

**MINUTES**  
**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Capitol Building 6, Room 353**  
**1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East**  
**Charleston, West Virginia**  
**July 14, 2021**

**I. Call to Order**

Following the welcome and Pledge of Allegiance, President Miller L. Hall called the meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) to order at 10:00 a.m. on July 14, 2021, in Capitol Building 6, Room 353, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia.

The following members were present: President Hall, Thomas W. Campbell, Robert W. Dunlevy, A. Stanley Maynard, F. Scott Rotruck (via telephone), Daniel D. Snively, Debra K. Sullivan, Nancy J. White, and James S. Wilson and ex officios W. Clayton Burch, State Superintendent of Schools and Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) and West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

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

**III. Delegations**

Mr. Fred Albert, President, American Federation of Teachers-West Virginia, addressed the Board regarding the reopening of schools, focus on literacy, and the teaching of history; Mr. David Gladkosky, Director, West Virginia Professional Educators, addressed the Board in support of ARP ESSER plan allocations; and, Mr. Dale Lee, President, West Virginia Education Association, addressed the Board regarding the return to school, meeting the social and emotional needs of students, and the charter school policy. Mr. Rotruck and Chancellor Tucker joined the meeting.

**IV. Early Literacy Updates: West Virginia Imagination Library Statewide Launch and 2021 West Virginia Blue Ribbon Book Club**

Dr. Monica DellaMea, Director, West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Early and Elementary Learning Services, provided an update regarding the West Virginia Imagination Library Statewide Launch and 2021 West Virginia Blue Ribbon Book Club. July 1, 2021 marked the full launch of the availability of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library statewide in West Virginia. West Virginia is one of eleven states in the nation to launch this program statewide, which from birth to age five monthly provides a free high-quality children's book to all children whose parent/guardian signs them up. The 2020 West Virginia Blue Ribbon Book Club was such a success that The Dollywood Foundation has agreed to repeat the initiative in 2021, providing a small library of books to all incoming first, second, and third graders statewide, as well as their teachers and summer learning programs serving children in those grades.

V.

**Consent Agenda**

Dr. Wilson requested an update regarding construction projects in Nicholas and Kanawha Counties; clarification regarding the awarding of embedded credits; and the parameters of the multi-categorical certificate. Following discussion, President Hall called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Snively moved, and Ms. White seconded, that the Consent Agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachments A through N.)

- Approved June 9, 2021, WVBE minutes (Attachment A)
- Received West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) personnel matters (Attachment B)
- Approved the 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan submitted by the Nicholas County Board of Education (Attachment C)
- Approved Cabell County's revised embedded credit policy and Grant County's new embedded credit policy (Attachment D)
- Approved West Virginia University-Parkersburg's Multi-categorical K-12 Certificate (Attachment E)
- Granted Continuing Approval Status to all currently approved alternative certification programs and providers (Attachment F)
- Approved the West Virginia Career and Technical Education (CTE) Endorsements and Testing Manual (Attachment G)
- Approved Policy 2330, Non-public School Accreditation, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment H)
- Approved Policy 5314, Service Personnel Classification, Competency Testing, and Professional Learning, inclusive of the repeal of Policy 5141, Approved College Credit for Aide 4 Classification, Policy 5314.01, Autism Mentor, Policy 5301, College Hours or Comparable Training in a Trade or Vocational School, and Policy 5500.02, County Service Personnel Staff Development, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment I)
- Approved West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission, Series 2, Athletics, Provisions Governing Eligibility, and Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests, effective 60 days from filing (Attachments J-1 and J-2)
- Placed Policy 5901, Regulations for Alternative Certification Programs for the Education of Teachers, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment K)

- Placed Policy 6202, Investigating Indoor Air Quality Complaints, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment L)
- Placed Policy 6203, West Virginia Department of Education Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) Technicians, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment M)
- Placed Policy 6204, School Closings or Consolidations, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment Mc)
- Received the Annual Report on the Number of High School Diplomas Issued in Accordance with Policy 4355, High School Diplomas for Veterans (Attachment N).

#### **VI. 2020-2021 Communities In Schools Annual Report**

Ms. Tracy Komorowski (distributed information), Coordinator, WVDE Student Support and Well-being Services, provided an overview of the 2020-2021 Communities In Schools Annual Report for the Board's information. Discussion ensued regarding the report and the addition of data regarding barriers, such as trauma and homelessness, to student success, and post-secondary programs students are pursuing following graduation. Chancellor Tucker indicated that the Communities In Schools initiative should connect with the GEAR-UP program. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment S.)

