

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Capitol Building 6, Suite 600
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia
August 14, 2024

I. Call to Order

Following the welcome and Pledge of Allegiance, President Nancy J. White called the meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) to order at 10:00 a.m. on August 14, 2024, in Capitol Building 6, Suite 600, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia.

The following members were present: President White, Vice President Victor L. Gabriel, Robert W. Dunlevy, L. Paul Hardesty (via remote), F. Scott Rotruck, Daniel D. Snavely, Debra K. Sullivan, 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.

II. Approval of Agenda

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

III. Recognitions

The Board recognized Mathematical Habits of Mind poster contest winners: Ms. Miranda Barger, Morgantown High School (Monongalia County), Ms. Seboeda Bria, George Washington High School (Kanawha County), and Ms. Avya Talwar, Bridgeport Middle School (Harrison County). (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment P.)

IV. Delegations

Mr. Chad Conley, Wood County resident, addressed the Board about concerns with the Wood County Board of Education and new school construction. Ms. Tamaya Browder, West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy, addressed the Board about school discipline. Dr. Mickey Blackwell, Executive Director, West Virginia Principals Association, addressed the Board regarding meeting the needs of kids, invited members to visit schools, and to continue to work on numerous issues to improve student achievement. Mr. Fred Albert, President, AFT-West Virginia, addressed the Board about the start of school, visiting new teachers, and spoke of his support for public schools. Mr. Dale Lee, President, West Virginia Education Association (WVEA), addressed the Board about beginning of the year excitement (first day) and fear (lack of qualified staff, student suspensions and other student challenges) upon the start of school

**V. West Virginia Public Education Collaborative (WVPEC)
K-12 Speakers Bureau**

Mr. Clinton Burch, Assistant State Superintendent, WVDE Division of PK-Adult Instruction and Career Engagement, provided an overview of the K-12 Speakers Bureau and introduced Ms. Donna Peduto (distributed information), Executive Director, WVPEC, who provided an update regarding resources and speakers. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment Q,)

VI. School Safety

Mr. Jonah Adkins, Director, West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Office of Safety and Tiered Support Systems, provided an update on school safety.

VII. County Technical Assistance Updates

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

VIII. Consent Agenda

President White called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Stansbury moved, and Mr. Gabriel 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 M.)

- Approved the July 8, 2024, WVBE minutes (Attachment A)
- Approved Wood County Schools' request for a waiver of Policy 4336, West Virginia School Bus Transportation Regulations, Procedures, and Specifications for the Design and Equipment of School Buses, sections 2.13.g (floor shall not be black) and 1.31.a (3000 Pupil Transport Series, 77 to 90 passenger). The buses requiring the waivers have black floors, are 2500 Pupil Transport Series, 77 to 90 passengers, and are currently available for purchase (Attachment B)
- Approved a statewide waiver of Policy 5202, Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Professional/Paraprofessional Personnel and Advanced Salary Classifications, section 11.9.d, to permit Grow Your Own West Virginia participants that have graduated high school, are 18 years of age, have successfully completed an associate degree or 60 college credit hours, and are currently enrolled in a WVBE-approved educator preparation program leading to licensure to substitute in elementary and middle school classrooms until such time as Policy 5202 is amended (Attachment C)

- Approved employment of substitute teachers in areas of critical need and shortage policies for Barbour, Boone, Fayette, Hampshire, Jackson, Logan, Monongalia, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Taylor, Upshur, and Wetzel Counties and the West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition (Attachment D)
- Approved employment of retired bus operators as substitutes in areas of critical need and shortage policies for Boone, Fayette, Hampshire, Jackson, Raleigh, and Upshur Counties (Attachment E)
- Approved the Monroe County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to include renovations and the construction of additional classrooms at James Monroe Technical Center. The project will enhance the school's educational offerings and is proposed to be funded through local funds and a grant from the School Building Authority of West Virginia (Attachment F)
- Approved, as recommended by the West Virginia Educator Preparation Program Review Board, Marshall University's request to add Supervisor of Instruction and Superintendent initial licensure and certificate endorsements to the existing Principal initial licensure and certificate in the Educational Leadership program (Attachment G)
- Approved, as recommended by the West Virginia Educator Preparation Program Review Board, West Liberty University's request to add a new Speech Language Therapist initial license to the existing Educator Preparation Program (Attachment H)
- Approved Policy 1241, Notice and Conduct of Meetings, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment I)
- Approved Policy 4110, Attendance, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment J)
- Approved Policy 2423, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, for placement on comment for 30 days (Attachments K)
- Approved Policy 8500, Competitive Grant Application and Award Process, for placement on public comment for 30 days (Attachment L)
- Received an update from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Attachment M).

IX. Annual Appointment of WVBE Statutory Units/Liaisons

President White announced a change to the appointments and called for a motion to appoint herself (formerly L. Paul Hardesty) to the County Board Member Training Standards Review

Committee; appoint Debra K. Sullivan to the Educational Broadcasting Authority; reappoint Robert W. Dunlevy to the Secondary School Activities Commission; and elect Victor L. Gabriel to the School Building Authority of West Virginia, effective September 4, 2024.

Mr. Wooten moved, and Dr. Snively seconded, that the recommendations as stated by President White be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

**X. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters
Executive Session**

Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the Board move into executive session. Mr. Gabriel stated the provisions (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)] allowing the executive session. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. The Board entered into executive session at 11:08 a.m.

**XI. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters
Return from Executive Session**

President White announced that the Board had returned from executive session at 11:33 a.m. with no decisions made or action taken and called for a motion to approve the WVBE personnel matters found in the attachment. Mr. Hardesty did not return to the meeting upon the Board's return from executive session. Mr. Gabriel moved, and Dr. Stansbury seconded, that the WVBE personnel matters found in the attachment be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried with seven members voting yes and one member abstaining. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment Mc.)

President White called for a motion to approve the WVDE personnel matters found in the attachment. Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Mr. Gabriel 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 N.)

XII. WVDE Reports

Superintendent Blatt, assisted by Dr. Vaughn Rhudy (distributed information), Director, WVDE Office of Assessment, provided information regarding the 2024 West Virginia Statewide Summative Assessments Results. Dr. Snively departed the meeting. Superintendent Blatt, assisted by Ms. Mimi Browning, Coordinator, WVDE Office of Special Education, spoke about resources available to educators, families, and children from ParentGuidance.org. ParentGuidance.org is supported through an on-going grant from the Cook Center for Human Connection. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment R.)

XIII. WVBE Member Updates and Requests for Information

Mr. Rotruck reported that he will speak to Leadership West Virginia tomorrow. Mr. Wooten requested business cards carry a QR code and perhaps WVDE initiatives could appear on the back of business cards. Mrs. Sullivan worked on policy, met with internal staff regarding

policy, spent time with students at a juvenile facility, attended a Communities In Schools site coordinator event, met with Communities In Schools national leadership, and attended a scholarship event honoring rising college freshmen. Mrs. Sullivan, speaking on the behalf of the Board, recognized the Board's secretary, retiring September 1 after many years of service, and thanked her for her service to the WVBE and the WVDE.

XIV. Future Meetings


President White called for a motion to approve the WVBE's meeting schedule (September 2024 through August 2025). Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Mr. Gabriel seconded, that the WVBE's meeting schedule (September 2024 through August 2025) be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment O.)

President White announced that the next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held September 11, 2024, in Charleston, West Virginia.

XV. Adjourn

President White called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wooten moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on September 11, 2024.



Nancy J. White, President



Victor L. Gabriel, Vice President

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