

AGENDA

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Capitol Building 6, Suite 600
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia
February 12, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.

- I. **Welcome - Pledge of Allegiance - Introductions - Call to Order**
Nancy J. White, President
- II. **Approval of Agenda - (Action)**
Nancy J. White
- III. **Recognition(s) – (Information)**
Christy Day
- IV. **Delegation(s) - (Information)**
Christy Day
- V. **Consent Agenda - (Action)**

- A. **Approval of Minutes - (Action)**

[Attachment A](#)

It is recommended that the **minutes of the December 11, 2024, meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE)** be approved.

- B. **Routine Business**

- 1. **Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage - (Action)**
Kelli Talbott

[Attachment B](#)

It is recommended that the **Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for Cabell, Greenbrier, Hancock, Jefferson, Lewis, Nicholas, Roane and Summers counties** be approved.

- 2. **Employment of Retired Bus Operators as Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage - (Action)**
Kelli Talbott

[Attachment C](#)

It is recommended that the **Employment of Retired Bus Operators as Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policy for Jefferson County** be approved.

- 3. **Employment of Substitute Teachers and/or Bus Drivers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage Affidavits - (Action)**

[Attachment D](#)

Kelli Talbott

Pursuant to W. Va. Code §18A-2-3(c)(2)(G) and §18A-4-15a(b)(2)(F), affidavits from counties must be received and approved by the WVBE for submission to the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.

It is recommended that the **affidavits listed in the attachment be received and approved for submission to the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.**

4. **Cabell County Schools Waiver Request of Policy 2510, *Assuring Quality Education: Regulations for Education Programs* – (Action)
Joey Wiseman**

[Attachment E](#)

Cabell County Schools is requesting a waiver of §9.1.h. *Uniform Grading Scale* to ensure that their student's ability to graduate is not jeopardized by the current grading process.

It is recommended that **Cabell County School's request for a waiver of §9.1.h. *Uniform Grading Scale* of Policy 2510 be approved.**

5. **Alternative Certification Educator Preparation Program Review Board (ACEPPRB) Appointments – (Action)
Robert Mellace**

[Attachment F](#)

The ACEPPRB makes recommendations to the WVBE regarding the approval of initial and continuing alternative certification programs for the education of teachers. These programs make it possible for qualified individuals to earn a teacher certification that will help alleviate staff vacancies in areas of critical need and shortage. According to Policy 5901, the ACEPPRB is comprised of nine members who may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms: two members represent higher education; three members (one who was alternatively prepared) represent public education, one at each programmatic level for elementary, middle and high school; two members represent county offices; one member is a principal appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools; and one member is from the West Virginia Commission for Professional Teaching Standards. The current vacancies are for one middle school teacher and one high school teacher, to be appointed by the WVBE. The high school teacher is alternatively certified, in accordance with the policy.

It is recommended that Jacob Ruddle and Jennifer Turbanic's appointment to serve on the ACEPPRB be approved.

6. **Innovation in Education Demonstration School Designations – (Action)**

[Attachment G](#)

Joey Wiseman

Martinsburg High School and Wheeling Park High School have continued their work on Mastery-based Learning through the Innovation in Education Act since 2019. If designated as an Innovation in Education Demonstration School, host visits of school facilities and programs will be afforded to other county and school administrators to observe successful innovations that may be implemented in their schools. The county superintendents, school principals, WVDE staff, and faculty senate chairs agree that these schools should be designated as West Virginia's first demonstration schools through the Innovation in Education Act.

It is recommended that the request for **Martinsburg High School and Wheeling Park High School be designated as a demonstration school be approved.**

7. **Policy 4374, Personal Electronic Device Usage In Schools – (Action)** [Attachment H](#)
Drew McClanahan

This is a new policy that establishes minimum standards and requirements for county boards of education to limit the use of personal electronic devices by students in grades K-12 during instructional school days to ensure that personal electronic devices do not interfere with the educational process or infringe on the rights of other students. The policy is expected to minimize disruption during instructional time and increase academic achievement for public school students.

