**MINUTES**

**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Capitol Building 6, Room 353**

**1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East**

**Charleston, West Virginia**

**January 13, 2021**

**I. Call to Order**

 Following the welcome and Pledge of Allegiance, President Miller L. Hall called the virtual meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) to order at 11:00 a.m. on January 13, 2021, in Capitol Building 6, Room 353, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia.

 The following members were present virtually unless otherwise noted: President Hall (present), Vice President Thomas W. Campbell (present), Robert W. Dunlevy, A. Stanley Maynard, F. Scott Rotruck (present), Daniel D. Snavely, Debra K. Sullivan (present), Nancy J. White, and James S. Wilson, and ex officio W. Clayton Burch (present), State Superintendent of Schools. Member absent was ex officio 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**

Correspondence was received from 16 delegations. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment J.)

**IV. Resumption of In-Person Instruction and School Recovery Planning**

 Superintendent Burch presented information regarding services provided during the pandemic and safety mitigation strategies.

 Following Superintendent Burch’s remarks, President Hall (distributed information) addressed the assembly and stated that the Board would develop a plan for the resumption of in‑person instruction before leaving. Discussion ensued regarding a plan.

Following discussion, Mr. Campbell proposed the following motion: that the WVBE adopt the following parameters for in-person instruction for all PreK-8 students in West Virginia:

* All PreK-8 students will resume in-person instruction on January 19. After January 19, full remote learning is not an option for Pre-K 8 students.
* Counties are encouraged to resume in-person instruction 4 or 5 days per week on January 19.
* Counties have the option to utilize blended instruction models beginning January 19. Blended models must provide each student with in-person instruction at least 2 days per week.
* Blended instruction models may continue until a majority of education employees having regular direct contact with students have received the first dose of the COVID vaccine, Once this has occurred, all blended instruction models will begin to transition to a four or five day in-person instruction model.
* Whether utilizing a full time in-person or a blended instruction model, a local county board of education retains the authority to work with local health officials and to close individual classrooms or schools when a specific health need to do so is identified.
* Every Monday, the state superintendent shall provide the WVBE with an update regarding each county’s status regarding the provision on in-person instruction.

 Discussion ensued regarding the proposed motion.

**V. Break**

President Hall called for a break for lunch at 12:35 p.m.

**VI. Call to Order**

President Hall called the meeting back to order at 1:13 p.m.

As a result of discussion, Mr. Campbell moved that the WVBE adopt the following parameters for in-person instruction:

For All PreK-8 Students in West Virginia

* PreK-8 schools will attend in-person instruction regardless of their county’s color on the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) County Alert System map.
* All PreK-8 students will resume in-person instruction on January 19. Full remote learning is not an option for PreK-8 students.
* Counties are encouraged to resume in-person instruction four or five days per week on January 19.
* Counties have the option to utilize blended instruction models beginning January 19. Blended models must provide each student with in-person instruction at least two days per week.
* A local county board of education retains the authority to work with local health officials and to close individual classrooms or schools when a specific health need to do so is identified.

For West Virginia Students in Grades 9 through 12

* High schools will attend school in-person unless their county is red on the DHHR County Alert System map. In-person instruction may consist of blended learning models for students in grades 9-12.
* Consistent with the practice that has been in place since the start of the 2020-2021 school year, high schools will move to remote learning the day after the county turns red on the DHHR County Alert System map.
* High schools will stay in remote learning until the following Monday, at a minimum.
* If the county is orange or below on the DHHR daily map on Saturday, in-person instruction will resume on the following Monday.
* If the county is still in red status on Saturday or Sunday, remote learning will continue for another week.
* Even when a county is red on the DHHR County Alert System map, staff will continue essential student support services including meals, student engagement, all special education services, and support to at-risk students.

Further:

* Parents will continue to have the ability to choose a virtual learning option for their children.
* Education leaders at the local level are directed to continue monitoring and enforcing identified mitigation strategies, especially mask wearing.
* Every Monday, the state superintendent shall provide the WVBE with an update regarding each county’s status regarding the provision of in-person instruction via email.
* The state superintendent is directed to continue to provide educational information to education staff throughout the state about the benefit and safety of the COVID vaccination.

 Dr. Wilson seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding the accuracy of terminology in the motion with multiple amendments of the motion distributed and discussed.

 Following review and discussion of the final amended motion, Mr. Campbell rescinded his original motion and Dr. Wilson rescinded his second of the original motion.

 Mr. Campbell thereupon moved that the WVBE adopt the following parameters for in‑person instruction:

* The WVBE desires to return students to in-person learning and to ensure that students, teachers, and staff can do so safely. The Board recognizes that in-person learning is the best mode in which to foster a student’s intellectual, social‑emotional, and physical growth and well-being.
* To continue to ensure that schools remain safe for students, teachers, and staff, education leaders at the local level are directed to continue monitoring and enforcing the WVDE’s six identified mitigation strategies, especially mask wearing.
* Parents will continue to have the ability to choose a virtual learning option for their children.

