

AGENDA

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

December 10, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

- I. Welcome - Pledge of Allegiance - Introductions – Call-to-Order**
L. Paul Hardesty, President
- II. Approval of Agenda – (Action)**
President Hardesty
- III. Delegation(s) – (Information)**
Christy Day
- IV. School Safety Update – (Information)**
James Agee
- V. West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Reports – (Information)**
Superintendent Michele L. Blatt
- VI. Consent Agenda - (Action)**
 - A. Approval of Minutes - (Action)**

[Attachment A](#)

It is recommended that the **minutes of the November 12, 2025, 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 policies for Mercer 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 policy for Mercer County** be approved.

- 3. Amendment of Berkeley County's 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) – (Action)**
Micah Whitlow

[Attachment D](#)

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 Berkeley County Board of Education requests approval to amend its CEFP to include the expansion of the kitchen and gym/cafeteria at Tomahawk Elementary School, Spring Mills Campus roadway improvements, Queen Street district office facility improvements, cafeteria and kitchen updates at Musselman and Martinsburg High Schools, HVAC upgrades throughout the county, adaptive reuse of an existing facility for a regional CTE Center, reconfiguration of Gerrardstown Elementary School, and removal of New South Berkeley Intermediate School from the priority list. The projects are planned to be funded through local funds and potential SBA grants.

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

4. Amendment of Mason County's 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) – (Action)

Micah Whitlow

[Attachment E](#)

Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit amendments to CEFPs to the WVBE and the SBA for approval. The Mason County Board of Education requests approval to amend its CEFP to include the expansion of a Diesel Technology Program at Mason County Career Center. The project is planned to be funded through a grant received from the SBA.

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

5. Approval to operate electric buses manufactured by GreenPower Motor Company – (Action)

[Attachment F](#)

Approval is requested for Clay, Grant, Jackson, Kanawha, Monongalia, and Wyoming counties to operate a certain number of electric buses manufactured by GreenPower Motor Company with a 39 inch left rear seat as specified in the attachment.

It is recommended that the request for **Clay, Grant, Jackson, Kanawha, Monongalia, and Wyoming counties to operate certain electric buses manufactured by GreenPower Motor Company, as specified in the attachment, be approved.**

VII. New Business

A. Amendment of Barbour County Schools' 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) – (Action)

[Attachment G](#)

Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Eddie Vincent

Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit amendments to CEFPs to the WVBE and the SBA for approval. The Barbour County Board of Education requests approval to revise its CEFP to reflect the proposed closures of Belington Middle School, Kasson Elementary/Middle School (Grades 6-8 only), and Philippi Middle School, and to consolidate them into Philip Barbour High School beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. In addition, Grade 5 students from Philippi Middle School are proposed to be merged into Philippi Elementary School, and Grade 5 students from Belington Middle School are proposed to be merged into Belington Elementary School for the 2026-2027 school year. The Barbour County Board of Education further requests approval to include the closure of Junior Elementary School at the end of the 2026–2027 school year and to merge all students from Junior Elementary School and Belington Elementary School into the vacated Belington Middle School building beginning with the 2027–2028 school year.

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

B. Barbour County Schools – Closure of Belington Middle School, Kasson Elementary/Middle School (Grades 6-8 only), and Philippi Middle School, and their consolidation into Philip Barbour High School. Closure of Junior Elementary School and its consolidation into Belington Elementary School. Merger of Grade 5 students from the closing middle schools to their respective elementary schools – (Action)

[Attachment H](#)

Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Eddie Vincent

The Barbour County Board of Education respectfully requests approval to close Belington Middle School, Kasson Elementary/Middle School (Grades 6-8 only), and Philippi Middle School, and to consolidate them into Philip Barbour High School beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. In addition, Grade 5 students from Philippi Middle School will be merged into Philippi Elementary School, and Grade

5 students from Belington Middle School will be merged into Belington Elementary School for the 2026-2027 school year. The Barbour County Board of Education further requests approval to close Junior Elementary School at the end of the 2026–2027 school year and to merge all students from Junior Elementary School and Belington Elementary School into the vacated Belington Middle School building beginning with the 2027–2028 school year.

In consideration of this closure, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required period. Separate hearings were held for Kassan Elementary/Middle School on October 28, 2025; Philippi Middle School on October 28, 2025; Belington Middle School on October 29, 2025; and Philip Barbour High School on October 29, 2025. The Barbour County Board of Education approved these closures at its November 10, 2025, board meeting.