#### **VII. Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Burch (distributed information), spoke about the Imagination Library, the new Director of the June Harless Center, Ms. Tarabeth Heineman, launch of the new WVDE Technical Assistance Center for Accessibility and Transitions at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, updated WVDE calendar of events and policy review schedule, interagency collaboration with the HEPC; assisted by Chancellor Tucker, announced the launch of the HEPC's CollegeforWV.com website and tracking of graduating seniors going on to postsecondary education and/or into the workforce; launch of the STEAM technical assistance center at West Virginia University, delivered the WVDE's 2020-2021 Year in Review report, spoke to the reopening of school, and thanked Ms. Michele Blatt, Deputy State Superintendent, for her outstanding work in the vaccination of students and school staff. Ms. Blatt spoke regarding her recent participation in a national virtual meeting regarding West Virginia's vaccination efforts and the launch of the *I Got Vaxxed Competition*. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachment T.)

#### **VIII. Fayette County Schools' Closure and Consolidation of Ansted Elementary School and Divide Elementary School**

Ms. Amy Willard (distributed information), School Operations Officer, WVDE Office of School Operations and Finance, and Mr. Gary Hough, Superintendent, Fayette County Schools, presented the closure and consolidation of Ansted Elementary School and Divide Elementary School for the Board's consideration. The consolidation of these schools will result in enhanced economies of scale and will enable Fayette County Schools to more efficiently use their available resources to meet the educational needs of its students. This enhancement is achieved through a

reduction in cost for utilities, personnel, and maintenance. The closures are contingent upon the receipt of funding from the School Building Authority of West Virginia (SBA) for the construction of a new Midland Trail Elementary School PK-5 facility on the Midland Trail campus. Accompanying Superintendent Hough to the meeting were Ms. Anna Kincaid-Cline, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum/Technology/Instruction, Mr. Tim Payton, Director of Operations, and Mr. Bryan Parsons, Director of Transportation.

Following discussion, Mr. Campbell moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the closures of Ansted Elementary School and Divide Elementary School and the resulting consolidation be approved pending funding from the SBA for a new Midland Trail Elementary School. Upon the call for the question the motion was unanimously carried. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment O and Addendum.)

## **IX. Break**

President Hall called for a break for lunch at 12:25 p.m. Chancellor Tucker departed the meeting.

## **X. Call to Order**

President Hall called the meeting back to order at 1:30 p.m.

## **XI. Policy 3300, Charter Public Schools**

Ms. Sarah Stewart, Government Affairs Counsel, WVDE Legal Services, presented Policy 3300 for the Board's consideration. Policy 3300 is being revised to comply with the updated requirements of W. Va. Code §18-5G-1, et seq. Discussion ensued regarding the effectiveness of virtual schools, child safety and social emotional well-being, connectivity, monitoring, financial responsibilities, expulsions, health and retirement benefits available to staff, and the awarding of diplomas.

Following discussion, President Hall called for a motion regarding Policy 3300. Mr. Campbell moved, and Dr. Wilson seconded, that Policy 3300 be approved effective 30 days from filing. Mrs. Sullivan issued the following statement and requested it be made a part of the minutes.

*The proposed changes to the existing charter school policy continue to alter the landscape, now even more radically.*

*With the creation of the West Virginia Professional Charter School Board as an additional authorizer, yet another level of government bureaucracy is created. This shadow board can undercut the decision-making role of county boards of education, local leaders entrusted to see to the well-being of their students.*

*The original policy limited virtual instruction. Under provisions of the proposed policy, full-time, for-profit, state-wide virtual charter schools – operated by national vendors – would be permitted to operate. Do we really want to commercialize our public education and outsource our children?*

*The pandemic opened our eyes to the challenges and disadvantages of remote learning. In February we as a Board went on record calling for the resumption of in-person instruction, stating (and I quote here) that “we recognize that in-person learning is the best mode in which to foster a student’s intellectual, social-emotional, and physical growth and well-being.” And at that time we gave counties a date certain to return students to their brick and mortar buildings.*

*Yet proposed policy revisions offer full-time virtual programs.*

*And of course there is the alarming issue of funds and other resources being diverted from public schools.*

*I am at a loss to understand the effort to undermine and erode our public schools.*

*We as a state need to focus on doing all we can to ensure that our public school students, regardless of their backgrounds, are being offered strong, focused, well-funded educational opportunities by highly qualified, credentialed professionals.*

Following additional discussion, President Hall called for the question the motion was carried with eight members voting yes, and one member, Mrs. Sullivan, voting no. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachments P-1 and P-2.)

