

**MINUTES**  
**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Capitol Building 6, Suite 600**  
**1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East**  
**Charleston, West Virginia**  
**October 11, 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 October 11, 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 Michele L. Blatt, 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. Dr. Stansbury moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question, the motion was carried unanimously.

**III. Science Adventure School**

Mr. Greg Corio, Assistant Vice President for Outdoor Youth Advocacy and Initiatives, West Virginia University, provided an overview of the Science Adventure School. Mr. Corio was assisted by Dr. Ali Jeney, Director, and Dr. Alice Morgan, Associate Director, Science Adventure School, Ms. Kennedy Moore, Teacher, Midland Trail High School (Fayette County), Ms. June Haight, Principal, West Fairmont Middle School (Marion County), and Mr. Yahon Smith, Principal, Beckley Stratton Middle School (Raleigh County).

**IV. School Safety**

Mr. Jonah Adkins, Director, West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Office of PK-12 Academic Support, provided an update regarding school safety.

**V. Consent Agenda**

President Hardesty announced, prior to approving the Consent Agenda, that a staff member address questions regarding concerns of Mrs. Sullivan regarding Consent Agenda item 11. Policy 2512, Tiered System of Support for Early Literacy and Numeracy, Mr. Adkins addressed questions posed by Mrs. Sullivan regarding funding, implementation, and data collection.

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Gabriel moved, and Ms. White 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 Mc.)

- Approved the September 13, 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® Statistics teacher at Lincoln County High School (Lincoln County); and 2) one AP® Biology teacher at Riverside High School (Kanawha 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)
- Extended the statewide waiver of sections (as set forth in the attachment) of Policy 4336, West Virginia School Bus Transportation Regulations, Procedures, and Specifications for the Design and Equipment of School Buses, until June 30, 2024 (Attachment C)
- Continued the statewide waiver of Policy 5100, Approval of Educator Preparation Programs, to allow Residency 2 students to substitute teach for no more than five days of the placement in the district of the placement and no more than an additional five days in the building of the placement at the bachelor's level rate of pay (Attachment D)
- Approved Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for Barbour, Berkeley, Lincoln, and Mercer Counties (Attachment E)
- Approved Employment of Retired Bus Operators as Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for Berkeley and Fayette Counties (Attachment F)
- Approved the Lincoln County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to include the closure of Ranger Elementary School and its merger into West Hamlin Elementary and Harts PreK-8 at the end of the 2023-2024 school year (Attachment G)
- Approved the Mason County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to include the addition of two classrooms and an elevator at Roosevelt Elementary School (Attachment H)
- Appointed Ms. Denece Dial, Director of Personnel (Fayette County), to fill a K-12 representative vacancy on the West Virginia Educator Preparation Program Review Board (Attachment I)

- Approved revisions to the Alternative Certification of Educators program for special education, provided by Summers County Schools in partnership with Marshall University, to add the endorsements of Autism K-6 and Autism 5-Adult (Attachment J)
- Accepted the 2023 Annual Report of the West Virginia Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children (Attachment K)
- Approved Policy 2512, Tiered System of Support for Early Literacy and Numeracy, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment L-1 and L-2)
- Approved Policy 8210, Exempt Purchasing Procedures, for placement on public comment for 30 days (Attachment M)
- Received an update from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Attachment Mc).

**VI. Deed of Easement and Right-of-Way Between the West Virginia Board of Education and Town of Romney**

Ms. Lara Bissett, Attorney, WVDE Office of Legal Services, presented a Deed of Easement and Right-of-Way between the West Virginia Board of Education and Town of Romney for the Board's consideration. The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind (WVSDB) is seeking the Board's approval to grant the Town of Romney both temporary (for construction purposes) and permanent easements for the purpose of constructing, installing, operating, maintaining, repairing, or removing sanitary sewer line. The temporary construction easement will extend thirty (30) feet from North Antigo Place in Romney, West Virginia, across a portion of the WVSDB property. The permanent sanitary sewer line easement will extend fifteen (15) feet from North Antigo Place in Romney, West Virginia, across a portion of the WVSDB property.

Dr. Stansbury moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the temporary construction easement and permanent sanitary sewer line easement be approved and granted to the Town of Romney. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment N.)

**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.**

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the WVBE and WVDE personnel matters found in the attachments. Mr. Gabriel 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 O and P.)

**VIII. Superintendent Reports**

Superintendent Blatt, assisted by Mr. Clinton Burch, Technical Education Officer, WVDE Division of Career Exploration and Student Engagement, provided an update regarding middle

school career technical education; and, assisted by Ms. Alexandra Criner, Director, WVDE Office of Accountability, and Ms. Margaret Williamson, Director, WVDE Office of School/District Improvement, provided an overview of county efficiency indicators (Attachment Q). (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment Q.)

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

Mrs. Sullivan distributed information (Attachment R) regarding Communities In Schools and announced that 15 new counties have joined, continues her policy work, attended meetings of the West Virginia Commission for Professional Teaching Standards and Educators Rising, and requested, for future meetings, an update on statewide personnel shortages, and information that would compare the requirements for various renditions of schools now in place in West Virginia, and cuts occurring in higher education that affects teacher preparation programs, funding for schools, and the impact of HOPE scholarship on same. Mr. Rotruck assisted in the relaunch of the West Virginia Public Education Collaborative's K-12 Speakers Bureau, attended the second meeting of the Renaissance Academy, and will guest lecture at several events in the coming weeks. Ms. White attended the West Virginia Association of School Business Officials fall conference and recognized Ms. Celia Cole and Ms. Megan McRobie, students at Keyser High School (Mineral County Schools), who won top honors during the 2023 Microsoft Office Specialist Competitions. President Hardesty attended an aerospace event in Mingo County. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment R.)

**X. Future Meetings**

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

**XI. Adjourn**

President Hardesty called for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Wilson moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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

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**L. Paul Hardesty, President**

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**Nancy J. White, Vice President**