**MINUTES**

**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Capitol Building 6, Room 353**

**1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East**

**Charleston, West Virginia**

**September 9, 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 11:00 a.m. on September 9, 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 (via telephone), David G. Perry (via telephone), F. Scott Rotruck, Daniel D. Snavely, Debra K. Sullivan, Nancy J. White (via Teams), and James S. Wilson (via Teams), 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.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

President Hall 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.

**III. Delegations**

Mr. David Gladkosky, Executive Director, West Virginia Professional Educators, submitted a letter for the Board’s consideration; and, Mr. Fred Albert (distributed brochure), American Federation of Teachers-West Virginia, addressed the Board regarding the Reconnecting McDowell initiative and concerns from parents, teachers, and other school personnel regarding the reopening of school. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment J.)

**IV. Consent Agenda**

President Hall called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Campbell moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the Consent Agenda be approved. Following discussion regarding the critical need and shortage policies and Lewis County Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan items, President Hall called for the question and the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachments A through E.)

* Approved August 12, 2020, WVBE 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 Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for Boone, Hampshire, Lincoln, Logan, Monongalia, Morgan, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Ritchie, Wetzel, and Wyoming County Schools, and the

West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind(Attachment D)

* Approved the Lewis County Board of Education’s request of an amendment to its 2010-2020 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to include a Major Improvement Project (MIP) at Roanoke Elementary School (Attachment E).

**V. Rescind Amendment - Pocahontas County Board of Education**

**Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP)**

Ms. Amy Willard, School Operations Officer, WVDE Office of School Operations: Finance, Facilities, and Transportation, and Mr. Terrence C. Beam (via telephone), Superintendent, Pocahontas County Schools, presented a request to rescind an amendment to the Pocahontas County CEFP for the Board’s consideration. The amendment, approved in 2015, closed the existing Marlinton Elementary School facility, moved the closed school’s students to the Marlinton Middle School building, and moved 7th and 8th grade students from the existing Marlinton Middle School and Greenbank Elementary/Middle School to Pocahontas County High School. Pocahontas County Schools was awarded a School Building Authority project to make renovations at multiple schools in the county, contingent upon the passage of a bond levy by the residents of Pocahontas County. The bond levy failed, Pocahontas County Schools was unable to implement the plans in the 2015 CEFP amendment, and the county now plans to keep Marlinton Elementary open as a permanent school. The school system, parents, and citizens will work to identify the appropriate facilities and grade configurations moving forward for the 2020-2030 and the 2030‑2040 CEFP cycles.

Mr. Campbell moved, and Mr. Rotruck seconded, that request of the Pocahontas County Board of Education to rescind the amendment to close Marlinton Elementary School be approved. Discussion ensued and upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment F.)

**VI. Policy 2436.10, Participation in Extracurricular Activities**

Ms. Sarah Stewart, Government Affairs Counsel, WVDE Office of Legal Services, presented Policy 2436.10 for the Board’s consideration. Policy 2436.10 is being amended to incorporate requirements set forth in W. Va. Code §18-2-25(d). Language has been added to the policy regarding the eligibility of homeschooled students for participation in interscholastic athletics.

Mr. Campbell moved, and Mr. Rotruck seconded, that Policy 2436.10 be placed on public comment for 30 days. Discussion ensued regarding development of a guidance document; grade percentile/grade point average; review of transcript/credits; and, eligibility. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment G.) Chancellor Tucker departed the meeting.

**VII. WVBE Personnel Matters**

**Executive Session**

Mr. Campbell moved, and Dr. Snavely seconded, that the Board move into executive session as provided in W. Va. Code §6-9A-4(b)(2)(A) [personnel exception]. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. The Board entered into executive session at 11:35 a.m.

**VIII. Return from Executive Session**

President Hall announced that the Board returned from executive session at 1:00 p.m. with no action taken and called for a motion to approve the Board’s personnel matters. Mr. Campbell moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the Board’s personnel items be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment H.)

**IX. Report: West Virginia Universal Pre-K: 2019 State of West Virginia Pre-K**

Ms. Monica DellaMea (distributed information), Executive Director, WVDE Office of Early and Elementary Learning, presented the *West Virginia Universal Pre-K: 2019 State of West Virginia Pre-K* report for the Board’s information. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment I and addenda.)

**X. Superintendent’s Report**

Ms. Michele L. Blatt, Deputy State Superintendent, provided the Superintendent’s Report on the behalf of Superintendent Burch who departed the meeting to participate in the Governor’s COVID-19 press conference. Ms. Blatt (distributed information) reported that Governor Justice announced today that the time of release of the color-coded map has moved from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays; provided an update regarding the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind school re-entry and current enrollment; and provided information regarding the opening of West Virginia Schools, the delivery of equitable services, and remote learning. Ms. Melanie Purkey (distributed information), Federal Programs Officer, WVDE Office of Federal Programs and Support, provided information regarding the allocation of COVID‑19 funding and addressed questions regarding equitable services to private schools and the anticipated disbursement of CARES funding. Mr. Terry Harless, Financial Officer, WVDE Office of Finance and Operations, provided information regarding the WVDE’s FY21 budget and FY22 proposed budget. Mr. Dunlevy departed the meeting. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment K.)

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

Ms. White attended the quarterly meeting of the Educational Broadcasting Authority; Mr. Rotruck spoke about a large donation to the state from the Highmark Foundation for personal protective equipment for schools; Mr. Campbell announced the he has visits scheduled later this month at schools in Greenbrier County; Mrs. Sullivan spoke about the Communities In Schools advisory council meeting later this month, requested information regarding the 1,000 points of connectivity, and the provision of meals to students. Superintendent Burch returned to the meeting and provided information regarding connectivity, meal delivery, virtual school for the youngest children, staffing of virtual school, shortage of bus operators, and indicated the WVDE is working with the Higher Education Policy Commission regarding teacher recruitment efforts.

**XII. Items for Future Meetings**

Mr. Rotruck requested a report regarding broadband expansion and connectivity; and Mr. Campbell requested information regarding the availability of broadband fiber (education and business). President Hall stated the Board is moving forward to improve education beyond the constraints of COVID-19. Members expressed appreciation to WVDE for the team effort in addressing the myriad issues arising as a result of COVID-19.

**XIII. Future Meetings**

The next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held October 14, 2020, in Charleston, West Virginia.

**XIV. Adjourn**

Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Ms. White seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

**Minutes approved by the Board on October 14, 2020.**

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

**Miller L. Hall, President**

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

**Thomas W. Campbell, Vice President**

Minutes were recorded by

Virginia M. Harris

Secretary to the Board

WVBEMinutes9/9/20