**MINUTES**

**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Capitol Building 6, Suite 600**

**1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East**

**Charleston, West Virginia**

**March 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 March 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, F. Scott Rotruck, Daniel D. Snavely, Christopher A. Stansbury, Debra K. Sullivan, and James S. Wilson, and ex officios David L. Roach, 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 Victor L. Gabriel.

**II. Approval of Agenda and Recognition of**

**Proclamation by Governor Jim Justice of**

**March 2023 as Music In Our Schools Month**

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Dr. Wilson seconded, that the agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question, the motion was carried unanimously.

The Board recognized Governor Justice’s Proclamation of March 2023 as Music In Our Schools Month. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment I.)

**III. Delegations**

Mr. Jim Brown, Executive Director, West Virginia School Boards Association, addressed the Board regarding the impact on county boards of education fiscal year 2024 budgets due to projected Board of Risk and Insurance Management increases. Mr. Tom Belmaggio, West Virginia Athletic Trainers’ Association, addressed the Board regarding CTE and sports safety. Ms. Suzanne Konz, West Virginia Athletic Trainers’ Association and Marshall University, addressed the Board regarding athletic trainers in West Virginia high schools. Mr. Zack Garrett, West Virginia Athletic Trainers’ Association and Marshall University, addressed the Board regarding athletic training in West Virginia high schools. Ms. Kristen Olsen, Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action, addressed the Board regarding school suspension disparities. Ms. Kathy Skinner, President, Jefferson County Board of Education, addressed the Board regarding the Jefferson County Special Circumstance Review. Mr. David Gladkosky, Executive Director, West Virginia Professional Educators, addressed the Board regarding cyber threats and school safety.

**IV. School Safety Update**

Mr. Ron Arthur, Administrator for the West Virginia Division of Protective Services, School Safety Division, provided an update regarding school safety.

**V. Application for the Approval of Teach for America Appalachia to Provide a**

**Teacher Certification Program Pursuant to W. Va. Code §18A‑3‑2a(a)(1)(C)**

Mr. Robert Mellace, Coordinator, WVDE Office of Educator Development and Support, presented an application from Teach for America Appalachia to provide a teacher certification program consisting of coursework substantially aligned to West Virginia Professional Teaching Standards as adequate pursuant to meeting the requirements of W. Va. Code §18A‑3‑2a(a)(1)(C) for the Board’s consideration.

Following discussion, Mr. Rotruck moved, and Dr. Stansbury seconded, that the application from Teach for America Appalachia to provide a teacher certification program consisting of coursework substantially aligned to the West Virginia Professional Teaching Standards be approved as adequate pursuant to meeting requirements of W. Va. Code §18A‑3‑2a(a)(1)(C). Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment A.)

**VI. 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 Mrs. Sullivan 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 9:37 a.m.

**VII. 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 10:06 a.m. with no action taken and called for a motion to approve the Board’s personnel attachment. Ms. White moved, and Mrs. Sullivan 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.)

**VIII. Consent Agenda**

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Mr. Dunlevy 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 G.)

* Approved the February 8, 2023, WVBE minutes (Attachment C)
* Received WVDE personnel matters (Attachment D)
* Approved an Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policy for Preston County and a revised policy for Calhoun County (Attachment E)
* Received, for submission to the Consolidated Public Retirement Board, Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage Affidavits from Boone (14), Calhoun (two), Clay (two), Fayette (ten), Gilmer (one), Greenbrier (one), Hardy (one), Harrison (two), Jackson (three), Kanawha (six), Lewis (two), Lincoln (four), Logan (21), Marion (six), Mercer (15), McDowell (eight), Pleasants (one), Preston (three), Raleigh (17), Ritchie (three), Wetzel (one), and Wood (eight) County Schools and the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (two) (Attachment F)
* Received an update from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Attachment G).

**IX. WVDE Reports**

Superintendent Roach provided the following updates: assisted by Ms. Michele Blatt, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Achievement and Support, provided a legislative update and answered questions regarding the preparation of fiscal notes; assisted by Ms. Christy Day, Executive Director, WVDE Office of Communications, provided an update regarding the WVDE literacy initiative - *Ready. Read. Write. West Virginia* andDr. Sonya White, Teaching and Learning Officer, WVDE Office of Teaching and Learning, addressed questions regarding the teaching of cursive writing and keyboarding in schools; assisted by Mr. Tim Flatley, Coordinator, WVDE PK‑12 Academic Support Services, provided an update regarding the numeracy K-12 initiative - *UNITe with Numeracy* and answered questions regarding the initiative and number of certified mathematics instructors in West Virginia; Superintendent Roach addressed the Board regarding the *Grow Your Own* initiative; and assisted by Ms. Melanie Purkey, Federal Programs Officer, WVDE Office of Federal Programs and Support, and Ms. Laura Pauley, Director, WVDE ESEA Programs Services, provided an update regarding Elementary and Secondary School Relief/American Rescue Plan funding (Attachment H). (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment H.)

**X. Break**

President Hardesty called for a break at 11:01 a.m. Chancellor Tucker departed the meeting.

**XI. Call to Order**

President Hardesty called the meeting back to order at 11:12 a.m.

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

Mrs. Sullivan reported that she reviewed policies, attended county board member training, visited a number of schools, visited CTE Day at the Legislature, and requested information regarding the number of employees newly eligible to retire, those currently working who have come out of retirement to work in schools, and the number eligible to retire but have chosen to continue working. Mr. Rotruck spoke about a West Virginia Focus Forward Conference and week-long Bridging Innovation Conference both taking place in April. Dr. Stansbury spoke about the importance of music in education, requested a report at a future meeting on how the fine arts are being promoted by the WVDE, and stated that he will participate in an interview at his son’s school about a four-day school week. Dr. Wilson spoke about fine arts diversity and requested a presentation regarding the investigation of cyber-attacks. Mr. Dunlevy met with a number of schools. Ms. White reported that she will speak at a West Virginia School Counselors Association meeting and will attend the Southeastern Association of School Business Office Conference in early April. President Hardesty thanked staff, Superintendent Roach, Ms. Blatt, and Ms. Stephanie Abraham, WVBE Legal Counsel, for their work during the legislative session and recognized a presentation by West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind students to members of the Legislature.

**XIII. Future Meetings**

President Hardesty announced that the next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held April 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in Charleston, West Virginia.

**XIV. Adjourn**

President Hardesty called for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Ms. White seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

**Minutes approved by the Board on April 12, 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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