**MINUTES**

**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Capitol Building 6, Suite 600**

**1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East**

**Charleston, West Virginia**

**February 8, 2023**

**I. Call to Order**

Following the welcome and Pledge of Allegiance, President L. Paul Hardesty called the meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) to order at 9:00 a.m. on February 8, 2023, in Capitol Building 6, Suite 600, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia.

The following members were present: President Hardesty, Vice President Nancy J. White, Robert W. Dunlevy, Victor L. Gabriel, F. Scott Rotruck, Daniel D. Snavely, Christopher A. Stansbury, Debra K. Sullivan, and James S. Wilson, and ex officio David L. Roach, 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 Hardesty called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question, the motion was carried unanimously.

**III. Delegations**

Reverend Jenny Williams, West Virginia Faith Leaders Network, addressed the Board regarding school discipline and educational outcomes. Mr. David Gladkosky, Executive Director, West Virginia Professional Educators, addressed the Board regarding National School Counseling Week, the addition of social workers in elementary schools, and attracting teachers to the special education field. Reverend Matthew J. Watts, Tuesday Morning Group (Kanawha County), addressed the Board regarding ARPA funding and helping distressed areas of West Virginia. Dr. Mickey Blackwell, Executive Director, **West Virginia** Association of Elementary/Middle School Principals, addressed the Board regarding Black History Month, spoke about West Virginia State University events, and spoke to the legislature funding school safety, more counselors, fulltime principals, funding PEIA, respecting the structure of school leadership with regard to discipline. Mr. Fred Albert, President, AFT-West Virginia, and Mr. Dale Lee (distributed information), President, West Virginia Education Association, addressed the Board regarding *Solutions for Success* (summary of focus group meetings held in November and December 2022). Dr. Richard Duncan, President, West Virginia Association of School Human Resources Officials, addressed the Board regarding the recruitment and compensation of assistant teachers and other school service personnel. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment O.)

**IV. School Safety Update**

Mr. Jonah Adkins, Coordinator, WVDE Accountability Services, provided an update regarding the statewide school safety plan and the offering of supports.

**V. Update - Logan County Schools Intervention**

Ms. Charlene Coburn, Accountability Officer, WVDE Office of Support and Accountability, and Mr. Jeff Huffman, Interim Superintendent, Logan County Schools, presented an update regarding progress made by Logan County in addressing the findings and deficiencies outlined in the Logan County Schools Special Circumstance Review Report. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment A.)

**VI. Communities In Schools Update**

First Lady Cathy Justice (distributed information) provided an update regarding Communities In Schools (CIS). Currently 208 schools in 38 counties impacting 91,000 students participate in CIS; ​CIS, a drop-out prevention program, is a national non-profit which began over 40 years ago and serves students aged pre-K to 12th grade. CIS operates in 26​ states, plus the District​ of Columbia. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment P.)

**VII. WVBE Personnel Matters and Litigation Update in B.P.J. by**

**her next friend and mother, Heather Jackson**

**Executive Session**

President Hardesty called for a motion to enter in executive session. Ms. White moved, and Mr. Rotruck seconded, that the Board enter in executive session for WVBE personnel and/or legal matters as provided in W. Va. Code §6-9A-4(b)(2)(A) [personnel exception] and/or §6-9A‑4 [matters involving attorney‑client privilege per *Peters v. County Commission*, 205 W. Va. 481 (1999)]. Upon the call for the question the motion was unanimously carried; the Board moved into executive session at 10:40 a.m.

**VIII. WVBE Personnel Matters and Litigation Update in B.P.J. by**

**her next friend and mother, Heather Jackson**

**Return from Executive Session**

President Hardesty announced the Board had returned from executive session at 11:14 a.m. with no action taken and called for a motion to approve the Board’s personnel attachment. Ms. White moved, and Mr. Rotruck seconded, that the personnel attachment be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment B.)

**IX. Consent Agenda**

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Dr. Wilson seconded, that the Consent Agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachments C through M.)

