**MINUTES**

**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Emergency Meeting**

**Capitol Building 6, Room 353**

**1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East**

**Charleston, West Virginia**

**February 21, 2020**

**I. Call to Order**

Following the welcome and Pledge of Allegiance, President David G. Perry called the emergency meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) to order at 3:00 p.m. on February 21, 2020, in Capitol Building 6, Room 353, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia.

The following members were present: President Perry, Vice President Miller L. Hall (via telephone), Thomas W. Campbell, Robert W. Dunlevy (via telephone), F. Scott Rotruck (via telephone), Daniel D. Snavely (via telephone), Debra K. Sullivan, Nancy J. White (via telephone), and James S. Wilson (via telephone) and ex officio Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Chancellor, West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, and Interim Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. Member absent was ex officio Steven L. Paine, State Superintendent of Schools.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

President Perry called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Mr. Campbell seconded, that the agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

**III. Retirement of the State Superintendent of Schools**

President Perry read Superintendent Paine’s letter of retirement into the minutes and called for a motion to accept the retirement of State Superintendent of Schools Steven L. Paine, effective at the close of business on February 21, 2020.

“*February 20, 2020*

*Dear President Perry and Members of the WV Board of Education,*

*I am announcing my retirement as West Virginia Superintendent of Schools, effective at the end of the day, February 21, 2020.*

*As you know, a member of my family is experiencing serious health issues and I must devote my entire attention to her continued diagnosis and recovery.*

*With the leadership of the Governor, the State Board, and a very capable West Virginia Department of Education staff, I believe I am retiring from a state school system that has a very solid foundation to build upon for the future of the children and educators of West Virginia.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to serve. My thoughts and prayers will be with all of you as you move forward.*

*Best regards,*

*Steven L. Paine*”

Mr. Campbell extended his appreciation to Superintendent Paine and moved that the Board accept the retirement of State Superintendent of Schools Steven L. Paine, effective at the close of business on February 21, 2020. Dr. Wilson extended his appreciation to Superintendent Paine and seconded the motion.

Mrs. Sullivan read the following statement and Mr. Campbell requested it be placed in the minutes.

“*I am saddened to learn of Dr. Paine’s retirement but I support his decision.*

*I appreciate Dr. Paine’s leadership and many years of service. He has served as teacher, principal, county superintendent, and state superintendent (twice). And he brought to each role an understanding of the challenges facing our schools and a commitment to improve them.*

*Moving ahead, it is critical to maintain focus and to support and grow the initiatives in place. Accountability at all levels is essential to the success of our schools. Each of us needs to play a positive role in building supportive, productive schools. Whether we are private citizens, educators, students, parents and guardians, elected officials, members of business and industry or healthcare, first responders, whoever we are – our combined efforts are required. I wish Dr. Paine and his family well as they and all of us move forward.*”

Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

**IV. Appointment of State Superintendent of Schools**

**and Oath of Office**

**Executive Session**

President Perry called for a motion to enter executive session for a personnel matter. Mr. Campbell moved that the Board enter into executive session for a personnel matter as provided in W. Va. Code §6-9A-4(b)(2)(A) [personnel exception] and/or §6-9A-4 [matters involving attorney‑client privilege per Peters v. County Commission, 205 W. Va. 481 (1999)]. Mrs. Sullivan seconded the motion and upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. The Board entered into executive session at 3:11 p.m. President Perry announced that no action would be taken in executive session.

**V. Appointment of State Superintendent of Schools**

**and Oath of Office (Continued)**

**Return from Executive Session**

President Perry announced that the Board returned from executive session at 3:37 p.m. with no action taken and called for a motion for the employment a State Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Campbell moved, and Dr. Wilson seconded, that W. Clayton Burch be appointed as State Superintendent of Schools, effective immediately upon the acceptance of the current State Superintendent’s retirement at the close of business today, at a salary of $233,000.00, and at the culmination of those services W. Clayton Burch will return to the position formerly held. Several Board members spoke in support of the motion and extended congratulations to Mr. Burch. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

The oath of office was administered to Superintendent Burch.

**VI. Future Meetings**

The next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held March 11, 2020, in Charleston, West Virginia. The meeting will continue on March 12, 2020, if the agenda is not completed on March 11, 2020.

**VII. Adjourn**

Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Mr. Campbell seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

**Minutes approved by the Board on March 11, 2020.**

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**David G. Perry, President**

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**Miller L. Hall, Vice President**

**Minutes were recorded by**

**Virginia M. Harris**

**Secretary to the Board**

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