

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Capitol Building 6, Room 353
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia
March 10, 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 10:00 a.m. on March 10, 2021, in Capitol Building 6, Room 353, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia.

The following members were present: President Hall, Robert W. Dunlevy (telephone), A. Stanley Maynard, F. Scott Rotruck, Daniel D. Snavely, Debra K. Sullivan, Nancy J. White (telephone and 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. Member absent was Thomas W. Campbell.

II. Approval of Agenda

President Hall called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Rotruck 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, addressed the Board regarding teacher comments pertaining to in-person learning and legislative bills affecting education. Dr. Mickey Blackwell, Executive Director, West Virginia Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals, requested members visit a school as often as possible and speak with principals and teachers. Mr. Fred Albert, President, American Federation of Teachers-West Virginia, and Mr. Dale Lee, President, West Virginia Education Association, addressed the Board regarding legislative bills affecting the future of education.

**IV. West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission/
West Virginia Department of Education Educator Preparation Taskforce**

Chancellor Tucker addressed the Board regarding the Promise Scholarship and efforts to assure that all eligible students make application, completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and grant availability.

Dr. Carla Warren, Director, WVDE Educator Development and Support Services, and Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, provided an overview of the work of the Educator Preparation Taskforce. Dr. Jan Barth, Assistant State Superintendent, provided information regarding a national survey she

conducted regarding teacher recruitment. (PowerPoint appended to Official Minutes, Attachment N.) Chancellor Tucker departed the meeting.

V. **Consent Agenda**

President Hall called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Rotruck moved, and Dr. Wilson 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 M.)

- Approved February 10 and 23, 2021, 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 Doddridge, Harrison, Mineral, and Wirt County Schools (Attachment D)
- Received Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage affidavits from Barbour (two), Berkeley (six), Brooke (one), Cabell (six), Fayette (five), Hampshire (two), Harrison (six), Kanawha (21), Lewis (one), Lincoln (three), Logan (16), Marion (two), McDowell (five), Mercer (20), Mingo (two), Pendleton (two), Raleigh (eight), Randolph (three), Ritchie (two), Webster (six), Wirt (two), Wood (three), and Wyoming (eight) County Schools and the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (three) (Attachment E)
- Approved 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plans (CEFP) for Brooke, Hardy, Harrison, and Jefferson Counties and the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Attachments F-1 through F-5)
- Approved an amendment of McDowell County's 2020-2030 CEFP changing the status of Sandy River Middle School from closure and consolidation to a relocation to operate as a separate school at the River View High School facility at the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year (Attachment G)
- Approved an amendment of Monongalia County's 2020-2030 CEFP to change the county's first priority project to include an addition of three STEM classrooms to the existing Monongalia County Technical Education Center facility (Attachment H)
- Appointed Ms. Tonya Hatcher, an elementary school teacher, to a three-year term on the West Virginia Commission for Professional Teaching Standards (Attachment I)

- Placed Policy 2422.7, Standards for Basic and Specialized Health Care Procedures, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment J)
- Placed Policy 4150, Student Driver Eligibility Certification, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment K)
- Placed Policy 5309, County Superintendent Performance Evaluations, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment L)
- Approved Policy 5901, Regulations for Alternative Certification Programs for the Education of Teachers, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment M).

VI. Update: Lincoln County Schools State of Emergency Executive Session

President Hall called for an executive session, as provided in W. Va. Code §6-9A-4(b)(2)(A) [personnel exception] and/or W. Va. Code §6-9A-4(b)(6) [privacy exception], to take up the Lincoln County Schools state of emergency. Dr. Snavely moved, in accordance with the legal citations provided by President Hall, that the Board enter into executive session to take up the Lincoln County state of emergency. Dr. Maynard seconded the motion and upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. The Board moved into executive session at 11:20 a.m. Mr. Matt Hicks, Director, WVDE Accountability Services, was called into executive session.

VII. Update: Lincoln County Schools State of Emergency Return from Executive Session

President Hall announced that the Board had returned from executive session at 11:45 a.m. with no action taken.

