

**MINUTES**  
**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Capitol Building 6, Room 353**  
**1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East**  
**Charleston, West Virginia**  
**April 14, 2021**

**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 10:07 a.m. on April 14, 2021, in Capitol Building 6, Room 353, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia.

The following members were present: President Hall, Thomas W. Campbell (telephone), Robert W. Dunlevy, A. Stanley Maynard, F. Scott Rotruck, Daniel D. Snavely, Debra K. Sullivan, Nancy J. White (Teams), and James S. Wilson, and ex officio W. Clayton Burch, 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. Rotruck moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the adjusted agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question, the motion was carried unanimously.

**III. Delegations**

Mr. Fred Albert, President, American Federation of Teachers-West Virginia, addressed the Board regarding the future and strategies and ways to work together to support and make our public schools stronger. Mr. David Gladkosky, Executive Director, West Virginia Professional Educators, addressed the Board regarding the recent legislative session and implications for the future of public education.

**IV. Approval of Adjusted Consent Agenda**

President Hall requested that *Consent Agenda* item 14. *Policy 5314, Service Personnel Classification, Competency Testing, and Professional Learning*, be removed from the *Consent Agenda* and called for approval of the adjusted *Consent Agenda*. Mr. Rotruck moved, and Dr. Wilson seconded, that the adjustment to the Consent Agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question, the motion was carried unanimously.

**V. Recognitions**

The Board recognized students selected to represent West Virginia as delegates to the 2021 United States Senate Youth Program: Ms. Olivia Hindman, a senior at St. Albans High School

(Kanawha County), and Ms. Emma Romano, a senior at Bridgeport High School (Harrison County).

## **VI. Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation**

Mr. Rotruck introduced Dr. James V. Denova, Vice President, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. Dr. Denova spoke about Benedum's support of West Virginia initiatives throughout his career and continuing collaboration going forward. Board members issued their thanks and appreciation for Dr. Denova's steadfast efforts. Ms. Jen Giovannitti, President, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, also addressed the Board regarding Dr. Denova's background and accomplishments and issued Benedum's gratitude for 21 years of outstanding service. Ms. Vicki Shannon, Executive Assistant to First Lady Cathy Justice, appeared on the behalf of the First Lady and recognized Dr. Denova for his service to the State of West Virginia and particularly the children of West Virginia.

The Board issued a resolution recognizing Dr. Denova for his devotion and commitment to the State of West Virginia which has led to the creation of initiatives, programs, and projects that support education advancement within vulnerable communities throughout the state. Dr. Denova was also presented a piece of artwork from Communities In Schools in appreciation of his support and service to West Virginia's greatest resource, its children. (Resolution attached to Official Minutes, Attachment V.)

## **VII. Consent Agenda**

President Hall called for a motion to approve the previously adjusted Consent Agenda. Mr. Rotruck moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the adjusted Consent Agenda be approved. Mrs. Sullivan questioned Routine Business item 5. Educator Preparation Program Review Board Recommendation to Approve West Virginia University's Early Childhood Special Education, Elementary Mathematics Specialist, as to how many programs are offered in the state; Ms. Sonya White, Teaching and Learning Officer, Office of Teaching and Learning, addressed Mrs. Sullivan's question. Dr. Wilson requested information regarding the Teacher-in-Residence (TIR) program; Ms. White provided a brief overview of the TIR program. Following discussion President Hall called for the question and the adjusted Consent Agenda was unanimously approved. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachments A through O.)

- Approved March 10 and 23, 2021, 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 Calhoun, Hancock, and Taylor County Schools, and the West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition, and amended policies for Berkeley and Hampshire County Schools (Attachment C)
- Received Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage affidavits from Barbour (one), Boone (seven), Calhoun (one), Hampshire (one), Mercer (one), Taylor (one), and Wetzel (two) County Schools and West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition (one) (Attachment D)

