**MINUTES**

**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Capitol Building 6, Room 353**

**1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East**

**Charleston, West Virginia**

**June 10, 2020**

**I. Call to Order**

Following the welcome and Pledge of Allegiance, President David G. Perry called the meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) to order at 10:02 a.m. on June 10, 2020, in Capitol Building 6, Room 353, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia.

**II. Approval of Agenda and Introductions**

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

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

**III. Recognitions**

Superintendent Burch and the Board recognized West Virginia’s 2020 United States Presidential Scholars, Ms. Kayli Madison Mann of Pikeview High School (Mercer County), and Mr. William Ryan Tobin of Fairmont Senior High School (Marion County).

**IV. Consent Agenda**

President Perry called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Campbell moved, and Mr. Hall seconded, that the Consent Agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachments A through E.)

* Approved May 13 and June 4, 2020, minutes (Attachment A)
* Received West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) personnel matters (Attachment B)
* Received a Substitute Teacher in an Area of Critical Need and Shortage affidavit from Harrison County Schools
* Approved Wood County Schools’ request for waiver of Policy 2510, *Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs*, related to high school mathematics for a targeted population with the caveat that Wood County must notify students and parents that this course may not be recognized by NCAA post secondary institutions (Attachment C)

* Received notification of statewide waivers of WVBE policies, approved by the State Superintendent of Schools, due to COVID-19 school closures (Attachment D)
* Approved 2020 summer school programs found in Attachment E.

**V. Superintendent’s Report**

President Perry, with the Board’s consent, moved agenda item *X. Superintendent Report* for immediate consideration. Superintendent Burch (distributed information) provided information regarding graduation ceremonies that are permitted to begin June 22, 2020, in outdoor venues only. Superintendent Burch, assisted by Ms. Michele Blatt, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Support and Accountability, Ms. Charlene Coburn (distributed information), Senior Administrator, and Mr. Matt Hicks, Assistant Director, WVDE Office of District and School Advancement, provided an overview of the State System of Support and an update regarding the five counties currently undergoing a special circumstance review. Superintendent Burch (distributed information) provided an update regarding school system re-entry and the nine focus areas. Discussion ensued regarding the re-entry plan. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment H.)

**VI. Break**

President Perry called for a break for lunch at 12:12 p.m.

**VII. Call to Order**

President Perry called the meeting back to order at 12:42 p.m.

**VIII. Superintendent’s Report (Continued)**

Discussion continued regarding the re-entry plan. Members requested Superintendent Burch provide the Board’s feedback to the Governor on a number of issues including the need for a confirmed re-entry timeline (by July 1); listing of job responsibilities of county staff; possible request for an accountability waiver for the upcoming school year; possible amendment of statutes requiring legislative action; and, possible legislative action regarding instructional minutes and career technical education certifications.

**IX. WVBE Personnel Matter - Employment of**

**State Superintendent of Schools**

**Executive Session**

President Perry called for a motion to enter executive session for personnel matters specifically to continue deliberations regarding the employment of a State Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Hall moved, 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)], that the Board enter in executive session for personnel matters. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion and upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. The Board entered executive session at 1:02 p.m.

**X. Return from Executive Session**

President Perry announced that the Board had returned from executive session at 1:18 p.m. with no decisions made or action taken.

President Perry called for a motion regarding the employment of a State Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Hall moved that, having concluded the Board’s search, the West Virginia Board of Education continue the employment of W. Clayton Burch as the State Superintendent of Schools at a salary of $230,000.00 effective immediately. Mr. Rotruck seconded the motion. President Perry noted that the salary was reduced as Superintendent Burch will no longer serve also as the Deputy Superintendent. The roll was called and the motion was carried unanimously.

**XI. Break**

President Perry called for a break at 1:23 p.m. for a press event.

**XII. Call to Order**

President Perry called the meeting back to order at 1:45 p.m. and, with the consensus of the Board, reordered the agenda to immediately take up item *VII. 2020-2021 School Calendars*, item *VIII. West Virginia Blue Ribbon Selections Early Literacy Book Distribution Project Overvie*w, and *IX. West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Annual Report*.

**XIII. 2020-2021 School Calendars**

Dr. Jan Barth, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Teaching and Learning, presented the 2020-2021 school calendars for the Board’s information. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment G.)

