

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Capitol Building 6, Suite 600
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia
July 8, 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 July 8, 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, Christopher A. Stansbury, 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. Members absent were Daniel D. Snaveley and Debra K. Sullivan.

II. Approval of Agenda

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Mr. Wooten seconded, that the agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

III. Delegations

Mr. William A. Parker, Member, Upshur County Board of Education, addressed the Board regarding his goals to improve Upshur County Schools.

IV. School Safety

Mr. Jonah Adkins, Director, West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Office of School Safety, provided an update on school safety and training meetings that took place in May.

V. County Technical Assistance Update

Mr. Jeffrey Kelley, Assistant State Superintendent, WVDE Division of District and School Accountability, provided an update on technical assistance provided to counties.

VI. Consent Agenda

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. White moved, and Dr. Stansbury 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 June 12, 2024, WVBE minutes (Attachment A)

- Approved an employment of substitute teachers in areas of critical need and shortage policy for Calhoun County (Attachment B)
- Approved an employment of retired bus operators as substitutes in areas of critical need and shortage policy for Calhoun County (Attachment C)
- Approved statewide waiver requests of Policy 8200 at sections 3.2.3.a, 7.11.1, and 7.11.2 for school year 2024-2025 or until such time as Policy 8200 is amended (Attachments D-1 and D-2)
- Approved the Career Technical Education (CTE) Endorsements and Testing Manual (Attachment E)
- Approved the West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory (Attachment F)
- Accepted AAQEP's decision and granted Full Accreditation to the University of Charleston (Attachment G)
- Approved Policy 2436.10, Participation in Extracurricular Activities, as amended effective 30 days from filing (Attachments H-1 and H-2)
- Approved Policy 2520.4, West Virginia College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Social Studies, as amended, effective July 1, 2025 (Attachments I-1 and H-2)
- Approved Policy 8100, Public School Finance, as amended, effective 30 days from filing (Attachments J-1 and J-2)
- Approved Policy 8224, Increased Enrollment, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment K)
- Approved West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Series 1, Constitution, Series 2, Athletics, Provisions Governing Eligibility, Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests, and Series 4, Provisions Governing Conduct, effective 60 days from filing (Attachments L-1, L-2, L-3, and L-4)
- Received the Annual Report on the Number of High School Diplomas Issued in Accordance with Policy 4355, High School Diplomas for Veterans (Attachment M)
- Received the Report of 2023-2024 Waivers of WVBE Policies and Regulations, Superintendent's Interpretations, State Statutes, and Legislative Rules (Attachment Mc)
- Received an update from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Attachment N).

**VII. Update: Hampshire County Schools
Special Education Services State of Emergency**

Mr. Kelley, assisted by Ms. Alexandra Criner, Director, WVDE Office of Accountability, Ms. Sheila Paitsel, Director, and Mr. Jonathan Shank, Coordinator, WVDE Office of Special Education, provided an update and answered questions regarding progress made toward addressing the findings and deficiencies outlined in the Hampshire County Schools Special Education Services Review Report. Mr. Jeffrey Pancione, Superintendent, and Ms. Amanda Billmeyer, Director, Special Education, Upshur County Schools, addressed the Board regarding progress made and answered questions from members.

President Hardesty requested that Superintendent Blatt provide a recommendation regarding the report. Superintendent Blatt recommended that the Board continue the State of Emergency for an additional six months. President Hardesty called for a motion in support of Superintendent Blatt's recommendation. Mr. Wooten moved, and Mr. Gabriel seconded, that Superintendent Blatt's recommendation be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

VIII. Update: Logan County Schools Intervention

Mr. Kelley provided an update regarding progress made toward addressing the findings and deficiencies outlined in the Logan County Schools Special Circumstance Review Report. Mr. Jeff Huffman, Superintendent, Logan County Schools, addressed questions from the Board regarding progress made in response to the intervention. Mr. Wooten issued concern regarding facility issues and the lack of data in support of accomplishments; President Hardesty addressed the assembly regarding the status of Logan County Schools.

IX. Update: Upshur County Schools Intervention

Mr. Kelley provided an update regarding progress made toward addressing the findings and deficiencies outlined in the Upshur County Schools Special Circumstance Review Report. Dr. Christine Miller, Superintendent, Upshur County Schools, addressed the Board regarding progress made in response to the intervention.

X. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the WVBE personnel matters found in the attachment. Ms. White moved, and Mr. Rotruck 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 O.)

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the WVDE personnel matters found in the attachment. Mr. Wooten moved, and Mr. Dunlevy 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 P.)

XI. WVDE Reports

Superintendent Blatt provided information regarding the STAR Academy, grant awards to eight elementary schools to improve attendance and behavior, and formation of a team to begin

work on a cell phone policy. Superintendent Blatt thanked President Hardesty for his past two years of service, guidance, and support.

XII. WVBE Member Updates and Requests for Information

Members thanked President Hardesty for his tremendous guidance and service over the past two years. Chancellor Tucker spoke about next week's P-20 Conference. President Hardesty expressed his appreciation for everyone's kind words and thanked staff for their assistance over the past two years.

XIII. Future Meetings

President Hardesty announced that the next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held August 14, 2024, in Charleston, West Virginia.

XIV. Election of Officers

President Hardesty called for nominations. Mr. Dunlevy recommended that Ms. White be elected as President, Mr. Gabriel be elected as Vice President, Mr. Rotruck be elected as Secretary, and Mr. Hardesty be elected as Legislative Liaison. President Hardesty called for further nominations. When no additional other nominations were offered President Hardesty called for a motion to approve Mr. Dunlevy's recommendations. Mr. Wooten moved that Mr. Dunlevy's recommendations be approved. Dr. Stansbury seconded the motion and upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

XV. Adjourn

President Hardesty called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wooten moved, and Mr. Gabriel seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on August 14, 2024.

Nancy J. White, President

Victor L. Gabriel, Vice President