* Approved the January 11, 2023, WVBE minutes (Attachment C)
* Received WVDE personnel matters (Attachment D)
* Approved Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for Gilmer, Greenbrier, Jefferson, and Pendleton Counties (Attachment E)
* Received, for submission to the Consolidated Public Retirement Board, Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage Affidavits from Barbour (two), Cabell (11), Calhoun (four), Harrison (17), Kanawha (26), Mineral (three), Morgan (three), Randolph (four), Roane (four), Wayne (two), and Wirt (three) County Schools (Attachment F)
* Approved three first-time waivers of Policy 2510, Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs, Appendix B: Training Required in Policy 2510, related to professional development for Advanced Placement® (AP®) teachers for school year 2022-2023: 1) Brooke County’srequest for a waiver of required professional development for one new teacher of AP® US Government and Politics; 2) Putnam County’s request for a waiver of required professional development for one new teacher of AP® English; and 3) Ohio County’s request for a waiver of required professional development for one teacher of AP® French at Wheeling Park High School. All teachers must attend AP® Summer 2023 trainings to continue teaching AP® courses (Attachment G)
* Approved Policy 2419, Regulations for the Education of Students with Exceptionalities, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment H)
* Approved the West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory (Attachment I)
* Accepted the Association for Advancing Quality on Education Preparation’s decision and the West Virginia Educator Preparation Program Review Board’s recommendation of Full Accreditation for Wheeling University and to remove the institution from the WVDE Corrective Action Plan (Attachment J)
* Approved the County Board Member Training Standards Review Committee Procedures of Operation (Attachment K)
* Approved the County Board Member Training Standards Review Committee 2023 Training Sessions as follow:1) highlights of new legislation and legal developments impacting public education (1.5 hours); 2) update on the status of district’s elementary and secondary school emergency relief funds (.5 hours); 3) community and technical colleges update inclusive of county college going rates (.5 hours); and 4) fiduciary duties of school board members and W. Va. Code §18-5-34. Other Authority and Duties of District Boards (.5 hours)
* Accepted the Medicaid Status Report for Fiscal Year 2022 (Attachment L)
* Received an update from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Attachment M).

**X. WVDE Reports**

Superintendent Roach provided the following updates: assisted by Ms. Michele Blatt, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Achievement and Support, provided a legislative update; assisted by Dr. Sara Lewis-Stankus, Deputy Superintendent of Administration, Ms. Christy Day, Executive Director, WVDE Office of Communications, and Ms. Kelly Griffith and Ms. Christy Swartz, Coordinators, WVDE PK-12 Academic Support Services, provided an update regarding the literacy initiative - *Ready. Read. Write. West Virginia*; assisted by Dr. Sonya White, Teaching and Learning Officer, WVDE Office of Teaching and Learning, provided an update regarding dual credit/Advanced Placement® (Attachment Mc); and assisted by Mr. Clinton Burch, Senior Officer, WVDE Office of Technical and Adult Education, provided an update regarding career technical education (Attachment N). (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment Mc and N.)

**XI. WVBE Member Updates and Requests for Information**

Dr. Snavely questioned how the literacy initiative applies to students with a learning disability and if resources are available once students are identified; Superintendent Roach and Dr. White addressed Dr. Snavely’s questions. Dr. Snavely recognized the passing of Mingo County native, Dr. Simon D. Perry, a well-known West Virginia teacher and faculty member at Marshall University. Mrs. Sullivan worked on several WVBE policies and enjoyed a Poetry Out Loud competition. Mr. Rotruck spoke about the January meeting of the West Virginia Public Education Collaborative, participated as a private sector/Angel investor on a Building Leadership panel, will travel to Mingo County for an aerospace curriculum event, visited Shepherd University’s aerospace program, and will travel to Sinclair College to observe the college’s air mobility program. Dr. Wilson spoke regarding a national article about federal funding and asked for an update regarding how these funds have been spent and spoke about the recent passing of former WVBE member Mrs. Priscilla M. Haden. Ms. White also spoke about Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding and how it is being spent in West Virginia and suggested the Board hold a finance work session to better understand the monitoring of funds. Dr. Wilson suggested expanding the work session to allow a broader scope of discussion topics.

**XII. Future Meetings**

President Hardesty announced that the next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held March 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in Charleston, West Virginia.

**XIII. Adjourn**

President Hardesty called for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

**Minutes approved by the Board on March 8, 2023.**

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**L. Paul Hardesty, President**

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**Nancy J. White, Vice President**

Minutes were recorded by

Virginia M. Harris

Secretary to the Board

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