

**Bronson, FL
February 9, 2021
5:20 p.m.**

Executive Session

The School Board of Levy County met in Executive Session this 9th day of February 2021 at 5:20 a.m. with Board Chairman Cameron Asbell, Ashley Clemenzi, Brad Etheridge, Paige Brookins, Tammy Boyle and Board Attorney David Delaney present.

Expulsion Recommendations: The Board heard information regarding recommendations for expulsion. After School Administrator, WMHS Assistant Principal Benjamin Hawkins had given testimony; the following actions were taken by the Board.

Student 21-15: (student and parent were not present). After discussion from the Board Members, Brad Etheridge moved to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to expel the student for the remainder of the 2020-2021 SY and 2021-2022 SY, without educational services, second by Tammy Boyle, motion carried.

Student 21-16: (student and mother were present). After discussion from the Board Members, student and mother, Brad Etheridge moved to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to expel the student for the remainder of the 2020-2021 SY and 2021-2022 SY, with the opportunity to attend the WMHS FOCUS Center, have a clean baseline drug test, monthly drug tests at parent's expense, and drug and alcohol counseling, second by Paige Brookins, motion carried.

Regular Session 6:00 p.m.

The School Board of Levy County met in Regular Session this 9th day of February 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with Board Chairman Cameron Asbell, Ashley Clemenzi, Brad Etheridge, Paige Brookins, Tammy Boyle, and Board Attorney David Delaney present.

Public comments can be submitted by email to publiccomment@levyk12.org or delivered in writing to the District Office at 480 Marshburn Drive, Bronson, FL., and must be received at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled meeting. Public comments may also be made in person on the day of the meeting.

All School Board meetings are recorded and may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/LevyCountySchools> within 1-2 days after the scheduled meeting.

Adoption of Agenda: Ashley Clemenzi moved to approve the agenda, second by Paige Brookins, motion carried.

Welcome Visitors and Public Comments: Board Chairman Cameron Asbell welcomed everyone to the meeting in person or virtually and asked if anyone would like to address the Board. Rose Zane, YTS Teacher Aide, Pre-K Lead, said the employees and bus drivers wanted to share some concerns about the way they have been treated by Mrs. Deneé Hurst, Principal and the other administration at YTS. She introduced Mary Nicholson, YTS Bus Driver, who read part of the letter to the Board with lists of concerns. Superintendent Chris Cowart said the chain of command has to be followed and the issues are being addressed. Crissy Kurtz expressed concerns with her daughter, FFA, 4H and cyberbullying. She said the teachers and parents are worried about expressing their concerns and problems due to retaliation from Principal Hurst. Robert Darwin had concerns about absences with doctors' notes being counted as unexcused. Superintendent Cowart assured the visitors that he is aware of everyone's concern and he will be addressing them.

School Presentation: Referral / BAMA Reduction: Principal Curtis Gaus showed a PowerPoint presentation showing BAMA/Referral Comparisons for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. He said he has a committee that works on the development of the BMHS Discipline Matrix. The committee works with the students to help retain them in the classroom and reduce the number of students being sent to BAMA. He said the ISS teachers are involved in the development of the Matrix.

ELA Adoption – Public Comments: Heather Rawlins, TSA, District Literacy Coach, gave an overview of the ELA Adoption for elementary and secondary digital textbook access. She said tonight’s meeting is for public comments. She said the final recommendations will be presented at the February 23rd Board Meeting and the adoptions approved at the March 23rd Board Meeting.

CTE Month: Carol DuBois, introduced Brian Myers, Teacher, Industry Education/Carpentry, said due to COVID and social distancing, he had his class put together a video for the Board instead of an in-person presentation. Mr. Myers showed a PowerPoint showing the students building a wall with a door. Mrs. DuBois said we had 192 industry certifications this year, which is 100 less than 2019, due to COVID. We had 298 certifications earned in 2019. She said one of the new programs offered for industry certification is Water Treatment and Waste Water Treatment. She showed a chart listing the top 20 advertised occupations and the #1 is in the health field, such as RN, CAN Health Assistants, etc. Students, Kaia Monette and Yesenia Vazquez shared with the Board what all is involved during their day with school and working as a CNA. Angela Pompeo, WMHS Teacher, said some students do not make it through the programs because the rules are very strict and the students have to be very trustworthy and be able to work independently when they go into the nursing homes.

Approval of Minutes: Paige Brookins moved to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021 Board meeting, second by Tammy Boyle, motion carried.