For All PreK-8 Students in West Virginia

* PreK-8 schools will attend in-person instruction regardless of their county’s color on the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) County Alert System map.
* All PreK-8 students will resume in-person instruction on January 19. Counties do not have the option to implement full countywide remote learning for PreK-8 students. However, a local county board of education retains the authority to work with local health officials and to close individual classrooms or schools when a specific health need related to that classroom or school is identified. Such closures shall be of limited duration and related to the specific health need of the school or classroom. Teachers and staff will continue to provide essential student support services including meals, student engagement, all special education services, and support to at-risk students.
* Counties are encouraged to resume in-person instruction four or five days per week on January 19.
* Counties have the option to utilize blended instruction models beginning January 19. Blended models must provide each student with in-person instruction at least two days per week.

For West Virginia Students in Grades 9 through 12

* High schools will attend school in-person unless their county is red on the DHHR County Alert System map. In-person instruction may consist of blended learning models for students in grades 9-12.
* Consistent with the practice that has been in place since the start of the 2020-2021 school year, high schools will move to remote learning the day after the county turns red on the DHHR County Alert System map.
* High schools may stay in remote learning until the following Monday.
* If the county is not red on the DHHR daily map on Saturday, in-person instruction will resume on the following Monday.
* A county superintendent may determine and direct that a county will resume in‑person learning without waiting until the following Monday.
* If the county is still in red status on Saturday or Sunday, remote learning will continue for another week unless the county superintendent directs the resumption of in-person instruction earlier.
* A local county board of education retains the authority to work with local health officials and to close individual classrooms or schools when a specific health need related to that classroom or school is identified irrespective of the county’s color on the DHHR County Alert System map. Such closures shall be of limited duration and related to the specific health need of the school or classroom.
* Even when a county is red on the DHHR County Alert System map, teachers and staff will continue essential student support services including meals, student engagement, all special education services and support to at-risk students.

Further:

* Every Monday, the state superintendent shall provide the WVBE with an update regarding each county’s status regarding the provision on in-person instruction via email.
* The state superintendent, WVDE staff, and all county-level education leaders are directed to continue to provide educational information about the benefit and safety of the COVID vaccination to teachers, education staff, and community members and residents throughout the state.

Dr. Wilson seconded the motion and upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment K.)

**VII. Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Burch, assisted by Mr. Phil Uy (distributed information), Interim Financial Officer, WVDE Finance and Internal Operations Services, and Ms. Amy Willard, School Operations Officer, WVDE Office of School Operations and Finance, provided a financial update; assisted by Dr. Monica DellaMea, Director, WVDE Early and Elementary Learning Services, presented the Early Literacy Annual Report; and, assisted by Ms. Michele Blatt, Deputy State Superintendent, presented an update regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment L.)

**VIII. 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. Upon the call for the question and the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachments A through G.)

* Approved December 16, 2020, WVBE minutes (Attachment A)
* Received West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) personnel matters (Attachment B)
* Approved Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for Barbour, Berkeley, Brooke, Gilmer, Greenbrier, Jackson, Mercer, Mingo, Pendleton, Preston, and Roane County Schools (Attachment C)
* Approved Davis and Elkins College’s addition of a Teacher-in-Residence (TIR) Program with Pocahontas County and University of Charleston’s addition of a TIR Program with Mason County (Attachment D-1 and D-2)
* Approved Fairmont State University’s Educational Leadership Certificate and Superintendent Certificate, and the revision of West Liberty University’s Multi‑categorical (SLD, BD, MI) including Autism K‑6, 5-Adult; and Gifted 1‑12 (Attachment E)
* Awarded Full Accreditation status to Appalachian Bible College, Concord University, and Davis and Elkins College (Attachment F)
* Approved 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plans for Berkeley, Braxton, Clay, Grant, Ohio, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Roane, Summers, Tyler, and Wood Counties and the Calhoun-Gilmer Career Center. (Attachments G-1 through G-13)
* Appointed Dr. Paul Legg, an orthopedic surgeon in the Charleston area, to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Board of Review.

**IX. Policy 5901, Regulations for Alternative Certification Programs**

 **for the Education of Teachers**

Ms. Sonya White, Teaching and Learning Officer, WVDE Office of Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Carla Warren, Director, WVDE Educator Development and Support Services, presented Policy 5901 for the Board’s consideration. Policy 5901 is being revised for the purpose of establishing rules for new licensure pathways identified in W. Va. Code §18A-3-1j, refining existing requirements of state approved alternative certification programs, and describing the licensure process for program participants.

Ms. White moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that Policy 5901 be placed on public comment for 30 days. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment H.)

**X. WVBE Personnel Matters**

President Hall 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 I.)

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

 Mrs. Sullivan provided an update regarding Communities In Schools; Mr. Campbell stated that members of the Legislature would like to be included in future meetings of the Board’s Resource Committee.

 Mrs. Sullivan requested a discussion item be placed on a future agenda regarding teacher preparation programs inclusive of how they are changing and improving.

**XII. Future Meetings**

 President Hall announced that the next regular meeting of the WVBE will be February 10, 2021, in Charleston, West Virginia.

**XIII. Adjourn**

 Mr. Campbell moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

 **Minutes approved by the Board on February 10, 2021.**

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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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