Based on the information provided, it is recommended that the **closure of Belington Middle School, Kasson Elementary/Middle School (Grades 6-8 only), and Philippi Middle School, and their consolidation into Philip Barbour High School; the merger of respective middle school Grade 5 students into Philippi Elementary School and Belington Elementary School; and the closure of Junior Elementary School and its consolidation into Belington Elementary School be approved.**

C. Amendment of Logan County Schools’ 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) – (Action)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Sonya White

[Attachment I](#)

Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit amendments to CEFPs to the WVBE and the SBA for approval. Michele Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools, in her acting capacity as the Board of Education in Logan County, requests approval to revise Logan County’s 2020-2030 CEFP to include the closure of Verdunville Elementary School and its merger into Omar Elementary School. This amendment also reprioritizes multiple projects to reflect current facility needs. This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

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

D. Logan County Schools – Closure of Verdunville Elementary School and its consolidation into Omar Elementary School – (Action)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Sonya White

[Attachment J](#)

Michele Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools, in her acting capacity as the Board of Education in Logan County, respectfully requests approval to close Verdunville Elementary School and merge it into Omar Elementary School. This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

In consideration of this closure, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required period. Separate hearings were held for Verdunville Elementary School and Omar Elementary School on November 18, 2025.

In addition, a waiver of WVBE Policy 4336 is being requested to create bus routes that exceed the recommended transportation time for elementary students.

Michele Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools, in her acting capacity as the Board of Education in Logan County, approved this closure as an agenda item on the Logan County Board of Education's December 2, 2025, board agenda.

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

E. Amendment of Randolph County Schools' 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) – (Action)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Shawn Dilly

[Attachment K](#)

Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit amendments to CEFPs to the WVBE and the SBA for approval. The Randolph County Board of Education requests approval to amend its CEFP to reflect the closure of North Elementary School and its merger into Jennings Randolph Elementary School and the closure of Harman School and its merger into Jennings Randolph Elementary School, Elkins Middle School, and Elkins High School. All actions are proposed to be effective for the 2026-2027 school year and are not pending any other actions.

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

F. Randolph County Schools – Closure of Harman K-12 School and its merger into Jennings Randolph Elementary School, Elkins Middle School, and Elkins High School. Closure of North Elementary School and its merger into Jennings Randolph Elementary School – (Action)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Shawn Dilly

[Attachment L](#)

The Randolph County Board of Education respectfully requests approval to close Harman K-12 School and merge it into Jennings Randolph Elementary School, Elkins Middle School, and Elkins High School, and to close North Elementary School and merge it into Jennings Randolph Elementary School. These closures are not contingent on any other actions and are proposed to occur at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

In consideration of these closures, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required period. Separate public hearings were held on October 8, 2025, for Harman K-12 School, Jennings Randolph Elementary School, Elkins Middle School, and Elkins High School. The Randolph County Board of Education approved these closures at its October 8, 2025, board meeting.

In addition, the Randolph County Board of Education requests a waiver of WVBE 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 Harman K-12 School, its merger into Jennings Randolph Elementary School, Elkins Middle School, and Elkins High School; closure of North Elementary School and its merger into Jennings Randolph Elementary School; and the related Policy 4336 waiver request be approved.**

G. Amendment of Roane County Schools' 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) – (Action)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Michelle Stellato

[Attachment M](#)

Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit amendments to CEFPs to the WVBE and the SBA for approval. The Roane County Board of Education requests approval to revise its 2020-2030 CEFP to include the closure of Geary and Walton Elementary/Middle Schools and their consolidation into Spencer Elementary (Grades K-5) and Spencer Middle School (Grades 6-8). Also, it is proposed to consolidate all Roane County PreK students into a designated PreK space at Roane County High School. These closures are not contingent on any other actions and are proposed to occur at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

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

H. Roane County Schools – Closure of Geary Elementary Middle School and Walton Elementary Middle School, their consolidation into Spencer Elementary and Spencer Middle School, and the consolidation of county PreK students into a defined space at Roane County High School – (Action)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Michelle Stellato

[Attachment N](#)

The Roane County Board of Education respectfully requests approval to close Geary and Walton Elementary/Middle Schools and consolidate them into Spencer Elementary (Grades K-5) and Spencer Middle School (Grades 6-8). Also, approval is requested to consolidate all Roane County PreK students into a defined PreK space at Roane County High School. These closures are not contingent on any other actions and are proposed to occur at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

In consideration of this closure, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required period. Public hearings were held on October 27, 2025, for Walton Elementary Middle School; October 28, 2025, for Geary Elementary Middle School; October 29, 2025, for Spencer Elementary School; November 3, 2025, for Spencer Middle School; and November 4, 2025, for Roane County High School. The Roane County Board of Education approved this closure at its November 6, 2025, board meeting.

In addition, the Roane County Board of Education requests a waiver of WVBE 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 Geary Elementary-Middle School and Walton Elementary-Middle School, and their consolidation into Spencer Elementary School and Spencer Middle School; the consolidation of all Roane County PreK students into a defined space at Roane County High School; and the related Policy 4336 waiver request be approved.**

I. Amendment of Upshur County Schools' 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) – (Action)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Christine Miller

[Attachment O](#)

Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit amendments to CEFPs to the WVBE and the SBA for approval. Michele Blatt, State Superintendent of

Schools, in her acting capacity as the Board of Education in Upshur County, requests approval to revise Upshur County's 2020-2030 CEFP to include the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School and its consolidation into French Creek Elementary School. This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

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

J. Upshur County Schools' – Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School and its consolidation into French Creek Elementary School – (Action)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Christine Miller

[Attachment P](#)

Michele Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools, in her acting capacity as the Board of Education in Upshur County, respectfully requests approval to close Rock Cave Elementary School and consolidate it into French Creek Elementary School. This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

In consideration of this closure, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required period. Separate public hearings were held on November 13, 2025, for Rock Cave Elementary School and French Creek Elementary School.

