

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Capitol Building 6, Suite 600
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia
June 12, 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 June 12, 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, Debra K. Sullivan, and Gregory F. Wooten, and ex officio Michele L. Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools. Members absent were Daniel D. Snavely 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 called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Rotruck moved, and Dr. Stansbury seconded, that the agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

III. Recognitions

Mr. Randall Reid-Smith, Secretary, West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, introduced this year's Academic Showdown winner Morgantown High School; History Bowl winner Sherrard Middle School; and State Show Choir winners Hurricane Red Hots and Heatwave.

IV. Delegations

Ms. Elisa Kathryn Payne, Kanawha County resident, addressed the Board about the state of schools in Kanawha County and throughout the state. Mr. David Gladkosky, Executive Director, West Virginia Professional Educators (WVPE), addressed the Board about school safety and teacher concerns. Dr. Mickey Blackwell, President, West Virginia Principals Association, addressed the Board about West Virginia State University's leadership program, Juneteenth, West Virginia Day, spoke in support of Kanawha County Schools, and spoke to the development of checks and balances for charter schools and homeschools to assure that children are safe, secure, and receiving an education.

V. Middle College at Fairmont State University - A Resource for Foster Youth in West Virginia

Mr. Jacob C. Green, Superintendent, West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition, Dr. Dianna G. Phillips, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Fairmont State University, Dr. Donna Heston, Superintendent, Marion County Schools, and Mr. Brent Lemon, President, KVC West Virginia, provided information about the Middle College program at Fairmont State University (beginning Fall 2024). Middle College will recruit, educate, and provide support for foster youth during their 11th and 12th grade years on campus at Fairmont State University. Upon successful completion, students can obtain both a high school diploma and an associate degree. President Hardesty directed Superintendent Blatt to bring this initiative to the legislature for their future consideration and support.

VI. 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.

VII. 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.

VIII. Consent Agenda

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Dr. Stansbury seconded, that the Consent Agenda be approved. Upon the call for the question Mrs. Sullivan stated that she had questions regarding policies on the Consent Agenda and requested the questions be addressed by staff. Ms. Alexandra Criner, Director, WVDE Office of Accountability, was called to the lectern to address Mrs. Sullivan's question regarding Policy 2322, specifically the streaming of meetings; the length of time recordings must be maintained on the county board's website; and if the policy applied to charter schools. Mr. Drew McClanahan, Director, WVDE Office of Leadership Development, was called to the lectern to address Mrs. Sullivan's questions regarding Policy 4373, specifically if the policy applied to charter schools and the inputting of discipline data in the West Virginia Education Information System. Ms. Margaret Williamson, Director, and Ms. Stacey Losh, Coordinator, WVDE Office of District and School Improvement, were called to the lectern to address Mrs. Sullivan's question regarding Policy 7212, specifically adding a sentence in the scope regarding the WVSSAC's rule regarding athletic transfers. Following discussion, upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachments A through Mc.)

- Approved the May 8, 2024, WVBE minutes (Attachment A)
- Received and approved for submission to the Consolidated Public Retirement Board substitute teacher and bus operator affidavits found in Attachment B
- Approved Cabell County and Kanawha County's first-time requests for waivers of Policy 2510, Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education

Programs, Appendix B: Training Required in Policy 2510, related to professional development for Advanced Placement® (AP®) teachers for school year 2024-2025. Cabell County's request was for one teacher of AP® Government and Politics U.S., one teacher of AP® Statistics, and one teacher of AP® European History, all teach at Huntington High School; and 2) Kanawha County's request was for one teacher of AP® Calculus AB at George Washington High School. The teachers will be required to attend Summer 2025 AP® training in order to continue teaching the course in future years. (Attachment C)

- Approved 2024 summer school programs (Attachment D)
- Received 2024-2025 County School Calendars
 - Link to School Calendars: <https://wvde.us/summary-of-county-calendar-dates/>
 - Link to Graduation Dates: <https://wvde.us/west-virginia-high-school-graduation-dates/>
- Approved Policy 2322, West Virginia System of Support and Accountability, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment E)
- Approved Policy 2444.4, Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Diploma and the Administration of the West Virginia High School Equivalency Test, Option Pathway, and Mountaineer Challenge Academy Graduation Pathway, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment F)
- Approved Policy 2520.15, West Virginia Pre-K Standards (Ages 3-5), effective July 1, 2025 (Attachment G)
- Approved Policy 4373, Expected Behavior in Safe and Supportive Schools, effective 30 days from filing (Attachments H-1 and H-2)
- Approved Policy 7212, Nonresident and Resident Student Transfers, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment I)
- Approved Policy 8300, Safe School Funding Process, effective 30 days from filing (Attachment J)
- Placed Policy 1241, Notice and Conduct of Meetings, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment K)
- Placed Policy 4110, Attendance, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment L)
- Appointed Meredith Dailer (high school principal), Melissa Isaacs (elementary school principal), Justin Welling (high school teacher), Heather Yoho (middle school teacher), Cheyene Fletcher (middle school teacher), Dancy Howes (elementary school teacher), Harvey Peyton (layperson), and Eric Peterson (layperson) to the West Virginia Commission for Professional Teacher

Standards CPTS to a three-year term beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2027 (Attachment M)