It is recommended that **Policy 4374 be placed on public comment for 30 days from filing.**

8. **Waiver Request of Policy 5202, Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Professional/Paraprofessional Personnel and Advanced Salary Classifications – (Action)** [Attachment I](#)
Robert Hagerman

To better serve and fill positions at the county level for School Business Officials and Professional Accountants, a waiver of sections 10.5.a.4, 10.5.b.2, and 10.5.b.4 of Policy 5202, Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Professional/Paraprofessional Personnel and Advanced Salary Classifications, is requested. The waiver will provide flexibility in an applicant's ability to satisfy initial and renewal requirements.

It is recommended that the **request to waive §10.5.a.4, §10.5.b.2, and §10.5.b.4 of Policy 5202 until the policy is revised be approved.**

VI. New Business

A. West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC) Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests, Provisions Governing Conduct - (Action)
David Price

[Attachment J](#)

Most public schools and several private schools in West Virginia belong to the WVSSAC. Each year the principals of member schools submit revisions to the rules and regulations. The submitted proposals are presented and voted upon at the annual Board of Control meeting. Any approved changes are then submitted to the WVBE for review and approval. The proposals included in this rule revision, dealing solely with classification, were presented at a special meeting of the Board of Control on October 24, 2024. The special meeting was held based on a decision rendered by the Review Board in August 2024.

It is recommended that **WVSSAC Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests be rejected and returned to the WVSSAC for further deliberation that includes, but is not limited to, §127-3-10 and Appendix 1 of the proposed rule.**

B. Nicholas County Schools' Closure and Consolidation of Summersville Elementary School, Glade Creek Elementary School, and Summersville Middle School - (Action)
Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Terrence Beam

[Attachment K](#)

The Nicholas County Board of Education respectfully requests approval for the closure and consolidation of Summersville Elementary School, Glade Creek Elementary School, and Summersville Middle School into a new Summersville Academic Complex PreK-8. These closures are not contingent on any other actions and are proposed to occur upon the projected completion of a new Summersville Academic Complex for the 2027-2028 school year.

In consideration of this closure, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed. Documents were available for public inspection for the required amount of time and separate closure hearings were held for Summersville Elementary School, Glade Creek Elementary School, and Summersville Middle School on November 20, 2024. The Nicholas County Board of Education voted to approve these closures at their December 2, 2024, board meeting.

Based on the information provided, it is recommended that **the closure and consolidation of Summersville Elementary School, Glade Creek Elementary School, and Summersville Middle School be approved.**

C. Amendment of Tyler County Board of Education's 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) – (Action)

[Attachment L](#)

Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Shane Abram Highley

Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit amendments to CEFPs to the WVBE and the School Building Authority of West Virginia (SBA) for approval. The Tyler County Board of Education requests approval to revise its 2020-2030 CEFP to include the closure and consolidation of Arthur I. Boreman Elementary School and Sistersville Elementary School into a new Tyler Consolidated Elementary School. These closures are not contingent on any other actions and are proposed to occur upon the projected completion of a new Tyler Consolidated Elementary School for the 2027-2028 school year.

Changes in a county’s CEFP are for planning only, and any proposed closures are pending the completion and approval of the official closure procedures in accordance with Policy 6204, School Closings or Consolidations.

It is recommended that **Tyler County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 CEFP be approved.**

D. Tyler County Board of Education: Closure and Consolidation of Arthur I. Boreman Elementary School and Sistersville Elementary School – (Action)

[Attachment M](#)

Micah Whitlow and Superintendent Shane Abram Highley

The Tyler County Board of Education respectfully requests approval for the closure and consolidation of Arthur I. Boreman Elementary School and Sistersville Elementary School into a new Tyler Consolidated Elementary School. These closures are not contingent on any other actions and are proposed to occur upon the projected completion of a new Tyler Consolidated Elementary School for the 2027-2028 school year.

