

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Capitol Building 6, Suite 600
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia
September 13, 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 September 13, 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 (via telephone), Daniel D. Snaveley, 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.

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. Recognition of the 2024 West Virginia Teacher of the Year
and School Service Personnel Employee of the Year**

The Board recognized Mr. Gary Brydie, school bus operator, Cabell County Schools, as the 2024 School Service Personnel Employee of the Year, and Ms. Sharon Cole, second grade teacher, Ceredo-Kenova Elementary School (Wayne County), as the 2024 Teacher of the Year.

IV. Delegations

Mr. David Gladkosky, Executive Director, West Virginia Professional Educators, addressed the Board regarding his organization's priorities and legislative goals. Mr. Fred Albert, President, AFT-West Virginia, addressed the Board regarding his organization's legislative summit, the shortage of school nurses, student discipline, and the mission of his organization. Reverend Matthew J. Watts, Tuesday Morning Group (Kanawha County), addressed the Board regarding the wonderful things happening on the West Side. Dr. Richard Duncan, Superintendent, Roane County Schools, and President, West Virginia Association of Human Resource Officials, addressed the Board regarding the certified list and the number of substitutes filing positions. Dr. Mickey Blackwell, Executive Director, West Virginia Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals, addressed the Board regarding principal responsibilities. Mr. Dale Lee, President, West Virginia Education Association, addressed the Board regarding the formation of a group to address behavior issues, the number of vacancies filled by substitutes, and visiting classroom teachers.

V. School Safety

Mr. Jonah Adkins, Director, West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Office of PK-12 Academic Support, introduced Mr. Danny Chapman, West Virginia's new Chief State School Safety Officer, who provided an update regarding school safety and funding for Prevention Resource Officers. Mr. Rob Cunningham, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, West Virginia Department of Homeland Security, was in attendance for the presentation.

VI. Consent Agenda

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. White 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 A through J.)

- Approved the August 9, 2023, WVBE minutes (Attachment A)
- Approved first-time waiver requests of Policy 2510, Appendix B: Training Required in Policy 2510, related to professional development for Advanced Placement® (AP®) teachers for: 1) one AP® European History teacher at Woodrow Wilson High School (Raleigh County); 2) one AP® World History teacher at Ripley High School (Jackson County); and, 3) one AP® Government and Politics US teacher at Philip Barbour High School (Barbour County) for school year 2023-24. The teachers will be required to attend Summer 2024 AP® training to continue teaching the course in future years (Attachment B)
- Approved Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for Brooke, Fayette, Jackson, Mineral, Morgan, Pleasants, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Upshur, and Wetzel Counties and the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Attachment C)
- Approved Employment of Retired Bus Operators as Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for Calhoun and Wetzel Counties (Attachment D)
- Accepted the West Virginia Educator Preparation Program Review Board's recommendation of approval of Marshall University's addition of a Clinical Teacher of Residence Program with Boone County (Attachment E)
- Accepted the West Virginia Educator Preparation Program Review Board's recommendation of approval of West Virginia Wesleyan College's addition of a Clinical Teacher of Residence Program with Upshur County (Attachment F)
- Approved Policy 2520.13, West Virginia College- and Career-Readiness Programs of Study/Standards for Career Technical Education, for placement on public comment for 30 days (Attachment G)

- Approved Policy 5100, Approval of Educator Preparation Programs, for placement on public comment for 30 days (Attachment H)
- Approved Policy 5310, Performance Evaluation of School Personnel, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment I)
- Received an update from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Attachment J).

**VII. 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 Mr. Dunlevy 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 10:05 a.m.

**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.
Return from Executive Session**

President Hardesty announced the Board had returned from executive session at 11:04 a.m. with no action taken and called for a motion to approve the WVBE and WVDE personnel attachments. Ms. White moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the personnel attachments be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. Chancellor Tucker departed the meeting. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachments K and L.)

IX. Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Blatt, announced the establishment of a Special Community Development School Pilot Project in schools on the West Side of Charleston; assisted by Mr. Drew McClanahan, Director, WVDE Office of Leadership Development, provided an update regarding the student behavior response plan inclusive of trainings, the future amendment of Policy 4373, and guidance provided regarding disciplinary actions allowed under House Bill 2890 (2023 Regular Session); assisted by Kathy D'Antoni, WVDE Consultant (The SPHERE), and Mr. Gary Hough, Superintendent, Fayette County Schools, provided information regarding the Middle School Empowerment Collaborative (Mr. Barry Pack, President, Fayette County Board of Education, was in attendance for this presentation); assisted by Dr. Jonathan Rollins III, Coordinator, WVDE Office of Data Analysis and Research, provided an update regarding the literacy and numeracy initiatives (Attachment M); and assisted by Mr. Tim Conzett, Officer, Division of Data Management and Information Systems, and Ms. Georgia Hughes-Webb, Director, WVDE Office of Data Analysis and Research, provided information regarding the West Virginia Balanced Scorecard. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment M.)

X. WVBE Member Updates and Requests for Information

Mrs. Sullivan continued work on Board policies, attended a ribbon cutting for a Raleigh County school, participated in Clay County's opening of school activities, and attended a West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition's summit; Dr. Wilson spoke about the simulated workplace initiative; Mr. Rotruck participated in a recent Leadership West Virginia event and attended a meeting of the West Virginia Public Education Collaborative.

XI. Future Meetings

President Hardesty announced that the next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held October 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in Charleston, West Virginia.

XII. Adjourn

President Hardesty called for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Wilson moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on October 11, 2023.

L. Paul Hardesty, President

Nancy J. White, Vice President

*Minutes were recorded by
Virginia M. Harris
Secretary to the Board.
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