In addition, a waiver of WVBE Policy 4336 is being requested to create bus routes that exceed the recommended transportation time for elementary students.

Michele Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools, in her acting capacity as the Board of Education in Upshur County, approved this closure as an agenda item on the Upshur County Board of Education's November 20, 2025, board agenda.

Based on the information provided, it is recommended that the **closure of Rock Cave Elementary School, its consolidation into French Creek Elementary School, and the related Policy 4336 waiver request be approved.**

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

[Attachment Q](#)

Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit amendments to CEFPs to the WVBE and the SBA for approval. The Wetzel County Board of Education requests approval to revise its 2020-2030 CEFP to include the closures of Magnolia High School, Valley High School, Short Line School (Grades 6-8 Only), New Martinsville School (Grades 6-8 Only), and Hundred Heritage School (Grades 6-8 Only), and their consolidation into a newly constructed school in Porter Falls, West Virginia. These closures are not contingent on any other actions and are proposed to occur upon completion of the new school.

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

L. Wetzel County Schools – Closures of Magnolia High School, Valley High School, Short Line School (Grades 6-8 only), New Martinsville School (Grades 6-8 only), and Hundred Heritage School (Grades 6-8 only), and their

[Attachment R](#)

consolidation into a newly constructed school in Porter Falls, West Virginia – (Action)

Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Cassandra Porter

The Wetzel County Board of Education respectfully requests approval to close Magnolia High School, Valley High School, Short Line School (Grades 6-8 only), New Martinsville School (Grades 6-8 only), and Hundred Heritage School (Grades 6-8 only), and consolidate them into a newly constructed school in Porter Falls, West Virginia. These closures are not contingent on any other actions and are proposed to occur upon completion of the new school.

In consideration of this closure, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required period. Separate hearings were held on November 13, 2025, for New Martinsville School, Hundred Heritage School, and Short Line School; on November 17, 2025, for Magnolia High School; and on November 19, 2025, for Valley High School. The Wetzel County Board of Education approved these closures at its November 21, 2025, board meeting.

Based on the information provided, it is recommended that the **closure of Magnolia High School, Valley High School, Short Line School (Grades 6-8 only), New Martinsville School (Grades 6-8 only), and Hundred Heritage School (Grades 6-8 only); and their consolidation into a newly constructed school in Porter Falls, West Virginia be approved.**

- M. Discussion of Legal Matters – Supreme Court No. 25-642, West Virginia Board of Education v. Warner; Civil Action No. CC-41-2025-C-230, Miranda Guzman v. West Virginia Board of Education, et. al.; Civil Action No. CC-02-2025-C-470, M. E.-P, et.al. v. West Virginia Board of Education, et al.; Civil Action No. 25-P-19, Allegra v. Gilmer County Board of Education; Civil Action No. CC-19-2025-C-247, Dyson v. West Virginia Board of Education; Civil Action No. CC-20-2025-C-1112, K.J., III v. Kanawha County Board of Education; Civil Action No. 2:25-cv-00588 International Association of Color Manufacturers v. Singh, et al.; Notice of Claim from Jared and Amanda McCray; Civil Action No. CC-29-2025-C-48; Hansford v. Ravenscroft, et al.; and, Discussion of Religious Exemptions from Compulsory School Vaccination Requirements – (Information and/or Action)**

Discussion of legal matters may involve an Executive Session as provided in W. Va. Code §6-9A-4 [matters involving attorney-client privilege per Peters v. County Commission, 205 W. Va. 481 (1999)]. The Board majority must vote to have an Executive Session (no action will be taken during the Executive Session).

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

- N. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters – (Action)**

Discussion of WVBE and/or WVDE personnel may involve an Executive Session as provided in W. Va. Code §6-9A-4(b)(2)(A) [personnel exception] and/or §6-9A-4(b)(6), [privacy exception]. The Board majority must vote to have an Executive Session (no action will be taken during the Executive Session).

It is recommended that the **WVBE personnel matters included in the attachment be approved.**

[Attachment S](#)

It is recommended that the **WVDE personnel matters included in the attachment be approved.**

[Attachment T](#)

VIII. WVBE Member Updates and Requests for Information - (Information)
President Hardesty

IX. Future Meetings - (Information)
President Hardesty

The next regular meeting will be held on January 14, 2026, in Charleston, West Virginia.

X. Adjournment - (Action)