

AGENDA

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

February 11, 2026 - 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)
Micah Whitlow and 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 January 14, 2026, and January 16, 2026, 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 Gilmer, Greenbrier, Lewis, Marshall, Mason, Pocahontas, Roane, Summers and Upshur 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 Gilmer, Marshall, Upshur and Wayne 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 University's Bachelor of Science Programs in Secondary Mathematics and Secondary Science Education – (Action)
Traci Gregory

[Attachment E](#)

The West Virginia Educator Preparation Program Review Board (EPPRB) recommends the approval for revisions to the following Bachelor of Science programs at WVU: Secondary Mathematics Education (K-Adult), Secondary Science Education – Biology (9-Adult), Secondary Science Education – Chemistry (9-Adult), Secondary Science Education – General Science (5-Adult), and Secondary Science Education – Physics (9-Adult).

It is recommended that **the revisions to West Virginia University's Bachelor of Science programs in Secondary Mathematics and Secondary Science Education, as recommended by the EPPRB, be approved.**

5. Appointment to the West Virginia Commission for Professional Teaching Standards (WVCPTS) – (Action)
Robert Hagerman

[Attachment F](#)

The mission of the WVCPTS is to ensure that every student is served by competent educators who meet rigorous preparation and licensure standards. The WVCPTS recommends standards and practices for the development and approval of preparation programs, licensures, and continuing development of educational personnel. The current vacancy scheduled to be filled is for a high school principal. The WVDE recommends Katie Hayes, a principal in Fayette County, for appointment to the WVCPTS.

It is recommended that **WVDE's recommendation to appoint Katie Hayes as a member of the WVCPTS be approved.**

6. 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 West Virginia Licensure Directory are maintained on the WVDE website. Additional test(s), scores, or exceptions have been changed to reflect updates in policy and exams.

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

7. West Virginia School Board Association 2026 Winter Conference Training Approval – (Action)
Howard O'Cull

[Attachment H](#)

On January 7, 2026, the West Virginia School Board Association County Board Member Training Standards Review Committee (TSRC) voted to recommend that the West Virginia School Board Association Winter Conference, scheduled for February 13-14, 2026, include 7.50 training credits as established in Attachment H.

It is recommended that **the West Virginia School Board Association's 2026 Winter Conference Training be approved.**

VII. New Business

A. Amendment of Wayne County Schools' 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) – (Action)
Micah Whitlow and County Superintendent Todd Alexander

[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 Wayne County Board of Education requests approval to revise its CEFP to change the identified closures of Dunlow Elementary School and Genoa Elementary School from being a consolidation into a new facility to a merger into Crum PreK-8 School, East Lynn Elementary School, and Wayne 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.

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

B. Wayne County Schools' Closures – (Action)
Micah Whitlow and County Superintendent Todd Alexander

[Attachment J](#)

The Wayne County Board of Education respectfully requests approval to close Dunlow Elementary School and Genoa Elementary School and their merger into Crum PreK-8, East Lynn Elementary School, and Wayne 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. Public hearings were held on January 20, 2026, for Dunlow Elementary School; January 21, 2026, for Crum PreK-8; January 22, 2026, for Genoa Elementary School; January 23, 2026, for East Lynn Elementary School and Wayne Elementary School. The Wayne County Board of Education approved these closures at its January 28, 2026, board meeting.

In addition, the Wayne 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 Dunlow Elementary School and Genoa Elementary School and their merger into Crum PreK-8, East Lynn Elementary School, and Wayne Elementary School, and related Policy 4336 waiver request be approved.**

C. Logan County Schools Update – (Action)
Alexandra Criner

The Office of Accountability will provide an update on the intervention in Logan County Schools.

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

D. Pocahontas County Schools Update – (Action)
Alexandra Criner

The Office of Accountability will provide an update on the State of Emergency in Pocahontas County Schools.

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

E. 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.; United States Supreme Court No. 24-43, State of West Virginia v. B. P. J., by next friend and mother, Heather Jackson; 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.

F. 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 K](#)

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

[Attachment L](#)

**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 March 11, 2026, in Charleston, West Virginia.

X. Adjournment - (Action)