

Agenda

West Virginia Board Of Education

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

March 11, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

Special Note: Mr. James Paul will be sworn in as a member of the West Virginia Board of Education at 8:45 a.m. in the boardroom. Meeting attendees are requested to come early to participate.

- I. **Welcome - Pledge of Allegiance - Introductions – Call-to-Order**
L. Paul Hardesty, President
- II. **Approval of Agenda – (Action)**
President Hardesty
- III. **Recognition(s) – (Information)**
Milken Obelisk Award Presentation
Traci Gregory
- IV. **Delegation(s) – (Information)**
Christy Day
- V. **School Safety Update – (Information)**
Micah Whitlow and James Agee
- VI. **West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Reports – (Information)**
Superintendent Michele L. Blatt

VII. **Consent Agenda - (Action)**

A. **Approval of Minutes - (Action)**

[Attachment A](#)

It is recommended that the minutes of the February 11, 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 Hancock, McDowell, Ritchie, and Wyoming 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 McDowell County 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. Approval of Wheeling University Certified Teacher of Record (CTR) Agreement with Ohio County Schools – (Action)**
Traci Gregory

[Attachment E](#)

The West Virginia Educator Preparation Program Review Board (EPPRB) requests approval for Wheeling University to maintain a CTR Agreement with Ohio County Schools. This agreement permits the county school systems to employ Residency 2 candidates from Wheeling University to become a certified teacher of record in their school system in a position of need or shortage.

It is recommended that **Wheeling University’s CTR Agreement with Ohio County Schools be approved.**

- 5. Approval of Concord University CTR Agreement with Morgan County Schools – (Action)**
Traci Gregory

[Attachment F](#)

The EPPRB requests approval for Concord University to maintain a CTR Agreement with Morgan County Schools. This agreement permits the county school systems to employ Residency 2 candidates from Concord University to become a certified teacher of record in their school system in a position of need or shortage.

It is recommended that **Concord University’s CTR Agreement with Morgan County Schools be approved.**

- 6. West Virginia School Board Association Regional Training Schedule and Agenda Approval – (Action)**
Howard O’Cull

[Attachment G](#)

The Training Standards Review Committee (TSRC) recommends approval of the regional training schedule and agenda established in Attachment G.

It is recommended that **the West Virginia School Board Association’s regional training schedule and agenda be approved.**

VIII. New Business

- A. Hancock County Schools Update – (Action)**
Alexandra Criner

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

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

- B. Upshur County Schools Update – (Action)**
Alexandra Criner

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

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

- C. Reconveyance of West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDb) Off Campus Barn Property – (Action)**

Kelli Talbott

In May 2019, the WVBE voted to convey property owned by WVSDDB in Romney to the City of Romney. The property in question is off campus and is known as the barn property. A historic dairy barn formerly used by the WVSDDB is situated on the property. Because the conveyance was between public entities, the Board of Public Works was required to approve it pursuant to state statute, which it did in September 2020. The deed had a condition in it that required that the City of Romney use the property for a “public use.” Otherwise, the property would revert.

The City of Romney is in the process of obtaining a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to construct a public pool and recreation area on the property. Although this usage is consistent with the “public use” condition in the deed, the federal grant cannot be obtained unless the City of Romney has unconditional title to the property.

The Mayor of the City of Romney and the City’s attorney have requested that the WVBE unconditionally reconvey the property to resolve this issue. The WVDE has confirmed with the West Virginia Department of Economic Development, the entity that administers the grant at the State level, that the City of Romney must have an unconditional deed to the property to obtain the grant. Once the WVBE approves the unconditional reconveyance, the matter will have to go back before the Board of Public Works for approval.

It is recommended that **the unconditional reconveyance of the WVSDDB barn property to the City of Romney be approved.**

D. Discussion of Legal Matters – Supreme Court No. 25-642, West Virginia Board of Education v. Warner – (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.

E. 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 H](#)

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

[Attachment I](#)

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

X. Future Meetings - (Information) President Hardesty

The next regular meeting will be held on April 8, 2026, in Charleston, West Virginia.

XI. Adjournment - (Action)