Consent Agenda: After discussion of the Agenda, Brad Etheridge moved to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Ashley Clemenzi, motion carried.

1. GENERAL ITEMS:

a) Employee Status Changes / Recommendations:

1. Stephanie McCall, CES Teacher, KG, *effective* January 22, 2021, *vacancy*.
2. Ambrea Brady, BMHS Teacher, Social Studies, S/H, *effective* January 25, 2021, *vacancy*.
3. Ambrea Brady, BMHS Teacher, Social Studies, S/H, *resignation*, effective January 26, 2021, original hire date January 25, 2021.
4. Josine Burgman, CMHS Teacher, Foreign Languages, *resignation for retirement*, effective May 28, 2021, original hire date August 12, 1991.
5. Catherine Godwin, CES Lead Teacher, Pre-K, *resignation* from employment to *participate in DROP*, effective January 1, 2021 and ending October 31, 2024.
6. Patricia Gardner, WES FNS Worker, *resignation*, effective January 29, 2021, original hire date November 30, 2020.
7. Celeste Aracena, CES Teacher, Second Grade, *exiting DROP early*, effective May 28, 2021, original hire date January 4, 2005.
8. Shelly McMullen, WES Teacher, Fifth Grade, *effective* February 1, 2021, *vacancy*.
9. Deborah Burgman, WMHS Custodian, *exiting DROP early*, effective May 27, 2021, original hire date August 9, 1999.
10. Antonio Terrell, JBES Custodian, *effective* February 1, 2021, *vacancy*.

b) Family Medical Leave Requests:

1. Jodi Nagel, WMHS Teacher, Language Arts, M/J, January 29-March 8, 2021.

2. **(Board approved 1/12/21)** Marilyn Johnson, BES Teacher Aide, ESE, November 16, 2020 through February 12, 2021, *amend* and extend the ending date to March 2, 2021.

c) Illness-in-Line-of-Duty Requests:

1. Tracy Haley, Transportation Bus Driver, January 28-February 10, 2021.

d) Personal Leave in Excess of Six (6) Days Requests:

1. Vivian Beckham Webster, WES Teacher, 4th Grade, 2021-2022 School Year.

2. FINANCE:

- a. Budget Amendments #20-00016 9A and #20-00017 9B.

Superintendent's Comments/Recommendations: Superintendent Chris Cowart said it was nice for everyone to get back together for the Beast Feast. He said the Foundation received \$18,000 gross and \$16,000 net profit. He said attendance was about half due to the weather. Mr. Cowart thanked everyone for their support, cooking, setting up and cleaning up. He said it will be Suwannee River Fair time again soon. Mr. Cowart thanked the Co-Op for offering scholarships and congratulated Genny Foshee for receiving one to continue her education. Mr. Cowart asked the Board to look at some dates to schedule the Master Board Training for a total of 20 hours. He said district-wide basketball games begin tonight and BMHS has their Junior Journey Thursday night. Superintendent Cowart said Issac Williams, WMHS student and basketball player, who lost his father and grandfather within a matter of days scored in the last five seconds of the game and received a standing ovation from everyone.

Board Comments: Cameron Asbell said he lost his patience during tonight's meeting and apologized, but said people must follow the rules from the Chairman of the Board. He said all meetings must be orderly and everyone needs the opportunity to speak. Mr. Asbell said the Bronson FFA celebration will be a low-country boil on February 26 at 5:30 pm, at Asbell Insurance. He said the event is to support the BMHS FFA. Ashley Clemenzi thanked Levy County for opening schools. She said the children learn better in person than virtually. She said the news is full of schools and unions suing each other over opening schools. Brad Etheridge asked for data regarding positive COVID cases and quarantine numbers. He said, hopefully, the vaccinations would improve the situation. Mr. Etheridge said the Beast Feast was great, but he was worried about the weather. Paige Brookins said it is amazing how fast the construction of the new CMHS is progressing. She said sadly, TV 20 news only covers the negative comments against teachers and substitutes. She thanked Mr. Etheridge and everyone for all the work for the Beast Feast. Tammy Boyle said the Beast Feast was great and she enjoyed serving this time. She agreed with Mr. Etheridge that she would like data regarding quarantines. She said CKS has a mural displaying student comments about being quarantined or out sick. Mrs. Boyle said on February 19 she will take four FFA students around to businesses to practice showing their fair animal. She thanked Breezy and his crew for working and setting up for the Beast Feast.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned to go into Executive Session.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Christopher A. Cowart, Secretary

Cameron Asbell, Board Chairman