- Appointed Molly Aderholt, County Board of Education Member, Ohio County Schools, Jackee Long, County Board of Education Member, Berkeley County Schools, Dan Metz, County Board of Education Member, Wirt County Schools, and Greg Prudich, County Board of Education Member, Mercer County Schools to the West Virginia Board of Education/West Virginia School Board Association County Board Member Training Standards Review Committee to a two-year term beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2026
- Approved the 2024-2025 Training Session at the West Virginia School Board Association's 2024 Fall Conference (8.4 Total Hours for County Board Members) as follows: Exploring Robert's Rules of Order: Unveiling the Essentials (*1.0 hour*); Crafting a Dynamic Continuous Improvement Framework for County Boards of Education (*.4 hour*); Charting Success: Strategic Goal Setting for County Boards of Education (*.5 hour*); Unlocking Excellence - Fostering Cohesion and Effectiveness in County Boards of Education (*.75 hour*); Funding and Personnel: What does it mean to be over the state aide formula? (*1.0 hour*); Aligning School and District Personnel: How to make fiscally responsible decisions when aligning personnel? (*1.0 hour*); Fiscal Stewardship: What is the role of County Boards of Education in the budget process and monitoring of expenditures? (*1.25 hours*); Accountability and Monitoring; What do I look for and where do I find it? (*1.25 hours*); Student Discipline; Recent Changes in Policy 4373, Expected Behavior in Safe and Supportive Schools - Discipline; Bullying; Safe Schools (*.5 hour*); Courtion's Story; A Message that not only Needs to be Heard but Felt! (*.75 hour*)
- Received an update from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Attachment Mc).

**IX. Martinsburg North Middle School (Berkeley County)
State of Emergency Action Plan**

Mr. Kelley, assisted by Ms. Williamson and Ms. Kelly Massinople, Coordinator, WVDE Office of District and School Improvement, presented and addressed questions regarding the action plan in response to the Martinsburg North Middle School State of Emergency. A school environment review of Martinsburg North Middle School was conducted on April 17, 2024, at the request of the WVDE Office of District and School Improvement. The review was presented to the WVBE in May after which the WVBE declared a State of Emergency existed at Martinsburg North Middle School and directed that an action plan, in collaboration with the WVDE Division of District and School Accountability and Berkeley County Schools leadership, be developed and presented to the WVBE for action at the June meeting. It was requested that an update be provided every three months regarding Martinsburg North Middle School and concern was issued regarding the position new superintendents find themselves in when dealing with county and school improvement.

Following discussion, Mr. Gabriel moved, and Mr. Wooten seconded, that the action plan in response to the Martinsburg North Middle School State of Emergency be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment N.)

X. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters, Inclusive of Annual Evaluation of the State Superintendent of Schools and WVBE Secretary, and Litigation Update in West Virginia, et al. vs. B.P.J., by Her Next Friend and Mother, Heather Jackson

President Hardesty called for a motion to enter into executive session. Ms. White moved, and Mr. Wooten seconded, that the Board enter in executive session for WVBE personnel and/or legal matters 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)]. Upon the call for the question the motion was unanimously carried; the Board moved into executive session at 10:46 a.m.

President Hardesty announced the Board had returned from executive session at noon with no action taken and read the following statement on the behalf of the Board. “The Board has completed its evaluation of Superintendent Blatt pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-3-2, and states that her performance has been outstanding in all the areas of evaluation. Superintendent Blatt has provided excellent leadership to public education and has a respect of stakeholders in public education. Superintendent Blatt, on behalf of this Board, we want to thank you. For what you do for the children of West Virginia every day, thank you.”

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

President Hardesty called for a motion to approve the WVDE personnel matters found in the attachment. Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Dr. Stansbury 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 about a new initiative entitled *STRIVE West Virginia* (Stand for strength and behavior response through Targeted assistance to promote Regular attendance, Increased achievement, Validated practices and Empowered support teams.)

XII. WVBE Member Updates and Requests for Information

Mrs. Sullivan participated in Read Aloud; attended meetings of the Training Standards Review Committee and West Virginia Commission for Professional Teaching Standards; attended sporting championships; and participated in a Communities In Schools celebration. Mrs. Sullivan requested achievement data, post graduate plans, instructional plans, and supporting data from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind and asked about the development of a data dashboard for teacher education programs. Mr. Rotruck participated in a West Virginia Public

Education Collaborative board meeting; attended a workshop regarding transportation; and attended a meeting regarding transportation partnerships. Dr. Stansbury spoke again about cell phone use in schools and asked if research regarding a policy is underway; Superintendent Blatt indicated that county superintendents are being consulted. Dr. Stansbury asked how incidents in schools are reported and what the WVBE/WVDE can do to address the issues to make schools safe; Superintendent Blatt stated that the WVDE has an 800 number that is staffed to investigate and address concerns and is working to develop an online system for reporting concerns. Mr. Dunlevy attended a West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission meeting; will attend a meeting of The Education Alliance on June 13; and will attend a superintendent's conference next week.

XIII. Future Meetings

President Hardesty announced that the next regular meeting of the WVBE will be held July 8, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., in Charleston, West Virginia.

XIV. Adjourn

President Hardesty called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wooten moved, and Ms. White seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on July 8, 2024.

L. Paul Hardesty, President

Nancy J. White, Vice President

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