- Approved 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plans (CEFP) for Putnam County and the Roane-Jackson Technical Center (Attachments E-1 and E-2)
- Approved West Virginia University's Early Childhood Special Education, Elementary Mathematics Specialist (Attachment F)
- Issued Continuing Approval Status for Kanawha's BEST alternative certification program for general education at Kanawha County Schools and Region 4 Alternative Certification Programs for general education in Braxton, Fayette, Greenbrier, Nicholas, Pocahontas, and Webster Counties for Continuing Approval (Attachment G)
- Approved West Virginia University-Parkersburg's addition of a Teacher-in-Residence Program with Doddridge County (Attachment H)
- Approved West Virginia University's addition of a Teacher-in-Residence Program with Jackson County (Attachment I)
- Approved the West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory (Attachment J)
- Approved Policy 1461, Drug-Free Workplace, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment K)
- Approved Policy 1471, Regulations for Adult Diversion and Transition Programs, effective July 1, 2021 (Attachment L)
- Placed Policy 2512, Transformative System of Support for Early Literacy, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment M)
- Placed Policy 2800, Regulations for the Education of Juveniles Placed in Secure Predispositional Juvenile Centers, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment Mc)
- Approved the WVBE's Response to the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the West Virginia Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children (WVACEEC) (Attachment O).

### **VIII. Adult Basic Education**

Ms. Mendy Marshall (distributed information), Director, WVDE Adult Education Services, provided an update regarding Adult Learning services and programs. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment W.)

**IX. Review and Consideration of Waivers Granting Counties Approval to Offer In-Person Instruction Four Days Per Week for Grades Pre-K through 8**

Superintendent Burch (distributed information) provided an overview of counties currently providing in-person instruction four days per week for grades pre-k through 8. Ms. White provided information regarding counties currently operating under four-day instruction and data collections underway to ascertain the reasons for not returning to five-day in-person instruction. Ms. Michele Blatt, Deputy State Superintendent, provided information regarding vaccinations for students, reporting of outbreaks in schools, and the following of Center for Disease Control directives.

Following discussion, it was determined that no action was required regarding this item. It was the consensus of the Board that five-day in-person instruction calendars will be expected of all counties when school resumes in the fall. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment X.)

**X. Break**

President Hall called for a break for lunch at 12:23 p.m.

**XI. Call to Order**

President Hall called the meeting back to order at 1:00 p.m.

**XII. Summers County Special Circumstance Review Follow-up Report**

Ms. Charlene Coburn (distributed information), Senior Officer, WVDE Office of Support and Accountability, presented the Summers County Special Circumstance Review follow-up report for the Board's consideration. Mr. David Warvel, Superintendent, Summers County Schools, addressed the Board regarding the follow-up report.

President Hall called for a motion regarding the Summers County Special Circumstance Review Follow-up Report. Dr. Wilson moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the Summers County Special Circumstance Review Follow-up Report be approved. Upon the call for the question, the motion was carried unanimously. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment Y.)

**XIII. Lincoln County Special Circumstance Review Report (Personnel and Special Education)**

Mr. Matt Hicks (distributed information), Director, WVDE Accountability Services, presented the Lincoln County Special Circumstance Review Reports for Personnel and Special Education for the Board's consideration. Mr. Campbell departed the meeting. Mr. Jeffrey Kelley, Superintendent, Lincoln County Schools, addressed the Board regarding the reports.

President Hall called for a motion regarding the Lincoln County Special Circumstance Review Reports for Personnel and Special Education. Mr. Rotruck moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the Lincoln County Special Circumstance Review Reports for Personnel and Special Education be approved. Upon the call for the question, the motion was carried unanimously. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment Z.)

**XIV. WVBE Personnel Matters**

President Hall called for a motion to approve the Board's personnel matters. Ms. White moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the Board's personnel items be approved. Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Sullivan requested clarification regarding the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind personnel; Superintendent Burch addressed Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Sullivan's questions. Upon the call for the question, the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment P.)

**XV. Education Bills of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature of West Virginia**

Ms. Sarah Stewart, Government Affairs Counsel, WVDE Office of Legal Services, provided an update regarding the disposition of education bills of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature of West Virginia (2021). Discussion ensued regarding education bills that will impact the Board's policies.

