

Monroe County Schools

News Release

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For immediate release - February 21, 2006

Principals and other employees who have extended contracts will not have to report to work when school is called off during snow. This policy was not adopted by the Board of Education at their regular meeting held February 20, 2006, 7:00 p.m. at the Board Office in Union.

Peterstown Middle principal Jim Gore, Peterstown Elementary secretary Trina Shoda, and Ben James spoke against the policy which would have required individuals who have extended contracts to report to work, along with central office employees who already report on a reduced schedule when inclement weather closes schools. The policy, which was on its third reading, received a motion, but died for a lack of second.

A policy on cell phone use for both students and employees was placed on a thirty day comment period. Additionally, a policy on support groups was also placed on a thirty day comment period. Copies of both policies will be available in the schools, at the central office, and on the web page (www.monroecountyschoolswv.org)

Under New Business, the Board approved budget supplements, transfers and paying bills as presented. A resolution in support of a 6% across the board school employee raise was passed unanimously by the Board. The resolution will be sent to legislators to urge them to take action this legislative session. A student transfer request was approved, as were a number of travel requests, including a request from Judy Azulay, grants coordinator to attend two meetings related

in Washington, D. C. related to federal grant proposals; a request from Quinton Crawford to take Drew Comer to the WV Skills USA Conference held March 31 and April 1, in Martinsburg, WV; a request from the James Monroe High School band boosters to take the band and show choir students on an educational trip to Washington, D.C. March 17-19; and finally a request from Phoebe McGuire to take the James Monroe Culinary Team to compete in competition at The Greenbrier, March 10-11.

Under Personnel, the Board approved the resignation of Annette Lendacki, substitute teacher; the hiring of Deronda McDaniel to assist with softball at Mountain View (\$1.00 contract), transferred Debra Harmon from custodian to Cook II at Peterstown Elementary; recognized student teacher placements from West Virginia University: Brian Baker, Melanie Baker, and Stephanie Keaton; and granted Judy Ann Meadows a one season leave of absence from the assistant softball position at James Monroe.

Under Discussion and Information, Superintendent Lyn Guy commented on complaints from parents about teachers too frequently “wrapping” students in the afternoons, usually the last one or two class periods of the day. She also spoke about the confidentiality training provided at Mountain View School for all new teachers and the staff at Mountain View by Attorney Howard Seufer. The board agreed to have Cheryl Hunter take the place of Charlie Sams for the WVU Extension Board of Directors, as the Board’s representative.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regular meeting will be March 7, 2006, at James Monroe High School in order to provide an opportunity to hear from that school’s Local School Improvement Council.