

AGENDA
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Capitol Building 6, Suite 600
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia
December 11, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

- I. Welcome - Pledge of Allegiance - Introductions - Call to Order**
Nancy J. White, President
- II. Approval of Agenda - (Action)**
Nancy J. White
- III. Delegation(s) - (Information)**
Christy Day
- IV. Consent Agenda - (Action)**

A. Approval of Minutes - (Action)

[Attachment A](#)

It is recommended that the **minutes of the November 13, 2024, meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE)** be approved.

B. Routine Business

- 1. Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage - (Action)**
Kelli Talbott

[Attachment B](#)

It is recommended that the **Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage** policy for Clay, Gilmer, Hardy, Harrison, Marshall, and Wood counties be approved.

- 2. Employment of Retired Bus Operators as Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage - (Action)**
Kelli Talbott

[Attachment C](#)

It is recommended that the **Employment of Retired Bus Operators as Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage** policies for Gilmer and Marshall counties be approved.

- 3. Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage Affidavits - (Action)**
Kelli Talbott

[Attachment D](#)

Pursuant to W. Va. Code §18A-2-3(c)(2)(G) and §18A-4-15a(b)(2)(F), affidavits from counties must be received and approved by the WVBE for submission to the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.

It is recommended that the **affidavits listed in the attachment be received and approved for submission to the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.**

**4. West Virginia School Board Association Techniques to Effectively De-Escalate Conflicts During Board of Education Meetings Training (4 Total Hours) Scheduled for February 6, 2025 – (Action)
James G. Brown**

On October 8, 2024, the West Virginia Board of Education/West Virginia School Board Association County Board Member Training Standards Review Committee (TSRC) voted to recommend a Techniques to Effectively De-Escalate Conflicts During Board of Education Meetings Training (4 Total Hours) Scheduled for February 6, 2025, at the Charleston Marriott Town Center.

It is recommended that the **Techniques to Effectively De-Escalate Conflicts During Board of Education Meetings training, as recommended by the TSRC, be approved.**

**5. West Virginia Educator Preparation Program Review Board (EPPRB) Recommendation for Approval for West Virginia University (WVU) to maintain a Certified Teacher of Record (CTR) Agreement with Braxton County Schools – (Action)
Dr. Traci Tuttle**

[Attachment E](#)

The West Virginia Educator Preparation Program Review Board (EPPRB) approves the request and seeks approval for WVU to maintain a CTR Agreement with Braxton County Schools. This agreement permits the county school system to employ Residency 2 Candidates from WVU to become a certified teacher of record in their school system in a position of need or shortage.

It is recommended that the **EPPRB's request for WVU to maintain a CTR agreement with Braxton County Schools be approved.**

**6. West Virginia Universal Pre-K 2023 Annual Report – (Action)
Janet Bock-Hager**

[Attachment F](#)

The 2023 WV Universal Pre-K Annual Report publishes data for the WV Pre-K Program including state and federal pre-k funding, enrollment, participation trends, collaboration percentages (Head Start

and Child Care), Pre-K Program Review results, and West Virginia's 2023 national pre-k rankings from the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). The 2023 report includes a snapshot of SY 2024 data, as well as a two-year comparison with the current data.

It is recommended that the **West Virginia Universal Pre-K 2023 Annual Report be approved.**

7. West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory Approval – (Action)
Robert Hagerman

[Attachment G](#)

The WVBE required licensure exams for educator certification and completion of WVBE-approved programs leading to the West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory is maintained on the WVBE website. Additional tests, scores, or exceptions have been revised to reflect modifications to policy and exams.

It is recommended that the **Licensure Testing Directory be approved.**

V. New Business

A. Policy 5202, Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Professional /Paraprofessional Personnel and Advanced Salary Classifications – (Action)
Robert Hagerman

[Attachment H](#)

Policy 5202 is being repealed and replaced. This policy establishes the requirements regarding licensure of educators to work in the public schools of West Virginia. As changes occur in education, certification and licensure policies must be revised to ensure the educational needs of students continue to be met. This revised policy implements new statutory requirements and current policy drafting protocol. At the October 9, 2024, meeting, the Board approved that proposed Policy 5202 be placed on public comment for 30 days. During the comment period, 53 comments were received resulting in 13 sections being further modified.