**XVI. Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Burch addressed the Board regarding the legislative session; assisted by Dr. Jan Barth (distributed information), Assistant State Superintendent, WVDE Superintendent's Office, addressed the Board regarding the WVDE's contract/action plan with the Southern Regional Education Board; Ms. Melanie Purkey, Senior Officer, WVDE Office of Federal Programs and Support, Ms. White, and Ms. Christy Schwartz, Coordinator, WVDE Student Support and Well-being Services, provided an update regarding the American Rescue Plan (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act CARES money) and the Summer Student Opportunities for Learning and Engagement (SOLE) grant program; Superintendent Burch provided updates regarding county board of education vacancies, indicated that Jefferson County has submitted a letter requesting a special circumstance review, stated that a report will be presented in May regarding the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind including the need for a special circumstance review, announced that Ms. Georgia Hughes-Webb has been named Director of WVDE Data Analysis and Research Services, announced that the Superintendent's Education Advisory Team has identified needs and a report will be presented in May, and a private and parochial school commission has met and will continue to meet quarterly; assisted by Ms. Blatt, provided an update regarding vaccinations and outbreaks and cohort graduation rates for school years 2012-2013 through 2019-2020 and 2020 four-year state and county graduation rates. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment AA.)

**XVII. Recess**

President Hall recessed the meeting at 2:55 p.m. and announced that the meeting would reconvene on April 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the same location.

**XVIII. Reconvene**

President Miller L. Hall reconvened the April 14, 2021, meeting, at 9:00 a.m. on April 15, 2021, in the Board Conference Room, Capitol Building 6, Room 353, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia.

The following members were present: President Hall, Thomas W. Campbell (telephone), Robert W. Dunlevy, A. Stanley Maynard, F. Scott Rotruck, Debra K. Sullivan, Nancy J. White (Teams), and James S. Wilson, and ex officio W. Clayton Burch, State Superintendent of Schools. Members absent were Daniel D. Snavely and ex officio Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education.

**XIX. Resolution to Enhance Collaboration with Military Organizations and Supports for Military Families**

Mr. Robert Mellace, Coordinator, WVDE Educator Development and Support Services, presented the Resolution to Enhance Collaboration with Military Organizations and Supports for Military Families for the Board's consideration. The resolution designates April as the month of the military child, supports introduction of the Purple Star Award during the 2021-2022 school year to recognize military-friendly schools, and encourages county boards of education to engage in West Virginia Common Ground Partnership activities. In attendance for this presentation were Brig. Gen. William E. Crane, Adjutant General, and Mr. Phillip R. Cantrell, Director of Military Authority, West Virginia National Guard.

Following discussion, Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Ms. White seconded, that April be designated as the month of the military child and that the Resolution to Enhance Collaboration with Military Organizations and Supports for Military Families be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment U.)

**XX. Closure of Cedar Grove Middle School (Kanawha County)**

Ms. Amy Willard, School Operations Officer, WVDE Office of School Operations and Finance, and Dr. Thomas E. Williams, Jr., Superintendent, Kanawha County Schools, presented the closure of Cedar Grove Middle School for the Board's consideration. This closure is contingent upon the receipt of funding from the School Building Authority of West Virginia for the completion of additions and renovations to the existing Cedar Grove Elementary. Closure documents were available for public inspection for the required amount of time and a closure hearing was held for Cedar Grove Middle School on March 16, 2021. The Kanawha County Board of Education voted to approve the closure at the conclusion of the hearing on March 16, 2021.

Following discussion, Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Dr. Wilson seconded, that the closure of Cedar Grove Middle School and consolidation into Dupont Middle School be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment Q.) Mr. Campbell joined the meeting.

**XXI. Closure of Fall River Elementary School, Kimball Elementary School, and Welch Elementary School (McDowell County)**

Ms. Willard and Ms. Amanda Peyton, Assistant Superintendent, McDowell County Schools, presented the closure of Fall River Elementary, Kimball Elementary, and Welch Elementary Schools for the Board's consideration. These closures are contingent upon receipt of funding from the School Building Authority of West Virginia for the construction of a new consolidated PK-5 facility. Closure documents were available for public inspection for the

required amount of time and closure hearings were respectively held for Fall River Elementary School, Kimball Elementary School, and Welch Elementary School on March 23, March 24, and March 25, 2021, respectively. The McDowell County Board of Education voted to approve the closures and bus route changes at the conclusion of the third hearing on March 25, 2021.

