Washington County Schools for its participation.

- Said concerned about bag breakfasts being offered to the student's to eat in the classroom when they have plenty of time to eat before school starts. Said they are seeing an increase in student participation; however, they see students using this as a social time and not utilizing this time to eat.

- Discussion on how this needs to be handled specially for bag breakfasts. Discussed that the State provides more funding for bag lunches promote more students getting breakfast.

Dr. Wallace said it falls back to us on setting up different ways students can participate and ways we can promote more options for the students to get fed before class. He said it is important for the student to develop what works best for them but, we also need to implement restrictions on what works best for the students at each school.

Dr. Ratliff discussed the importance of making sure we provide the best opportunities for our students and what a great job our cafeterias are doing.

Dr. Noe said we have all different situation due to some students leave and eat and then come back, so we run into a lot of different situation.

Dr. Ratliff asked how student leadership is going in schools.

Comments:

- Students are working with upcoming sixth graders.
- 5th-grade students help with kindergarten registration.
- Bragging Board for their students.
- 24 students getting there CPR certification.
- On April 29th a group of 7th and 8th graders will participate in a Service Academy Day.
- Senior put on their caps and gowns and went to the Elementary School; they spent time with the students to get them excited about graduation when they become seniors.
- Our graphic design center at the career center is actively taking a role in developing the new logo for this year's event; this will save the fair advertising dollars and give students experience.

Dr. Ratliff said all these opportunities are for the students' voices to be heard and to encourage them. Asked for each of them to think about who they are as an educational leader and ways to encourage students. Dr. Ratliff provided an update regarding the FY 2018 Budget and what is currently happening and that he would draft an update to colleagues regarding its recommended cuts due to the local funding reduction. He stated that at the meeting on March 16, the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to tentatively approve the budget as recommended by the County Administrator which reduces the local contribution to the School Board by \$408,670. With the reductions in local funding for the schools, we will have to review all programs and activities for budgetary reduction. He discussed the projected savings from changing to a bi-weekly payroll system. Dr. Ratliff thanked them for all they do and informed them the next meeting would be held on June 6, 2017.