

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Capitol Building 6, Suite 600
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia
November 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 November 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 (via remote), Robert W. Dunlevy, Victor L. Gabriel, F. Scott Rotruck, Daniel D. Snively, 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 stated that Marion County requested that *New Business* item *C. Amendment - Marion County Board of Education 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP)* be removed from the agenda and called for a motion to approve the adjusted agenda. Mr. Gabriel moved, and Mr. Rotruck seconded, that the adjusted agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question, the motion was carried unanimously. President Hardesty directed that Marion County's correspondence requesting removal of the item be made part of the minutes at Attachment Q.

III. Recognition

The Board recognized Mr. Shawn Ball and Mr. David Ball, Ball Toyota of Charleston, for their contributions to the Communities In Schools initiative.

IV. Delegations

Mr. David Gladkosky, Executive Director, West Virginia Professional Educators (WVPE), addressed the Board regarding the WVPE's annual member survey. Mr. Fred Albert, President, AFT-West Virginia, addressed the Board regarding school safety. Dr. Mickey Blackwell, Executive Director, West Virginia Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals, addressed the Board regarding monthly reporting of measurable goals. Following remarks by delegations, President Hardesty addressed the assembly regarding the Board's authority as a policy-making body and local control versus local accountability.

V. School Safety

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

VI.

Consent Agenda

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Sullivan questioned *Consent Agenda* item 8. *Amendment/Facility Improvement - Tucker County Board of Education 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP)* regarding the number and location of schools not having municipal sewer access; Mr. Micah Whitlow, Director, WVDE Office of School Facilities, addressed Mrs. Sullivan's question. Dr. Snavelly 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 N.)

- Approved the October 11, 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[®] Calculus AB teacher at Buffalo High School (Putnam County); and 2) one AP[®] World History teacher at Eastern Panhandle Preparatory Academy 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 Marion, Pendleton, Putnam, and Wayne Counties, and a revised policy for Jackson County (Attachment C)
- Approved Employment of Retired Bus Operators as Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for Boone and Putnam Counties and a revised policy for Calhoun County (Attachment D)
- Received three Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage affidavits from Lincoln County (Attachment E)
- Approved the Grant County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to include a classroom and commons area addition to Petersburg Elementary School and make it a top priority (Attachment F)
- Approved the Harrison County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to include: 1) the closure of Norwood Elementary School and its merger into Nutter Fort Primary, Nutter Fort Intermediate, and Simpson Elementary Schools at the end of the 2023-2024 school year; and 2) a six-classroom addition to Nutter Fort Primary and a multi-purpose room with two classroom addition to Simpson Elementary (Attachment G)
- Approved the Logan County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to include structural repairs at Logan Middle School and make it a top priority (Attachment H)

- Approved the Tucker County Board of Education’s request to amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to include a wastewater treatment plant replacement at Tucker County High School and make it a top priority (Attachment I)
- Approved the South Branch Career and Technical Center’s request to amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to include an electrical upgrade to their facility and make it a top priority (Attachment J)
- Appointed Ms. Allison Cline, Dunbar Primary School (Kanawha County), to fill an elementary school representative vacancy on the West Virginia Commission for Professional Teaching standards (Attachment K)
- Approved the West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory (Attachment L)
- Approved Policy 2520.13, West Virginia College- and Career-Readiness Programs of Study/Standards for Career Technical Education, as amended, effective July 1, 2024 (Attachment M-1 and M-2)
- Approved Policy 5100, Approval of Educator Preparation Programs, as amended, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment Mc-1 and Mc-2)
- Received an update from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Attachment N).

VII. Special Circumstance Review Report for Hampshire County Schools: Special Education Services

Ms. Alexandra Criner, Director, WVDE Office of Accountability, presented the Special Circumstance Review Report for Hampshire County Schools: Special Education Services for the Board’s consideration.