It is recommended that **Policy 5202 be approved and effective 30 days from filing.**

B. Amendment of Clay County Board of Education's 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) - (Action)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Phillip Dobbins

[Attachment I](#)

Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit amendments to CEFPs to the WVBE and the School Building Authority of West Virginia (SBA) for approval. The Clay County Board of Education requests approval

to revise its 2020-2030 CEFP to include the closure and consolidation of Clay County Middle School into Clay Elementary School, Big Otter Elementary School, and Clay County High School. This closure is contingent upon SBA Funding for an addition to Clay County High School and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2026-2027 school year. Changes in a county's CEFP are for planning only, and any proposed closures are pending the completion and approval of the official closure procedures found in Policy 6204, School Closings or Consolidations.

It is recommended that **Clay County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 CEFP be approved.**

- C. Clay County Board of Education: Closure of Clay Middle School and its consolidation into Clay Elementary School, Big Otter Elementary School, and Clay County High School – (Action)** [Attachment J](#)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Phillip Dobbins

The Clay County Board of Education respectfully requests approval for the closure of Clay Middle School and its consolidation into Clay Elementary School, Big Otter Elementary School, and Clay County High School. This closure is contingent upon SBA Funding for an addition to Clay County High School and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2026-2027 school year.

In consideration of this closure, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required amount of time. A hearing was held for Clay County Middle School on November 6, 2024; Clay County High School on November 7, 2024; Big Otter Elementary School on November 12, 2024; and, Clay Elementary School on November 13, 2024. The Clay County Board of Education voted to approve this closure at their November 19, 2024, board meeting.

Based on the information provided, it is recommended that the **closure of Clay Middle School and its consolidation into Clay Elementary School, Big Otter Elementary School, and Clay County High School be approved.**

- D. Preston County Board of Education: Closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and its consolidation into South Preston School– (Action)** [Attachment K](#)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Bradley Martin

The Preston County Board of Education respectfully requests approval for the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and its merger into South Preston School. This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

In consideration of this closure, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required amount of time. Hearings were held for Fellowsville Elementary School and South Preston School on October 29, 2024. The Preston County Board of Education voted to approve this closure at their November 18, 2024, board meeting.

Additionally, the Preston County Board of Education requests a waiver of Policy 4336 for creating bus routes that will exceed the recommended duration of transportation time for elementary students.

Based on the information provided, it is recommended that the **closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and the related Policy 4336 waiver request be approved.**

E. Preston County Board of Education: Closure of Rowlesburg School and its consolidation into Aurora School – (Action)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Bradley Martin

[Attachment L](#)

The Preston County Board of Education respectfully requests approval for the closure of Rowlesburg School and its merger into Aurora School. This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

In consideration of this closure, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required amount of time. A hearing was held for Aurora School on October 28, 2024, and Rowlesburg School on October 30, 2024. The Preston County Board of Education voted to approve this closure at their November 18, 2024, board meeting.

Additionally, the Preston County Board of Education requests a waiver of Policy 4336 for creating bus routes that will exceed the recommended duration of transportation time for elementary students.

Based on the information provided, it is recommended that the **closure of Rowlesburg School and related Policy 4336 waiver be approved.**

F. Amendment of Wetzel County Board of Education's 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) – (Action)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Cassandra Porter

[Attachment M](#)

Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit amendments to CEFPs to the WVBE and the School Building Authority of West Virginia (SBA) for approval. The Wetzel County Board of Education requests approval to include the closure and consolidation of multiple schools within

the county. It is proposed that Hundred High School be consolidated into Valley High School; and, Paden City High School be consolidated into Magnolia High School (Grades 9-12) and New Martinsville School (Grades 7-8). These closures are proposed to occur at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Changes in a county's CEFP are for planning only, and any proposed closures are pending the completion and approval of the official closure procedures found in Policy 6204, School Closings or Consolidations.

