

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Capitol Building 6, Suite 600
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia

MINUTES

April 9, 2025

I. Call to Order

The meeting opened with the 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 March 12, 2025, 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, Cathy L. C. Justice, F. Scott Rotruck, Debra K. Sullivan, Dr. Christopher A. Stansbury, Gregory F. Wooten, ex officio members Michele L. Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools, West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) and Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education. L. Paul Hardesty was absent.

II. Approval of Agenda

President White called for a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Stansbury moved, and Mr. Wooten seconded, that the agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question, the motion carried on a voice vote.

III. Recognitions

Mrs. Margaret Williamson, Assistant Superintendent, and Kelly Massinople, Coordinator, Division of Federal Programs and Support, announced this year's Exemplary Practice Schools: Mylan Park Elementary, Mullens Elementary, and White Hall Elementary. Mrs. Williams also announced that this year's Title I School is Mylan Park Elementary.

IV. Delegations

Mr. Dale Lee, President of the West Virginia Education Association, addressed the Board regarding the attack on public education, the West Virginia Legislature's failure to provide school personnel with competitive salaries or address issues surrounding the Public Employee Insurance Agency. Ms. Tara Raymo addressed the Board by reading from the Bible. Ms. Linda Angus and Ms. Heather Tully addressed the Board regarding issues with Nicholas County Schools.

V. Consent Agenda

President White called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Dr. Stansbury seconded, that the Consent Agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question, the motion carried on a voice vote approving the following agenda items:

- Approved the WVBE minutes from March 12, 2025.
- Approved the Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for the West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition.
- Approved the affidavits listed in the agenda attachment for the Employment of Substitute Teachers and Bus Drivers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage for submission to the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.
- Approved South Branch Career and Technical Center's request to amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan.
- Approved Ohio County Schools request for a waiver of Appendix B of Policy 2510, Assuring Quality Education/Regulations for Education Programs, for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Approved Policy 2520.5, West Virginia College- And Career-Readiness Standards for Wellness Education, be placed on public comment for 30 days from filing.
- Approved Policy 2520.9, West Virginia College- And Career-Readiness Standards for Arts, be placed on public comment for 30 days from filing.
- Approved Policy 7211, Conflict Resolution Process for Citizens, be placed on public comment for 30 days from filing.

VI. Common Ground Partnership Updates, "Purple Up" Month and Resolution to Enhance Collaboration with Military Organizations and Supports for Military Families

Mr. Robert Mellace, Coordinator, Office of Educator Preparation, provided the Board with an update on the Common Ground Partnership and its activities, including the Purple Star Award and Military Signing Week. Board members were provided a packet of information relating to this issue and viewed a video highlighting the program and a Purple Star school. Additionally, Mr. Mellace introduced Mr. Ryan Kennedy, Cabinet Secretary for the West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance. After members asked questions and complimented the program, Mr. Wooten moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the Board adopt the resolution. The motion carried on a voice vote. The Board then took a brief necessary break before continuing.

VII. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters

President White called for a motion to approve the WVBE personnel matters included in the agenda attachment. Mr. Gabriel moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the WVBE personnel matters included in the agenda attachment be approved. Upon the call for the question, the motion carried on a voice vote. President White then called for a motion to approve the WVDE personnel matters included in the agenda attachment. Mr. Wooten moved, and Dr. Stansbury seconded, that

the WVDE personnel matters included in the agenda attachment be approved. Upon the call for the question, the motion carried on a voice vote.

XIII. WVDE Reports

Superintendent Blatt informed the Board that they had an update in their packet from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind regarding the implementation of the Science of Reading at the school. She also provided the Board with information relating to the status of federal funding for schools, including the loss of Farm to Table and daycare monies, and the cancellation of a waiver after counties spent funds expecting reimbursement. Superintendent Blatt also informed the Board that the WVDE was aware of the situation in Nicholas County and that a letter was sent on April 2, 2025, to the Nicholas County Superintendent notifying them of the commencement of a Special Circumstance Review. Additionally, Superintendent Blatt has been notified by the U. S. Prosecutor's Office that the WVDE can move forward with a Special Circumstance Review for Boone County Schools and provided an overview of concerns relating to Pocahontas County High School, Roane County Schools, Logan County Schools, Upshur County Schools, and Mingo County Schools.

IX. WVBE Member Updates and Requests for Information

Mr. Wooten requested an update on the Nicholas County Schools issues at the next meeting. Dr. Stansbury requested a school safety update. Mrs. Sullivan spoke at an event by the Civics Education Alliance. Mr. Rotruck said he attended the Milken Symposium Luncheon and invited everyone to attend a Focus Forward event related to health care on April 22, 2025, in Morgantown. Chancellor Tucker explained to the Board that higher education is also dealing with staff shortages and is continuously working to resolve issues at the universities. Mrs. Justice traveled to Washington, D.C., to discuss West Virginia's Communities in Schools model. Mr. Dunlevy said he was not available to attend the recent WVSSAC meeting but that he received a report that the meeting did go well. Mr. Gabriel said that he enjoyed seeing things going well in our schools, but he agreed that public education is under attack. President White discussed attending the Milken Symposium and the Masonic Ceremony at the new Anna Jarvis Elementary School site in Grafton, West Virginia.

X. Future Meetings

President White announced that the next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held May 14, 2025, in Charleston, West Virginia.

XI. Adjournment

President White called for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Stansbury moved, and Mr. Wooten seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m. on a voice vote.

Minutes approved by the Board on May 14, 2025



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:

Tina Payne, Board Secretary

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