**XIV. West Virginia Blue Ribbon Selections Early Literacy**

**Book Distribution Project Overview**

Dr. Barth introduced Ms. Monica DellaMea (distributed information), Executive Director, WVDE Office of Early and Elementary Learning, who presented an overview of the West Virginia Blue Ribbon Selections Early Literacy Book Distribution Project. The WVDE, in collaboration with the June Harless Center at Marshall University and the Dollywood Foundation, established the West Virginia Blue Ribbon Selections Early Literacy Book Distribution Project. This project will provide five free, high‑quality children’s books to each exiting West Virginia kindergartener (and first grade teacher) and five free, high-quality children’s books to each exiting first grader (and second grade teacher) to assist with early literacy development and provide experiences for summer learning. A website with read alouds of the books, as well as family engagement opportunities, will also be available for families and educators. Over 198,000 children’s books will be mailed to children and educators this summer. Superintendent Burch spoke to Ms. DellaMea’s tenacity and dedication in securing this project. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment I.)

**XV. West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Annual Report**

Superintendent Burch (distributed information) presented the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind annual report for the Board’s information. Board members requested a breakdown of students’ county of residence, disability, where students matriculate after graduation, and financial impact across the state. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment J.)

**XVI. WVBE Personnel Matters - Superintendent of the West Virginia Schools**

**for the Deaf and the Blind Search Update and**

**Annual Evaluation of WVBE Staff**

**Executive Session**

President Perry requested Superintendent Burch provide an update regarding the WVSDB Superintendent search. Following the update, President Perry called for a motion to enter executive session for personnel matters specifically to evaluate WVBE staff.

Mr. Hall moved, 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)], that the Board enter in executive session for personnel matters. Dr. Snavely seconded the motion and upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. The Board entered executive session at 2:19 p.m. The Board’s secretary was asked to remain executive session for her evaluation. Superintendent Burch was called into executive session at 2:33 p.m.

**XVII. Return from Executive Session**

President Perry announced that the Board had returned from executive session at 3:09 p.m. with no action taken and issued the following statement: “*The Board wishes to state that it has completed its evaluation of Superintendent Burch pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-3-1 and states that we are very pleased with Superintendent Burch’s performance since his initial appointment on February 21st.  At that time, we had no idea that we would be facing the overwhelming challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on public schools.  We recognize that Superintendent Burch has faced these challenges head on, and has provided valuable leadership and guidance to the State Board, the Department of Education, and the education community as a whole*.”

President Perry called for a motion to approve the Board’s personnel matters. Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Mr. Rotruck seconded, that the personnel items be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment F.)

**XVIII. WVBE Member Updates**

Mr. Rotruck spoke about a webinar scheduled on June 24; Mrs. Sullivan participated in several re-entry meetings and requested the Board’s consideration of the following statement to be entered into the official record:

*In these uncertain times, the West Virginia Board of Education reaffirms its commitment to racial and ethnic equity and to equal educational opportunities for all students within our care.*

*As constitutional officers of the State of West Virginia, we are dedicated to the tenets and ideals of public education and the critical role it plays in individual lives and the progress of our state. We have been and remain committed to treating West Virginia students and their teachers, administrators, and other school staff fairly and with dignity and respect, regardless of color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, ability or disability, economic condition, or gender.*

*May Mountaineers always be as equal as they are free!*

By unanimous consent, the Board approved the statement and requested that it be released to the public.

Mrs. Sullivan also provided an update regarding the Communities In Schools initiatives and planned activities. Mr. Campbell spoke to the importance of the Communities In Schools initiative. Ms. White attended several events including re-entry meetings and an Educational Broadcasting Authority meeting. Mr. Hall attended a retired teacher meeting in Raleigh County. President Perry participated in several re-entry meetings and, along with Mr. Hall, attended groundbreaking ceremonies for new schools in Nicholas and Monroe Counties.

**XIX. Items for Future Meetings**

Mrs. Sullivan requested information regarding virtual school and how instructors are engaging and providing feedback to students and a report from the WVDE’s Communities In Schools staff regarding data findings. President Perry requested that the Superintendent of Jefferson County be a part of the virtual school presentation. Mr. Campbell provided an update from the Resource Committee and indicated that the Board should expect committee recommendations at the August meeting.

**XX. Future Meetings**

The WVBE announced its intent to meet July 8, 2020, to conduct interviews for the position of Superintendent of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. The next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held July 9, 2020, in Charleston, West Virginia.

**XXI. Adjourn**

Mr. Hall moved, and Dr. Snavely seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

**Minutes approved by the Board on July 8, 2020.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**David G. Perry, President**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Miller L. Hall, Vice President**

Minutes were recorded by

Virginia M. Harris

Secretary to the Board

WVBEMinutes6/10/20