

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Capitol Building 6, Suite 600
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia
April 9, 2024

I. Call to Order

Following the welcome and Pledge of Allegiance, Vice President Nancy J. White called the meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) to order at 9:00 a.m. on April 9, 2024, in Capitol Building 6, Suite 600, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia.

The following members were present: Vice President White, Robert W. Dunlevy, Victor L. Gabriel, F. Scott Rotruck, Christopher A. Stansbury, Debra K. Sullivan, and Gregory F. Wooten (remote), and ex officio Michele L. Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools. Members absent were President L. Paul Hardesty and Daniel D. Snaveley and ex officio Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education.

II. Approval of Agenda

Vice President White called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Sullivan requested *Consent Agenda* items 10. *Policy 2520.4, West Virginia College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Social Studies*, and 12. *Policy 4373, Expected Behavior in Safe and Supportive Schools*, be removed from the *Consent Agenda* for discussion and separate action and moved that the agenda, as amended, be approved. Mr. Dunlevy seconded the motion and upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously.

III. Recognitions

Ms. Stephanie Bishop, Vice President, Milken Educator Awards, and the Board recognized West Virginia's 2023 Milken Educators, Ms. Janna Hamrick, fifth grade mathematics teacher, Rock Branch Elementary School (Putnam County); and Ms. Ashley Wilkins, eighth grade English language arts teacher, Petersburg High School (Grant County). Mr. Robert Mellace (PowerPoint presentation), Coordinator, WVDE Office of Educator Preparation, provided an update regarding the West Virginia Common Ground Partnership and spoke about the Month of the Military Child (*Purple Up* Month). Superintendent Blatt presented Mr. Phillip Cantrell (CSM, Retired), State Director, Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy, a Certificate of Appreciation on his retirement for advancing efforts in service to military families. (PowerPoint presentation attached to Official Minutes, Attachment S.)

IV. Delegations

Mr. James G. Brown, Executive Director, West Virginia School Board Association, addressed the Board regarding elementary school student discipline. Mr. David Gladkosky, Executive Director, West Virginia Professional Educators (WVPE), addressed the Board regarding the WVPE's disappointment in the recent legislative session. Dr. Mickey Blackwell, West

Virginia Principals Association, addressed the Board regarding the efforts of public educators and families during this past week's weather event and the need for full-time counselors and assistant principals in all schools. Mr. Dale Lee, President, West Virginia Education Association, addressed the Board regarding the recent disappointing legislative session, the ongoing need to address student mental health/emotional and discipline issues, and the need to help parents and grandparents get involved in tutoring.

V. School Safety

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

VI. 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.

VII. Consent Agenda

Vice President White called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as previously amended. Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Mr. Gabriel seconded, that the Consent Agenda, as previously amended, be approved. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachments A through J, Attachment L, and Attachment Mc through O.)

- Approved the March 13, 2024, WVBE minutes (Attachment A)
- Approved an Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policy for Hancock County (Attachment B)
- Received and approved for submission to the Consolidated Public Retirement Board substitute teacher and bus operator affidavits found in Attachment C
- Approved the Harrison County Board of Education's request for a first-time waiver of Policy 2510, Appendix B: Training Required in Policy 2510, related to professional development for Advanced Placement® (AP®) teachers, for a teacher of AP® Calculus AB-BC and AP® Statistics at Bridgeport High School during school year 2024-2025. The teacher will be required to attend Summer 2025 AP® training to continue teaching AP® Statistics in future years (Attachment D)
- Approved the Cabell County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) to reprioritize and add to its current project priority list. It is proposed that a new school for Ona Elementary become the top priority in the county and that multiple HVAC replacements across the school district be moved up. Projects proposed to be added to the CEFP are an emergency access road at Huntington High, green space at Huntington East Middle, restroom renovations at both high schools,

and turf for the softball and baseball fields at both high schools. The projects are planned to be funded through local funds and a grant(s) from the SBA (Attachment E)

