**MINUTES**

**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Capitol Building 6, Room 353**

**1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East**

**Charleston, West Virginia**

**August 12, 2020**

**I. Call to Order**

Following the welcome and Pledge of Allegiance, President Miller L. Hall called the meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) to order at 10:00 a.m. on August 12, 2020, in Capitol Building 6, Room 353, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia.

The following members were present: President Hall, Vice President Thomas W. Campbell, Robert W. Dunlevy, David G. Perry (joined meeting via telephone at 10:20 a.m.), F. Scott Rotruck, Debra K. Sullivan, Nancy J. White (via Teams), and James S. Wilson, and ex officios W. Clayton Burch, State Superintendent of Schools, and Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (joined the meeting at 10:35 a.m.). Member absent was Daniel D. Snavely.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

President Hall called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Mr. Rotruck seconded, that the agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

**III. Delegations**

President Hall issued the following statement regarding delegation letters. (Copies of letters appended to Official Minutes, Attachment O.)

*We would like to thank everyone for taking the time to send in delegation letters. There are many factors to consider in safely returning our students and teachers to the classroom. This Board will rely on the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) and State Coronavirus Czar Dr. Clay Marsh to determine the metrics that will guide re-entry into school. As a Board, we support the Governor in ensuring that only counites that are deemed safe by the DHHR and health officials will start with in-person learning. We have also had 60,000 individuals respond to our survey and the concerns about learning loss, student supports, special education, and mental health are among the most pressing concerns.*

*As an educator my focus, and our focus as a Board, will always remain on the safety of our children, our educators, and staff. We are working under circumstances that we have never experienced before to prepare for the school year. This is not a responsibility that any of us take lightly. We will continue to work with our superintendents and stakeholder groups to do what is best for the education community.*

**IV. Technology Development, Professional Training, and Education**

Mr. Rotruck introduced Ms. Erika Klose, Coordinator, WVDE Office of Middle and Secondary Learning, who introduced Dr. Kirk Gerdes and Ms. Kinsey Walker, National Energy Technology Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, who provided information regarding technology development, professional training, education, and other collaborative opportunities available from the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

**V. Consent Agenda**

President Hall called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Campbell moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the Consent Agenda be approved. Following discussion regarding a COVID-19 waiver regarding charter school training, President Hall called for the question and the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachments A through L.)

* Approved July 8 and 31, 2020, minutes (Attachment A)
* Received West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) personnel matters (Attachment B)
* Received notification of statewide waivers of WVBE policies, approved by the State Superintendent of Schools, due to COVID-19 school closures (Attachment C)
* Approved the Calhoun County Board of Education’s request to amend their 2010-2020 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) to include a Major Improvement Project (MIP) at Pleasant Hill Elementary School for replacement of the school’s roof (Attachment D)
* Approved the Kanawha County Board of Education’s request to amend their 2010-2020 CEFP to include a MIP at Ruthlawn Elementary School for the addition of two classrooms, a STEM investigative area, and the elimination of two portables (Attachment E)
* Accepted the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the West Virginia Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children (Attachment F)
* Received the Annual Report of the James & Law Company, West Virginia Instructional Materials Depository (Attachment G)
* Received Senate Resolution 43: Recognizing President George Washington and President Abraham Lincoln on President’s Day (Attachment H)
* Appointed Dr. Sara Stankus, Superintendent of Upshur County Schools, to serve on the West Virginia Commission for Professional Teaching Standards in the role of county superintendent (Attachment I)
* Approved an addendum to the iTeachWV alternative certification program for general education, provided by Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, and Pendleton Counties in partnership with the WVDE, to add the endorsement of General Science for grades 5-9 to the list of previously approved endorsements (Attachment J)
* Approved Concord University’s addition of a Teacher-in-Residence (TIR) Program with Ritchie County and West Virginia University’s addition of a TIR Program with Jefferson County (Attachment K-1 and K-2)
* Approved an updated version of the West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory (Attachment L).

**VI. Amendment - Summers County Board of Education**

**Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP)**

Ms. Amy Willard, School Operations Officer, WVDE Office of Finance and Operations, Mr. David Warvel, Superintendent, Summers County Schools, and Mr. Stanley Duncan, President, Summers County Board of Education, presented an amendment to the Summers County CEFP for the Board’s consideration. Due to various safety issues at Summers Middle School, the Summers County Board of Education requested the relocation staff and students from Summers Middle School to Summers County High School for the 2020-2021 school year. Two separate schools will be operated out of Summers County High School for the 2020‑2021school year; this is not a closure of Summers Middle School. The relocation of students will allow the county time to determine if school closure is necessary or to secure funding and make repairs to address the safety issues that have necessitated this relocation.

Following discussion, Mr. Perry moved, and Mr. Campbell seconded, that the Summers County CEFP amendment be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment M.)

**VII. Special Circumstance Review of Summers County Schools**

Mr. Campbell moved, as provided in W. Va. Code §6-9A-4(b)(2)(A) [personnel exception] and/or §6-9A-4(b)(6) [privacy exception], that the Board enter in executive session regarding matters pertaining to the special circumstance review of Summers County Schools. Dr. Wilson seconded the motion and upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. The Board entered executive session at 11:04 a.m.

President Hall announced that the Board returned from executive session at 11:51 a.m. with no action taken.

Ms. Charlene Coburn (distributed information), Accountability Officer, WVDE Office of System of Support and Accountability, and Superintendent Warvel (distributed information) presented the Special Circumstance Review prepared for Summers County Schools for the Board’s consideration.

