**MINUTES**

**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Capitol Building 6, Suite 600**

**1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East**

**Charleston, West Virginia**

**January 10, 2024**

**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 January 10, 2024, 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. Snavely, Christopher A. Stansbury, Debra K. Sullivan, and Gregory F. Wooten, 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 requested that *Consent Agenda* item *B.1.* *Waiver of Policy 2340, West Virginia Measures of Academic Progress, Section 4.8.a., for Virtual Charter Public Schools*be removed from the agenda and taken up at a later date and called for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Ms. White seconded, that the amended agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question, the motion was carried unanimously.

**III. Delegations**

Ms. Jody Miller (provided information for the minutes), resident of Ohio County and Federal Programs Secretary, Ohio County Schools, spoke regarding the Heather Miller Memorial and invited the Board to attend the red‑carpet screening of her daughter’s story in episode one of Gifted: The Docuseries on March 15 in Wheeling; GIFTED, The Docuseries, which shares the heroic stories of organ donation and transplantation to encourage a nationwide social discussion. Mr. David Gladkosky (distributed information), Executive Director, West Virginia Professional Educators (WVPE), addressed the Board regarding the WVPE’s 2024 legislative goals. Dr. Mickey Blackwell, Executive Director, **West Virginia** Association of Elementary/Middle School Principals, addressed the Board regarding the opening of a doctoral program in leadership at West Virginia State University and stated that there will now be one organization representing all school principals called the West Virginia Principals Association. Mr. Fred Albert, President, AFT-West Virginia, addressed the Board regarding the organization’s legislative goals and the Reading Opens the World program. Mr. Dale Lee, President, West Virginia Education Association, addressed the Board regarding the legislative session and problems facing education. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment B.)

**IV. School Safety**

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

**V. County Technical Assistance Update**

Mr. Jeffrey Kelley, Assistant State Superintendent, WVDE Division of Accountability, Assessment, and Leadership Development, provided an update regarding technical assistance provided to counties.

**VI. Consent Agenda**

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Gabriel 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 and C through J.)

* Approved the December 13, 2023, WVBE minutes (Attachment A)
* Approved a waiver request of Policy 2444.4, Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma and Option Pathway, section 3.1, for the Mountaineer Challenge Academy North and Mountaineer Challenge Academy South, which requires all applicants (students) to pass an approved practice test with the minimum score as determined by the WVDE with the waiver being effective for the remainder of school year 2023-2024 and continuing to school year 2024‑2025 or until such time as Policy 2444.4 is amended and adopted (Attachments C-1 and C-2)
* Approved Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for Braxton, Hardy, and Summers Counties (Attachment D)
* Approved Employment of Retired Bus Operators as Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for Braxton and Jackson Counties (Attachment E)
* Received and approved eight substitute teacher and seven substitute bus operator affidavits received from Berkeley County for submission to the Consolidated Public Retirement Board
* Approved the Marion County Board of Education’s request to amend their 2020-2030 to add the consolidation of Pleasant Valley Elementary and East Park Elementary into a new elementary school facility. Marion County will be proposing to its citizens in the 2024 primary election a capital improvement bond issue to fund the identified project and will be requesting conditional approval from the School Building Authority of West Virginia (SBA) to have that agency be identified in the finance plan for the proposed bond issue. SBA funding would be contingent upon the successful passage of the proposed bond issue and final approval by the SBA (Attachment F)
* Accepted the West Virginia Educator Preparation Program Review Board's recommendation of approval of Concord University's addition of a Clinical Teacher of Record Program with Summers County (Attachment G)
* Approved the West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory (Attachment H)
* Approved the West Virginia Career and Technical Education (CTE) Endorsement and Testing Manual(Attachment I)
* Approved the 2024 training sessions for county board members as recommended by the West Virginia Board of Education/West Virginia School Board Association County Board Member Training Standards Review Committee (Attachment J).

**VII.** **Special Circumstance Review Report of Philippi Middle School (Barbour County)**

Ms. Alexandra Criner, Director, WVDE Office of Accountability, presented the Special Circumstance Review Report of Philippi Middle School (Barbour County), conducted on November 9, 2023, for the Board’s consideration. Mr. Eddie Vincent, Superintendent, Barbour County Schools, spoke regarding the report and answered questions from the Board.

Following discussion, Dr. Stansbury moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the report be accepted. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment L.)

**VIII. Statewide Waiver of Policy 8200, Purchasing Policies and**

**Procedures Manual for Local Educational Agencies, Section 3.2.5.c.**

Mr. Uriah Cummings, Director, WVDE Office of School Operations, presented a statewide waiver of Policy 8200, section 3.2.5.c, for the Board’s consideration. This waiver will allow county boards of education to enter into contracts with vendors with up to four renewals solely if the contract is related to the right to use digital subscription-based information technology agreements (SBITAs) associated with accessing digital textbooks. In accordance with W. Va. Code §18‑2A-10 and Policy 2445.40, *Instructional Resources*, county boards of education are required to review and adopt required resources to be used in the schools with an adoption period being established for, unless otherwise noted, five years. Instructional resources, as referenced in Policy 2445.40, would include access to digital textbooks associated with the adoption. County boards who choose to utilize this waiver must ensure that all other provisions of Policy 8200 are followed.

President Hardesty call for a motion regarding the Policy 8200, section 3.2.5.c, waiver request. Ms. White moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the waiver request of Policy 8200, section 3.2.5.c, be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment K.)

**IX. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters**

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

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

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

Superintendent Blatt, assisted by Dr. Erika Klose, Coordinator, WVDE Office of PK-12 Academic Support, provided an overview of an Artificial Intelligence Guidance Document. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment N.)

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

Mr. Gabriel stated that he was optimistic that the Board President and Superintendent will work closely with the legislature during the upcoming session. Mrs. Sullivan visited the Donald R. Kuhn and Tiger Morton Juvenile Centers and attended elementary/middle school robotics events. Mr. Wooten thanked everyone for welcoming him. Ms. White attended and provided remarks at the Teacher and School Service Personnel of the Year sponsorship event.

**XII. Future Meetings**

President Hardesty announced that the next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held February 14, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., in Charleston, West Virginia.

**XIII. Adjourn**

President Hardesty called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Dr. Stansbury seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

**Minutes approved by the Board on February 14, 2024.**

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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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