Following discussion of the report’s findings, President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the report. Dr. Stansbury moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the report be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. President Hardesty called on Superintendent Blatt to provide recommendations regarding the report. Superintendent Blatt made the following recommendations:

1. that the WVBE declare that a state of emergency exists in Hampshire County Schools in the area of special education services pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-2E-5(m)(2);
2. that the State Superintendent appoint designees, which may include current WVDE employees and/or experienced education professionals to be employed pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-2E-5(j) to coordinate on-site school improvement efforts with the current county superintendent;
3. that the designees be directed to provide recommendations for correction of the extraordinary circumstances which shall be communicated to the county board; and

4. that if the progress in correcting the extraordinary circumstances is not made in six months from the time the county board receives the recommendations, the WVBE shall intervene in the operation of the school system.

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the recommendations as stated by Superintendent Blatt. Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Mr. Gabriel seconded, that the recommendations be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment O.)

**VIII. Amendment - Nicholas County Board of Education 2020-2030
Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP)**

Mr. Whitlow and Mr. Terrence Beam, Superintendent, Nicholas County Schools, presented an amendment to the Nicholas County Board of Education 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) for the Board's consideration. The revision includes the closure and consolidation of Glade Creek Elementary, Summersville Elementary, and Summersville Middle Schools into a new PreK-8 school on the Glade Creek Site. It also alters the previously identified plans for Nicholas County High School and Nicholas County Career and Technical Center from moving into the new facility at the Glade Creek Site to remaining in their current configurations and locations.

Following discussion, Mr. Rotruck moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, the Nicholas County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 CEFP be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment P.)

**IX. Amendment - Marion County Board of Education 2020-2030
Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP)**

At the request of the Marion County Board of Education this item was removed from the agenda. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment Q and addendum.)

X. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the WVBE personnel matters found in the attachment. Dr. Wilson moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the WVBE personnel attachment be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment R.)

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the WVDE personnel matters found in the attachment. Ms. White moved, and Mr. Rotruck seconded, that the WVDE personnel attachment be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachments S.)

XI. Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Blatt, assisted by Mr. Timothy Flatley, Coordinator, WVDE Office of PK-12 Academic Support, provided an update regarding UNITE with Numeracy; Superintendent Blatt provided an update regarding the accountability process; assisted by Mr. Whitlow provided

an update regarding the 2022-2023 School Safety and Security Report (Attachment T); and Superintendent Blatt announced that the 2023-2024 West Virginia Public Education Snapshot is now available. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment T.)

XII. WVBE Member Updates and Requests for Information

Dr. Snavely spoke about a third grader that was saved because an automated external defibrillator (AED) was available at the school and questioned if AEDs were available in every school. Mr. Gabriel spoke to security in schools and indicated that many counties may have carryover funds to address priorities such as security and waste treatment and reported that he attended the West Virginia Association of School Administrators Professional Development Meeting. Mrs. Sullivan continues her policy work with WVDE staff and attended several events including: Communities In Schools, safety conference, reveal of Milken Educator in Putnam County, and Educators Rising event. Mr. Rotruck visited the Science Adventure School and participated in an archery program. Dr. Stansbury spoke regarding the utilization of facilities, growing the population to support infrastructure, and counties looking at their budgets and making tough decisions. Mr. Dunlevy visited a couple of counties with Superintendent Blatt and spoke to the consolidation of schools in Ohio County. Ms. White spoke about the Science Adventure School and getting more students involved and reported that she attended the West Virginia Association of School Administrators Professional Development and Membership Meetings and Common Ground Partnership fall meeting. President Hardesty spoke to Dr. Wilson's tenure on the Board and thanked him for his service. Dr. Wilson spoke about his educational career, service as a local county board of education member, and tenure as a WVBE member. Superintendent Blatt thanked Dr. Wilson for his support, service, and dedication to the students of West Virginia over the past nine years.

XIII. Future Meetings

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

XIV. Adjourn

President Hardesty called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rotruck moved, and Mr. Gabriel seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on December 13, 2023.

L. Paul Hardesty, President

Nancy J. White, Vice President