## **XII. West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Special Circumstance Review Report**

Ms. Charlene Coburn (distributed information), Senior Officer, WVDE Office of Support and Accountability, presented the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Special Circumstance Review Report for the Board’s consideration. President Hall requested that monthly updates be provided to the Board. Ms. Coburn indicated that updates would be provided and a follow-up review will take place in July 2022.

Following discussion, President Hall called for a motion regarding the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Special Circumstance Review Report. Mr. Campbell moved, and Mrs. Sullivan seconded, that the Special Circumstance Review Report presented for the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment Q and Addenda.)

## **XIII. Jefferson County Secondary Counseling Special Circumstance Review Report**

Ms. Coburn (distributed information) presented the Jefferson County Secondary Counseling Special Circumstance Review Report for the Board’s consideration. Dr. Bondy Shay Gibson, Superintendent, Jefferson County Schools, and Mr. Mark Osbourn, Vice President, Jefferson County Board of Education, addressed the Board regarding the report.

President Hall called for a motion regarding the Jefferson County Secondary Counseling Special Circumstance Review Report. Dr. Wilson moved, and Mr. Dunlevy seconded, that the Secondary Counseling Special Circumstance Review Report presented for Jefferson County Schools be approved and that a follow-up visit take place in January 2022. Upon the call for the

question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment U.)

#### **XIV. WVBE Personnel Matters**

President Hall called for a motion to approve the Board's personnel attachment. Mr. Campbell moved, and Ms. White seconded, that the personal attachment be approved. Upon the call for the question, the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment R.)

#### **XV. WVBE Member Updates**

Mrs. Sullivan spoke regarding the continuing work on policies and visits to Logan County Schools and juvenile facilities. Mr. Campbell spoke regarding an education forum in Ronceverte. Mr. Dunlevy attended the WVASA annual conference. Dr. Wilson spoke regarding the way education has evolved and that the needs of children and schools are great. President Hall spoke regarding letters he has received regarding athletics and students not meeting the grade requirement and issued the following statement for the Board's consideration. "Recognizing the impact that the pandemic has had on the social emotional well-being of students and the resulting and lingering impact in connection to academic achievement, I would like the Board to direct the State Superintendent to develop options that counties may opt to use to allow students to participate in conditioning and practice as school opens even if the student has not yet received a 2.0 average. This will be a limited time option only, apply to conditioning and practice only, and will not be a waiver of the 2.0 rule. At this next meeting on August 11 the West Virginia Board of Education will then consider if there will be any waiver of the 2.0 rule for fall sports." Mrs. Sullivan spoke regarding credit recovery options which ties into the grade point average. Mr. Dunlevy suggested allowing students to participate and be a part of the team but not compete in games until they meet the 2.0 rule. Dr. Maynard suggested adding academic tutoring for athletes.

#### **XVI. Items for Future Meetings**

Mrs. Sullivan requested, in addition to options to allow students who do not meet the 2.0 rule to participate in sports, that options regarding credit recovery be included. Superintendent Burch is to bring a recommendation regarding leadership at the WVSDB to the August meeting.

#### **XVII. Future Meetings**

President Hall announced that the next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held August 11, 2021, in Charleston, West Virginia.

#### **XVIII. Election of Officers**

President Hall called for nominations. Dr. Wilson nominated Mr. Hall to the office of President, Mr. Campbell to the office of Vice President, and Mr. Rotruck to the office of Financial Officer. Ms. White seconded the nominations and upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

**XIX.**

**Adjourn**

President Hall moved, and Mr. Campbell seconded, that the meeting be adjourned; the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

**Minutes approved by the Board on August 11, 2021.**

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**Miller L. Hall, President**

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**Thomas W. Campbell, Vice President**

*Minutes were recorded by  
Virginia M. Harris  
Secretary to the Board  
WVBEMinutes7/14/21*

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