It is recommended that the **Wetzel County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 CEFP be approved.**

G. Wetzel County Board of Education: Closure of Hundred High School and its consolidation into Valley High School – (Action)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Cassandra Porter

[Attachment N](#)

The Wetzel County Board of Education respectfully requests approval for the closure of Hundred High School and its consolidation into Valley High School. This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

In consideration of this closure, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required amount of time. A hearing was held for Hundred High School on November 18, 2024, and Valley High School on November 20, 2024. The Wetzel County Board of Education voted to approve this closure at their November 22, 2024, board meeting.

Based on the information provided, it is recommended that the **closure of Hundred High School and its consolidation into Valley High School be approved.**

H. Wetzel County Board of Education: Closure of Paden City High School and its consolidation into Magnolia High School and New Martinsville School – (Action)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Cassandra Porter

[Attachment O](#)

The Wetzel County Board of Education respectfully requests approval for the closure of Paden City High School (Grades 7-12) and its consolidation into Magnolia High School (Grades 9-12) and New Martinsville School (Grades 7-8). This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

In consideration of this closure, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required amount of time. A hearing was held for Paden City High School

on November 15, 2024; New Martinsville School on November 14, 2024; and, Magnolia High School on November 13, 2024. The Wetzel County Board of Education voted to approve these closures at their November 22, 2024, board meeting.

Based on the information provided, it is recommended that the **closure of Paden City High School and its consolidation into Magnolia High School and New Martinsville School be approved.**

I. Amendment of Wood County Board of Education's 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) – (Action)

[Attachment P](#)

Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Christie Willis

Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit amendments to CEFPs to the WVBE and the School Building Authority of West Virginia (SBA) for approval. The Wood County Board of Education requests approval to remove the consolidation of Fairplains Elementary School and Franklin Elementary School and replace that proposed action with the merger of Fairplains Elementary School into the existing Martin Elementary School. Changes in a county's CEFP are for planning only, and any proposed closures are pending the completion and approval of the official closure procedures found in Policy 6204, School Closings or Consolidations.

It is recommended that the **Wood County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 CEFP be approved.**

J. Wood County Board of Education: Closure of Fairplains Elementary School and its merger into Martin Elementary School (Action)

[Attachment Q](#)

Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Christie Willis

The Wood County Board of Education respectfully requests approval for the closure of Fairplains Elementary School and its merger into Martin Elementary School. This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

In consideration of this closure, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed. Documents were available for public inspection for the required amount of time, and hearings were held on October 23, 2024, for Fairplains Elementary School and Martin Elementary School respectively. The Wood County Board of Education voted to approve this closure at their October 24, 2024, board meeting.

Based on the information provided, it is recommended that the **closure of Fairplains Elementary School and its merger into Martin Elementary School be approved.**

K. Wood County Board of Education: Closure of VanDevender Middle School and its merger into Jackson Middle School and Hamilton Middle School – (Action)

[Attachment R](#)

Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Christie Willis

The Wood County Board of Education respectfully requests approval for the closure of VanDevender Middle School and its merger into Jackson Middle School and Hamilton Middle School. This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

In consideration of this closure, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed. Documents were available for public inspection for the required amount of time, and a closure hearing was held for VanDevender Middle School on October 21, 2024. Receiving hearings were held for Hamilton Middle School and Jackson Middle School on October 24, 2024. The Wood County Board of Education voted to approve this closure at their October 24, 2024, board meeting.

Based on the information provided, it is recommended that the **closure of VanDevender Middle School and its merger into Jackson Middle School and Hamilton Middle School be approved.**

L. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters and discussion of school law with legal counsel - (Action)

Nancy J. White

It is recommended and a motion is requested to **approve the WVBE personnel matters included in the attachment.**

[Attachment S](#)

It is recommended and a motion is requested to **approve the WVDE personnel matters included in the attachment.**

[Attachment T](#)

Motions, if any, will be determined at the meeting.

VI. WVDE Reports - (Information)

Michele Blatt

VII. WVBE Member Updates and Requests for Information - (Information)

Nancy J. White

VIII. Future Meetings - (Information)

Nancy J. White

The next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held January 8, 2025, in Charleston, West Virginia.

IX. Adjournment - (Action)