The McDowell County Board of Education also requested a waiver of WVBE Policy 4336, West Virginia School Bus Transportation Policy and Procedures Manual, for the creation of two bus routes that will exceed the recommended duration of transportation time for elementary students due to the consolidation and relocation of students.

Following discussion, Ms. White moved, and Dr. Wilson seconded, that the closure and consolidation of Fall River Elementary School, Kimball Elementary School, and Welch Elementary School into a new PK-5 facility and that a waiver of Policy 4336 (transportation time) be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment R.)

**XXII. Closure of Frankfort Intermediate School, Wiley Ford Primary School, and Fort Ashby Primary School (Mineral County)**

Ms. Willard and Mr. Troy Ravenscroft, Superintendent, Mineral County Schools, presented the closure of Frankfort Intermediate School, Wiley Ford Primary School, and Fort Ashby Primary School for the Board's consideration. These closures are contingent upon the receipt of funding from the School Building Authority of West Virginia for the construction of a new consolidated primary school in the Frankfort area. Closure documents were available for public inspection for the required amount of time and closure hearings were held for Frankfort Intermediate School, Fort Ashby Primary School, and Wiley Ford Primary School on March 29, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. respectively. The Mineral County Board of Education voted to approve the closures at the conclusion of the third and final hearing on March 29, 2021.

Following discussion, Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Mr. Rotruck seconded, that the closure and consolidation of Frankfort Intermediate School, Wiley Ford Primary School, and Fort Ashby Primary School into a new primary school to be located in the Frankfort area be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment S.)

**XXIII. Closure of Buffalo Elementary School and Buffalo Middle School (Wayne County)**

Ms. Willard and Mr. Todd Alexander, Superintendent, Wayne County Schools, presented the closure of Buffalo Elementary School and Buffalo Middle School for the Board's consideration. These closures are contingent upon the receipt of funding from the School Building Authority of West Virginia for the completion of additions and renovations to the existing Buffalo Middle School. Documents were available for public inspection for the required amount of time and closure hearings were held at Buffalo Elementary School and Buffalo Middle School on March 25, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. respectively. The Wayne County Board of Education voted to approve the closures at the conclusion of the final hearing on March 25, 2021.

Following discussion, Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Dr. Wilson seconded, that the closure and consolidation of Buffalo Elementary School and Buffalo Middle School into a new Buffalo K-8

school be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment T.)

**XXIV. WVBE Member Updates**

Mrs. Sullivan provided an update regarding the expansion of the Communities In Schools initiative and spoke about her visits to Logan and Upshur Counties. Mr. Rotruck spoke about Focus Forward Beyond the Cloud events and the launch of the Ascend WV remote worker program. Dr. Wilson spoke about school closures, congratulated today's superintendents and boards for jobs well done, and issued concern regarding the need for more funding for the School Building Authority. Dr. Maynard, Dr. Wilson, Mrs. Sullivan, Ms. White, and President Hall spoke to the relevance and importance of the Purple Star initiative. President Hall spoke about the good works of The Education Alliance.

**XXV. Items for Future Meetings**

Mr. Rotruck requested a presentation about entrepreneurship. Mrs. Sullivan requested a progress report regarding equity and what student supports are available to help students graduate. Dr. Maynard requested a presentation regarding bright spots and outstanding innovation taking place in schools. President Hall would like more in-depth information regarding summer programs presented at a future meeting.

**XXVI. Future Meetings**

President Hall announced that the next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held May 12, 2021, in Charleston, West Virginia.

**XXVII. Adjourn**

Ms. White moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the meeting be adjourned; with no further business before the Board, President Hall announced the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

**Minutes approved by the Board on May 12, 2021.**

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**Miller L. Hall, President**

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**Thomas W. Campbell, Vice President**