Following discussion, Mr. Campbell moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the Special Circumstance Review prepared for Summers County Schools, with ongoing support and monitoring by the WVDE with a follow-up Special Circumstance Review to be conducted in six months, be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment P.) President Hall moved *New Business* item *C. West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC) Re-entry Plan for Athletics* to follow lunch.

**VIII. SB 241: WVBE Resource Committee Recommendations regarding**

**Step 2 of the Public School Support Plan and Recommendation to**

**Amend W. Va. Code §18-5-13 Pertaining to Use of School Vans**

Mr. Campbell (distributed information), on the behalf of the Board’s Resource Committee, stated that action regarding the use of school vans must be delayed to a future meeting to allow time for additional research and called on Ms. Willard to provide an overview of SB 241 (2020 Regular Session), answer questions regarding the funding formula and its use, and present the Resource Committee’s recommendation for the Board’s consideration. Mrs. Sullivan suggested a survey of counties be conducted to ascertain creative ways to utilize school bus operators. Discussion ensued regarding school bus operators who are multi-classified and have duties beyond operating a bus.

Following discussion, Mr. Campbell moved, in compliance with SB 241, that option 3, increases in the number of service personnel funded due to additional positions for counties with greater than 600 miles, and option 4, increases in the number of service personnel funded due to changing the limits for all low and sparse population density counties for the 2020-2021 year, be approved. Mr. Perry seconded the motion and upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment Q.)

**IX. Break**

President Hall called for a break for lunch at 12:20 p.m. Chancellor Tucker departed the meeting.

**X. Call to Order**

President Hall called the meeting back to order at 1:30 p.m.

**XI. West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC)**

**Re‑entry Plan for Athletics**

Mr. Bernie Dolan, Executive Director, WVSSAC, provided an update regarding the re‑entry plan and guidelines for athletics. Discussion ensued regarding face coverings, spectator capacity and social distancing, color coded map for re-entry under development by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and COVID-19 Czar, potential season adjustments, and need for more specific guidelines.

Following discussion, Mr. Perry moved, that that WVSSAC be requested to develop and issue guidelines to member schools regarding: 1) when a county must limit or cease all WVSSAC regulated extra‑curricular activities, including practices; 2) conditions under which spectators may attend WVSSAC regulated events, including social distancing and mask requirements; and, 3) requirements for in- and out‑of-state travel. President Hall called for a second; no second was offered and the motion died. Discussion ensued regarding working as a team and the development of guidance as events warrant.

**XII. Annual Appointment of WVBE Statutory Units/Liaisons**

President Hall called for a motion regarding the annual appointment of WVBE statutory units/liaisons.

Mr. Campbell moved, and Mr. Perry seconded, the reappointment of Nancy J. White to the Educational Broadcasting Authority; James S. Wilson to the Secondary School Activities Commission; David G. Perry to the Commission for Professional Teaching Standards; and, Miller L. Hall to the Commission on Holocaust Education; the election of Robert W. Dunlevy to the School Building Authority of West Virginia, effective September 4, 2020; and, appointment of F. Scott Rotruck as Vice Chair of the Board’s Resource Committee. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

**XIII. WVBE Personnel Matters**

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

Mr. Campbell moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that Ms. Patricia Homberg be appointed as Superintendent of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind effective immediately, at a salary of $124,000.00, and that at the culmination of services Ms. Homberg be returned to the position formerly held. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

**XIV. Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Burch (distributed information) presented a video/public service announcement regarding West Virginia safe school bus transportation protocols; provided information regarding the West Virginia School Re-entry Overview and Focus 2020 and Beyond documents; WVDE Instructional Support Professional Learning Forum Survey/Evaluation Summary; 2020-2021 school calendar date summary; re-entry funding, concerns, and solutions; and, announced finalists for School Service Personnel of the Year: Ms. Gail Lynn Artimez (Marshall County), Ms. Stephanie Bennett (Upshur County), Ms. Debra Dye (Wirt County), Ms. Susie Kirkpatrick (Gilmer County), and Ms. Stephanie Toliver (Kanawha County). (Copies attached to Official Minutes, Attachment R.) Mr. Perry departed the meeting.

**XV. WVBE Member Updates and Future Items**

Ms. White will attend an EBA meeting on August 16; Mr. Dunlevy spoke about his attendance at recent WVSSAC meetings; Mrs. Sullivan (distributed information) provided an update regarding Communities In Schools and Community Care and recognized the efforts of Second Launch in supplying reconditioned computers to schools; Mr. Campbell spoke regarding his experience working with TASC testing and the need for, and field support for, adult education programs. President Hall attended Governor Justice’s event at Stratton Elementary.

Mrs. Sullivan requested that a correlation of disciplinary data and school size be presented at a future meeting. President Hall requested an item be placed on the September agenda to begin discussion regarding the superintendent position at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment S.)

**XVI. Future Meetings**

President Hall called for a motion to approve the Board’s meeting schedule for September 2020 through August 2021. Ms. White moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the Board meeting schedule for September 2020 through August 2021 be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment N.)

The next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held September 9, 2020, in Charleston, West Virginia.

**XVII. Adjourn**

Ms. White 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 3:14 p.m.

**Minutes approved by the Board on September 9, 2020.**

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**Miller L. Hall, President**

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**Thomas W. Campbell, Vice President**

Minutes were recorded by

Virginia M. Harris

Secretary to the Board

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