

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Capitol Building 6, Suite 600
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia

MINUTES
September 11, 2024

I. Call to Order

Following the welcome and Pledge of Allegiance, President Nancy J. White called the meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) to order at 10:00 a.m. on September 11, 2024, in Capitol Building 6, Suite 600, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia.

The following members were present: President White, Vice President Victor L. Gabriel, Robert W. Dunlevy, L. Paul Hardesty, F. Scott Rotruck (via remote), Daniel D. Snavelly, Debra K. Sullivan, Christopher A. Stansbury, and Gregory F. Wooten, and ex officio Michele L. Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools, West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE). Ex officio member Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education was absent.

II. Approval of Agenda

President White called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Gabriel moved, and Mr. Hardesty seconded, that the agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion carried unanimously.

III. Presentation

Dr. Amelia Courts with the West Virginia Education Alliance presented to the Board on The Caperton Center: Business and Education Partnerships.

IV. Recognitions

The Board recognized Ms. Nichole McCulley, a media aide at Center McMechen Elementary School and Glen Dale Elementary School (Marshall County), as the 2025 School Service Personnel of the Year, and Mr. Seth Skiles, a music teacher at Rock Branch Elementary School (Putnam County) as the 2025 Teacher of the Year.

V. Delegations

Ms. Shanna Thompson and Ms. Mila Thompson addressed the Board individually regarding science curriculum. Ms. Tara Raymo addressed the Board by reading from the Bible.

David Gladkosky, Executive Director, West Virginia Professional Educators, Inc., addressed the Board regarding the components necessary to improve the educational landscape. Dr. Mickey Blackwell, Executive Director, West Virginia Principals Association, addressed the Board regarding the need to have a full-time principal and full-time counselor at every school. Mr. Fred Albert, President, AFT-West Virginia, addressed the Board regarding the start of a new school year. Mr. Dale Lee, President, West Virginia Education Association (WVEA), addressed the Board regarding the importance of honoring the Teacher of the Year and School Service Personnel of the Year and the need for establishing alternative settings in elementary schools to address discipline issues.

VI. Consent Agenda

President White called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Gabriel moved, and Mr. Hardesty seconded, that the Consent Agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

- Approved the WVBE minutes from September 11, 2024.
- Approved Pocahontas County Schools' request for a waiver of policy waiver of Appendix B: Training Required in Policy 2510, related to professional development for Advanced Placement® (AP®) teachers.
- Approved the Hardy County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to provide a secure entrance and office addition to Moorefield Middle School funded through local funds and an SBA grant award.
- Approved the Marion County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to include secure entrances at Barrackville Elementary/Middle School, Fairview Middle School, Jayenne Elementary School, Monongah Elementary School, Pleasant Valley Elementary School, Rivesville Elementary/Middle School, and White Hall Elementary School funded through local funds and an SBA grant award.
- Approved the Mercer County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to add a multi-classroom addition to its project priority list funded through local funds and an SBA grant award.
- Approved, as requested by the West Virginia Educator Preparation Review Board (EPPRB), that West Liberty University maintain a Clinical Teacher of Record (CTR) Agreement with Wetzel County Schools.
- Approved the appointment of Ms. Missy Hall, a member of the Wayne County Board of Education, and Ms. Michelle Wolfe, a high school teacher in Hardy County, as members of the West Virginia Commission for Professional Teaching Standards.

- Approved the West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory.
- Accepted the 2023-2024 West Virginia Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children (WVACEEA) annual report.
- Approved all the recommendations of the West Virginia Board of Education/West Virginia School Board Association County Board Member Training Standards Review Commitment Procedures of Operation and Trainings.

VII. Statewide Waiver of Policy 2510, Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs, Section 6.1.

Mr. Joey Wiseman, Director, WVDE Office of Student Enrichment, presented the need for the statewide waiver to the Board by explaining that a waiver of Policy 2510 would allow students who have taken Math III TR (Technical Readiness) prior to the 2024-2025 school year to complete Math IV TR during the school year with the course counting toward a graduation requirement.

Following discussion, Mr. Wooten moved to approve a statewide waiver of Policy 2510, Ms. Sullivan seconded, the motion was carried unanimously.

VIII. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters and Civil Action No. 2:24-cv-18, *Krystle Perry and Anthony Perry, individually and on behalf of their minor child K.P. v. Stacy Marteney, et al.*; Supreme Court of Appeals No. 24-430, *Porter v. The Paden City Schools Athletic Association, Inc., et al.*; and, Civil Action No. CC 20-2024-P-361, *West Virginia Conference of the NAACP v. West Virginia Department of Homeland Security, et al.*

Executive Session

President White, called for a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. Gabriel moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the Board enter in executive session for WVBE personnel and/or legal matters as provided in W. Va. Code §6-9A-4(b)(2)(A) [personnel exception] and/or §6-9A-4 [matters involving attorney-client privilege per *Peters v. County Commission*, 205 W. Va. 481 (1999)]. Upon the call for the question the motion was unanimously carried; the Board moved into executive session at 10:58 a.m.

