**MINUTES**

**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Capitol Building 6, Suite 600**

**1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East**

**Charleston, West Virginia**

**August 9, 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 August 9, 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 Michele L. Blatt, 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**

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

**III. Delegations**

Mr. Dale Lee, President, West Virginia Education Association, addressed the Board regarding the emotional and behavioral issues of children and help needed by educators to effectuate the Third Grade Success Act. Reverend Matthew J. Watts, Tuesday Morning Group (Kanawha County), addressed the Board regarding the West Side demonstration pilot project, school discipline, and student achievement gap. Dr. Mickey Blackwell, Executive Director, West Virginia Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals, addressed the Board regarding leadership versus managers.

**IV. School Safety**

Mr. Jonah Adkins, Director, WVDE Office of PK-12 Academic Support, provided an update regarding school safety.

**V. Consent Agenda**

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

* Approved the July 12, 2023, WVBE minutes (Attachment A)
* Approved audio recording device waivers, expiring August 1, 2024 (per House Bill 3271), for Barbour, Gilmer, Grant, Harrison, Lincoln, Logan, Nicholas, Pleasants, Preston, Raleigh, Ritchie, Tucker, Upshur, and Wetzel County Schools (Attachment B)
* Approved Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for Boone, Hampshire, Logan, Mason, and Monongalia County Schools (Attachment C)
* Approved Policy 2512, Tiered System of Support for Early Literacy and Numeracy, for placement on public comment for 30 days (Attachment D)
* Approved the West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory (Attachment E)
* Received an update from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Attachment F).

**VI.**  **Update: Upshur County Schools Intervention**

Mr. Jeffrey Kelley, Officer, Division of Accountability, Assessment, and Leadership Development, provided an update regarding additional non-compliances and progress toward addressing previously identified non-compliances in the Upshur County Schools Special Circumstance Review Report. Superintendent Christine Miller, and Mr. Stephen Wotring, immediate past interim Superintendent, Upshur County Schools, addressed the Board regarding progress made toward addressing non-compliances, building leadership capacity, positive change for employees and children, and working with the community in moving forward.

**VII.**  **Annual Appointment of WVBE Statutory Units/Liaisons**

President Hardesty called for a motion to appoint Mr. Rotruck to the County Board Member Training Standards Review Committee; reappoint Mrs. Sullivan to the Commission for Professional Teaching Standards; reappoint Ms. White to the Educational Broadcasting Authority; appoint Mr. Dunlevy to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission; appoint Mr. Gabriel to the Commission on Holocaust Education; and, elect President Hardesty to the School Building Authority of West Virginia, effective September 4, 2023.

Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Dr. Stansbury seconded that Mr. Rotruck be appointed to the County Board Member Training Standards Review Committee; Mrs. Sullivan be reappointed to the Commission for Professional Teaching Standards; Ms. White be reappointed to the Educational Broadcasting Authority; Mr. Dunlevy be appointed to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission; Mr. Gabriel be appointed to the Commission on Holocaust Education; and, President Hardesty be elected to the School Building Authority of West Virginia, effective September 4, 2023. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

**VIII. WVBE Personnel Matters, WVDE Personnel Matters, and**

**Litigation Update in B.P.J. by her next friend and mother,**

**Heather Jackson v. WVBE, et al.**

**Executive Session**

President Hardesty called for a motion to enter 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 carried unanimously; the Board moved into executive session at 9:40 a.m.

**IX. WVBE Personnel Matters, WVDE Personnel Matters, and**

**Litigation Update in B.P.J. by her next friend and mother,**

**Heather Jackson v. WVBE, et al.**

**Return from Executive Session**

President Hardesty announced the Board had returned from executive session at 10:26 a.m. with no action taken and called for a motion to approve the WVBE and WVDE personnel attachments. Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Ms. White seconded, that the personnel attachments be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachments G and H.)

**X.**  **Superintendent Reports**

Superintendent Blatt announced that the WVDE recently received grants for apprenticeship programs and bipartisan safer communities; awarded 21st Century Community Learning Center grants; and, the Year In Review publication has been released; assisted by Mr. Jacob Green, Superintendent, West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition, provided an overview and update regarding facilities, programs, and funding; assisted by Mr. Phillip Uy (Attachment I), Financial Officer, WVDE Office of Internal Operations, provided an overview of the FY 2024 budget for West Virginia public schools; assisted by Dr. Vaughn Rhudy (distributed information), Director, WVDE Office of Assessment, provided an overview of 2023 statewide summative assessment results. Superintendent Blatt spoke about the amendment of Policy 2512, in compliance with recent legislation (Third Grade Success Act) and provided information regarding the literacy and numeracy initiatives. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment I and addendum.)

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

Mrs. Sullivan worked with WVDE staff on several WVBE policies, worked with WVDE staff regarding the Communities In Schools initiative, and attended a meeting of the County Board Member Training Standards Review Committee; Mr. Rotruck attended a meeting with companies regarding STEM initiatives, attended a STEAM symposium at Stonewall, attended a Renaissance Academy in Morgantown, visited Leadership West Virginia, and will present at an upcoming Leadership West Virginia meeting; and, Dr. Wilson attended the INVEST Conference in Morgantown.

**XII. Future Meetings**

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the WVBE’s meeting schedule for September 2023 through August 2024. Ms. White moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the meeting schedule be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment J.)

President Hardesty announced that the next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held September 13, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in Charleston, West Virginia.

**XIII. Adjourn**

President Hardesty called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Ms. White seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

**Minutes approved by the Board on September 13, 2023.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**L. Paul Hardesty, President**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Nancy J. White, Vice President**

Minutes were recorded by

Virginia M. Harris

Secretary to the Board.

WVBEMinutes8/9/23