- Approved the Grant County Board of Education's request amend their 2020-2030 CEFP to add additions and renovations at two schools to their priority list. Maysville Elementary School is proposed to receive a two-classroom addition, and Petersburg High School is proposed to receive a new secure front entrance, a new main office, renovations to the athletic entrance, and renovations to the existing main office. The projects are proposed to be funded through local funds and a grant(s) from the SBA (Attachment F)
- Approved the Wayne County Board of Education's request to extend the expiration date of the approved closure and consolidation of Buffalo Elementary into Buffalo Middle School until such time as the SBA completes the award process for funds from the enacted 2024 supplemental appropriation to the School Construction Fund (Attachment G)
- Approved the New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning's application to provide a teacher certification program consisting of coursework substantially aligned to the InTASC standards be approved as adequate pursuant to meeting requirements of W. Va. Code §18A-3-2a(a)(1)(C) (Attachment H)
- Placed Policy 2322, West Virginia System of Support and Accountability, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment I)
- Placed 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, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment J)
- Placed Policy 2520.15, West Virginia Pre-K Standards (Ages 3-5), on public comment for 30 days (Attachment L)
- Placed Policy 7212, Nonresident and Resident Student Transfers, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment Mc)
- Placed Policy 8300, Safe Schools Funding Process, on public comment for 30 days (Attachment N)
- Received an update from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Attachment O).

VIII. Policy 2520.4, West Virginia College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Social Studies

Vice President White called Dr. Erika Klose, Director, WVDE Office of Pre-K Academic Support, to the lectern to address Mrs. Sullivan concerns regarding the personal finance course

that has been added as well as many other changes that have been made to the policy. Mr. Robert “Joey” Wiseman, Director, WVDE Office Student Enrichment, addressed questions posed by Mrs. Sullivan.

Following discussion, Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Mr. Gabriel seconded, that Policy 2520.4 be placed on public comment for 45 days. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment K.)

IX. Policy 4373, Expected Behavior in Safe and Supportive Schools

Vice President White called Mr. Kelley to the lectern to address Mrs. Sullivan’s concerns regarding several issues she found in her review of the policy including listing WVBE members as external stakeholders and the need for an extended comment period.

Following discussion, Mrs. Sullivan moved, and Dr. Stansbury seconded, that Policy 4373 be placed on public comment for 45 days. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copy appended to Official Minutes, Attachment M.)

X. Policy 2510, Assuring the Quality of Education, Regulations for Education Programs

Mr. Wiseman presented Policy 2510 for the Board’s consideration. During the 60-day public comment period 80 comments were received resulting in minor changes (Attachment P-1) to the policy. Mrs. Sullivan questioned the addition of the personal finance course as a full year/full credit course and limiting when students can take the course.

Following discussion, Mr. Gabriel moved, and Dr. Stansbury seconded, that Policy 2510, as amended, be approved and effective July 1, 2024. Upon the call for the question the motion was carried unanimously. (Copies appended to Official Minutes, Attachments P-1 and P-2.)

XI. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters Executive Session

Vice President White called for a motion to enter in executive session. Mr. Rotruck moved, and Mr. Gabriel 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 10:28 a.m.

XII. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters Return from Executive Session

Vice President White announced the Board had returned from executive session at 11:28 a.m. with no action taken and called for a motion to approve the WVBE personnel matters found in the attachment. Mr. Gabriel moved, and Mrs. Sullivan 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 Q.)

Vice President White called for a motion to approve the WVDE personnel matters found in the attachment. Mrs. Sullivan 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 R.)

XIII. WVDE Reports

Superintendent Blatt provided an overview of recent legislation and its effect on WVBE policy and provided an update regarding United States Department of Education funding.

XIV. WVBE Member Updates and Requests for Information

Mrs. Sullivan reported that she attended a meeting of the West Virginia Commission for Professional Teaching Standards, attended a musical performance at Rock Branch Elementary, and requested a report on how technology affects learning and achievement data. Mr. Rotruck provided a report on the Focus Forward Conference. Mr. Dunlevy reported that he attended an Education Alliance meeting and West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission rules clinic. Vice President White reported that she attended a meeting of the Educational Broadcasting Authority and viewed a screening of a film called Hope and Healing; the film will air April 29 at 9 p.m., and will attend a meeting of the School Building Authority of West Virginia on April 10.

XV. Future Meetings

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

XVI. Adjourn

Vice President White called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dunlevy moved, and Dr. Stansbury seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the call for the question the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on May 8, 2024.

L. Paul Hardesty, President

Nancy J. White, Vice President