Return from Executive Session

President White announced the Board had returned from executive session at 12:15 p.m. with no action taken in executive session and called for a motion to approve the WVBE personnel matters found in the attachment. Mr. Wooten moved, and Ms. Sullivan seconded, that the WVBE personnel matters found in the attachment be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion carried unanimously.

After discussion, President White called for a motion to approve the WVDE personnel

matters found in the attachment. Mr. Stansbury moved, and Mr. Wooten seconded, that the WVDE personnel matters found in the attachment be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion carried unanimously.

IX. WVDE Reports

The following informational reports from WVDE were received and discussed without any action by the Board.

Accountability System Audit

Superintendent Blatt updated the Board on the United States Department of Education (USDE) audit of the WVDE accountability system. Superintendent Blatt stated that WVDE will be submitting documentation on September 13, 2024, to the USDE and that auditors will be on-site at the end of September to discuss the accountability system with staff. Superintendent Blatt reported that the WVDE does not foresee any issues with the USDE audit.

Chronic Absenteeism

Superintendent Blatt also informed the Board that West Virginia has joined Attendance Works, a national group, focused on reducing chronic absenteeism by 50% over five years. Board members were presented a chart demonstrating that consistently present students and those students without disciplinary referrals substantially and consistently outperformed their chronically absent peers at all grade levels in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The performance measures utilized for data comparison were from the 2023-2024 Balanced Scorecard. Board members discussed the issues with collecting data relating to the impact on student achievement when teachers are chronically absent.

Technology & Data Security Measures

Assistant Superintendent Tim Conzett, Division of Data Management & Information Systems, discussed data system security measures as requested by Mr. Wooten during the August 14, 2024, meeting. Mr. Conzett provided the Board with an update on the security measures utilized to protect school technology against cyber-attacks and internal bad players, as well as protections for students while using school-provided technology.

2023-2024 Balanced Scorecard Results

Mr. Conzett and Ms. Georgia Hughes-Webb, Director of Data Analysis and Research shared information relating to the Balanced Scorecard dashboard and results including analyzing the data for student progression, attendance and other variables. Mr. Conzett explained that the information on the website is very detailed and broken down by county school district and public charter school. Ms. Hughes-Webb demonstrated how the data sets can be downloaded to see comprehensive and color coded schools, subgroups, metrics, etc. and explained that a comparison of the 2023-2024 Balanced Scorecard data to the 2022-2023 Balanced Scorecard shows small improvements in several areas including English Language Arts, cohort graduation rates, and

students on track to graduation high school in four years. Comparison data relating to discipline and chronic absenteeism was also shared with members. Ms. Hughes-Webb shared that 93% of the school districts and three out of every four schools have seen improvements in their chronic absenteeism rate.

Career Technical Education

Mr. Adam Canter, Director of the Office of Career Technical Education, provided information relating to the CTE assessment process and benchmarks. Mr. Canter explained that students enrolled in CTE programs had a cumulative 64% pass rate during the 2023-2024 school year. Additionally, Mr. Canter shared information regarding the most notable CTE programs, the top scoring industries, and benchmark scores.

Homeschooling

Superintendent Blatt provided information regarding the percentage of homeschool assessments filed by grade level and informed the Board that there are approximately 3,100 homeschool students for which the WVDE lacks grade level information. Superintendent Blatt explained that parents only have to provide the child's age once.

X. WVBE Member Updates and Requests for Information

Mr. Wooten and Dr. Snavelly both stated that they are impressed with the CTE Program. Dr. Snavelly also requested information on the Alternative Certification Program. Dr. Snavelly also talked about the multifaceted issues in West Virginia that not only present a problem with educational success, but also other areas. President White agreed with Dr. Snavelly that socioeconomic struggles play a part in progression. Ms. Sullivan attended the Mountaineer Challenge Academy South in Montgomery and informed members on the innerworkings of the program. Ms. Sullivan also discussed the work of the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy, especially in education, and said it may be worthwhile to invite them to present some of their findings to the Board.

XI. Future Meetings

President White announced that the next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held October 9, 2024, in Charleston, West Virginia.

XII. Work Session

Various WVDE employees provided the Board with information relating to possible revisions to current policies and proposed new policies that will be forthcoming for Board consideration. The following policies were discussed without any action taken by the Board:

Jimmy Lacy, Director, Office of School Transportation

New Policy 4334, West Virginia Minimum Requirements for the Design and Equipment of

School Buses.

Policy 4336, West Virginia School Bus Transportation Regulations, Procedures, and Specifications for the Design and Equipment of School Buses.

Robert Hagerman, Director, Office of Certification

Policy 5202: Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Professional/Paraprofessional Personnel and Advanced Salary Classifications.

Alexandra Criner, Director, Office of Accountability

Policy 7211: Conflict Resolution Process for Citizens.

Kelli Talbott, General Counsel, Office of Legal Services

New Policy 8400: Charter School Stimulus Fund.

XIII. Adjournment

President White called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wooten moved, and Mr. Gabriel seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on October 9, 2024

Nancy J. White, President

Victor L. Gabriel, Vice President

NOTE:

All agendas, attachments, materials distributed during the meeting, and audio recordings are available through the WVBE website or office pursuant to Policy 1241, Notice and Conduct of Meetings.

*Minutes were recorded by:
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