Mr. Hicks (distributed information) introduced Ms. Lynn Hurt, Mr. Terry Harless, and Ms. Paula Staley, members of the Lincoln County Accountability Support Team, who provided status reports regarding Lincoln County Schools' state of emergency. Mr. Jeff Kelley, Superintendent, Lincoln County Schools, addressed the Board regarding moving forward through teamwork and collaboration to improve Lincoln County Schools. Mr. Hicks provided information regarding next steps in the improvement process. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment O.)

VIII. WVBE Personnel Matters

President Hall called for a motion to approve the Board's personnel matters. Mr. Rotruck moved, and Dr. Wilson 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 Mc.)

IX. Break

President Hall called for a break for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

X. Call to Order

President Hall called the meeting back to order at 1:15 p.m.

XI. Education Bills of the 1st Session of the 85th Legislature of West Virginia

Ms. Sarah Stewart, Government Affairs Counsel, WVDE Office of Legal Services, provided an update of legislative education bills. Ms. Heather Hutchens, General Counsel, WVDE Office of Legal Services, provided an update regarding House Joint Resolution One (HJR1), 2021 Regular Session, a proposed amendment to the Constitution of West Virginia, that would impact the WVBE's rule-making authority. Discussion ensued regarding HJR1. Superintendent Burch requested the Board join him in issuing a public position statement regarding HJR1 and that the Board take a formal stance on HJR1.

Following discussion, Dr. Maynard moved that the WVBE stand opposed to HJR 1 and direct the State Superintendent to prepare a statement summarizing its objections. Mrs. Sullivan seconded the motion and upon the call for the question, the motion was carried unanimously.

XII. Role of the School Counselor During Coronavirus Disease (COVID)

Ms. Stephanie Hayes, Coordinator, WVDE Student Support and Well-being Services, and Mr. Derek Lambert, Coordinator, WVDE Middle and Secondary Learning Services, provided information regarding the role of the school counselor during COVID. (PowerPoint appended to Official Minutes, Attachment P.)

XIII. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Burch thanked Mr. Adam Cheeseman, Superintendent, and Mr. Denver L. Burnside, President, Doddridge County Board of Education, for making his visit productive and memorable. Superintendent Burch, assisted by Ms. Hayes, provided an overview of the West Virginia Snapshot: Student Support and Well-being website; assisted by Ms. Melanie Purkey (distributed information), Senior Officer, WVDE Office of Federal Programs and Support, provided information regarding West Virginia's federal accountability and assessment waiver to be released today for public comment for two weeks; Ms. Sonya White (distributed information), Teaching and Learning Officer, WVDE Office of Teaching and Learning, provided information regarding Summer Opportunities for Learning and Engagement (SOLE); Superintendent Burch announced that Governor Justice has made funding available to add nine counties and 37 schools to the Communities In Schools initiative for a total of 32 counties and 153 schools participating in the initiative; assisted by Ms. Christy Day, Director, WVDE Communications, presented a timeline of WVDE COVID actions; and, Superintendent Burch provided an overview of the charge and expectations of the West Virginia Superintendent's Education Advisory Team and provided an update regarding four-day in-person instruction waivers. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment Q.)

XIV. WVBE Member Updates

Mrs. Sullivan, along with several other WVBE members, attended a recent meeting of the Communities In Schools Advisory Council. Dr. Snively stated he was very pleased with the vaccine distribution. President Hall visited Shady Springs High School.

XV. WVBE Future Items

President Hall requested an in-depth discussion of counties granted four-day waivers. Mrs. Sullivan requested continuing updates regarding teacher preparation, virtual school, and other evolving topics.

XVI. Future Meetings

President Hall announced that the next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held April 14, 2021, in Charleston, West Virginia.

XVII. Adjourn

Dr. Maynard moved, and Ms. White seconded, that the meeting be adjourned; with no further business before the Board, President Hall announced the meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on April 14, 2021.

Miller L. Hall, President

Thomas W. Campbell, Vice President

*Minutes were recorded by
Virginia M. Harris
Secretary to the Board
WVBEMinutes3/10/21*