

Summers County Board of Education
SPECIAL Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2015
9:00 a.m.

1. Roll Call

The Summers County Board of Education met in a special meeting on August 25, 2015, 9:00 a.m. in the board office conference room with Sue Angell, *President*, presiding over the meeting with the following board members present: Ms. Jean Gore, Dr. Deborah Clark, Mr. James Withrow, and Mr. James Payne.

Other staff members present: Mrs. Vicki Hinerman, *Superintendent*; Ms. Kimberly Rodes, *Director*; Mr. Michael Tabor, *Director*; Mr. Josh Houchins, *Director*; and Mrs. Jennifer Farley, *Business Manager*.

Others present: Joe Aucremanne, Attorney at Law, Jason Keaton, Chris Blankenship, Mayor Joe Blankenship, Seth Snavely, Anthony Reed, and Brown Reporting.

2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Mr. Withrow followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Mr. Payne, seconded by Dr. Clark and by unanimous vote, the agenda was approved.

4. Service Personnel Hearing- Jason Keaton, Bus Operator

Prior to the hearing Chris Blankenship and Joe Blankenship addressed the board as character witnesses for Jason Keaton.

This was an open hearing concerning an incident that occurred on the morning of August 14, 2015. Mr. Keaton was driving the school bus on a secondary road. He came upon an abandoned truck which was blocking the road. He removed a loaded gun from the truck and placed it in the chain box of the school bus.

Mrs. Hinerman suspended him immediately, on August 14, 2015, for an alleged violation of WV State Code 61-7-1A, which prohibits weapons on school buses.

During the hearing, Joseph Aucremanne, Attorney representing Jason Keaton, called two witnesses. They were Anthony Reed, a former State Trooper, and Seth Snavely, Hinton City Police Chief. Both testified that they believe Mr. Keaton responded appropriately.

Following the hearing, Dr. Clark made a motion to go into executive session, according to 6-9A-4, Paragraph 2, Mr. Withrow seconded the motion.

5. Discussion and/or Action Concerning Service Personnel Hearing

Upon returning, Ms. Angell asked Mrs. Hinerman for a recommendation.

Mrs. Hinerman recommended that the board approve Mr. Keaton's suspension for 7 days and terminate his employment due to a violation of WV State Code of 61-7-1A.

Hearing no motion, Ms. Angell asked if a board member would like to make a different motion. Dr. Clark made a motion that the suspension be lifted, that Mr. Keaton be paid for the days of suspension, that he return to regular duty and the employees receive training. Mr. Withrow seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Gore and by unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.