Considering these closures, applicable WVBE policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required time. A closure hearing was held for Arthur I. Boreman Elementary School on January 22, 2025, and Sistersville Elementary School on January 21, 2025. The Tyler County Board of Education voted to approve these closures at their January 22, 2025, board meeting.

In addition, the Tyler County Board of Education requests a waiver of WVBE Policy 4336 for creating bus routes that will exceed the recommended duration of transportation time for elementary students.

It is recommended that the **closure and consolidation of Arthur I. Boreman Elementary School and Sistersville Elementary School and the related Policy 4336 waiver request be approved.**

E. Policy 8400, Charter Public Schools Stimulus Fund – (Action)

[Attachment N](#)

Kelli Talbott

Policy 8400, Charter Schools Stimulus Fund, is a new policy resulting from the West Virginia Legislature giving the WVBE the responsibility of adopting a policy to implement the provisions of W. Va. Code §18-5G-17 which creates a Charter Schools Stimulus Fund. The fund was established to allow grants of appropriated public funds to be made to assist with charter school start-up costs. The fund was established in 2023; however, the West Virginia Legislature has not appropriated any monies for the program to date. The fund will be administered by the West Virginia Professional Charter School Board with oversight by the WVBE. Policy 8400 addresses eligibility criteria for grant awards; allowable and non-allowable costs for grant funds; the process for applications for grant awards; the process by which determinations on grant applications shall be made; standards for the expenditure of grant funds; standards for the granting of extensions of time to spend grant funds; and, transparency and reporting requirements that the Professional Charter School Board is required to follow. The policy also establishes accountability for the award and expenditure of public dollars for eligible charter school start-up costs. At the October 9, 2024, meeting, the Board approved that proposed Policy 8400 be placed on public comment for 45 days. During the comment period, 22 comments were received resulting in two sections being modified.

It is recommended that **Policy 8400 be approved and effective 30 days from final filing.**

F. Logan County Schools Intervention Update – (Information) Jeffrey Kelley

An update on the progress of the Logan County Schools intervention will be provided.

G. Upshur County Schools Intervention Update – (Information) Jeffrey Kelley

An update on the progress of the Upshur County Schools intervention will be provided.

H. Hampshire County Schools Special Education State of Emergency Review – (Action) Alexandra Criner

A six-month progress update will be provided for WVBE consideration in determining the status of the Hampshire County Schools State of Emergency in Special Education.

It is recommended that **Hampshire County Schools be released from the State of Emergency status for Special Education, provided the school**

district agrees to maintain the protocols and practices necessary to support continued improvement.

I. Special Circumstance Review Report: Pocahontas County – (Action) [Attachment O](#)
Alexandra Criner

At the request of Superintendent Lynne Bostic, the Office of Accountability conducted a Special Circumstance Review of Pocahontas County High School, beginning October 22, 2024. A report on the initial findings will be presented to the Board for consideration.

Discussion of this report may involve an Executive Session as provided in W. Va. Code §6-9A-4(b)(2)(A) [personnel exception] and/or §6-9A-4(b)(6), [privacy exception]. The Board majority must vote to have an Executive Session. (No action will be taken in the Executive Session).

Motions, if any, will be determined during the meeting.

J. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters and discussion of school law with legal counsel - (Action)
Nancy J. White

WVBE personnel and/or legal matters may involve an Executive Session as provided in 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)]. The Board majority must vote to have an Executive Session. (No action will be taken in Executive Session.)

It is recommended that the **WVBE personnel matters included in the attachment be approved.** [Attachment P](#)

It is recommended that the **WVDE personnel matters included in the attachment be approved.** [Attachment Q](#)

Motions, if any, will be determined during the meeting.

VII. WVDE Reports - (Information)
Superintendent Michele Blatt

VIII. WVBE Member Updates and Requests for Information - (Information)
Nancy J. White

IX. Future Meetings - (Information)
Nancy J. White

The next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held March 12, 2025, in Charleston, West Virginia.

X. Adjournment - (Action)