

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCDOWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025

The Board of Education of the County of McDowell met in regular session Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 4:00 pm at the Central Office, 900 Mount View Road, Welch, West Virginia, with the following members being present and serving throughout: President Georgia West, Larkin Rippeth, Ed Evans and Margaret Beavers with Dr. Ingrida Barker, Superintendent of Schools, serving as Secretary.

BOARD ACTION

President Georgia West called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm, followed by Larkin Rippeth leading the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Introduction of members was made at this time – Larkin Rippeth, Angela Robinette, Ed Evans, Margaret Beavers, and Georgia West with Dr. Ingrida Barker, Superintendent of Schools, serving as Secretary.

Approval of the Minutes of the October 16, 2025 Regular Session

On a motion of Margaret Beavers, seconded by Ed Evans, and a total of “five” votes cast: “five” Yes/ “zero” No/ “zero” Abstain vote, Board Members voted to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2025 Regular Session.

Approval of the Minutes of the October 27, 2025 Special Session

On a motion of Larkin Rippeth, seconded by Margaret Beavers, and a total of “five” votes cast: “five” Yes/ “zero” No/ “zero” Abstain vote, Board Members voted to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2025 Special Session.

Delegations and Speakers

There were no speakers.

Discussion Item & Presentations

1. State of the School Address to the Board – Lori Howington, Principal, Career & Technology Center

Mrs. Howington presented Accountability Data for the Career & Technology Center to the Board in a power point. The CTC met 90 points in the Accountability Review, with 100% of our teachers being certified. She also shared that 66% of her students passed the NOCTI test and 12% of students participate in work-based learning. She went over each of the programs being offered at the CTC and discussed how she would like to expand each program.

Mr. Evans thanked her for her presentation and asked about the chronic absenteeism. Mrs. Howington stated that this is something that she is working on, and working with the high schools to make sure absences are reported correctly. She stressed that students have to complete a certain number of hours in each program, and that they actually clock in when they arrive and when they leave their class. If students are unable to meet this requirement, it could mean summer school for some, or possibly evening classes if that would be something that could be worked out. She also talked about implementing a system that would allow students to use their clocked hours to figure wages and use that in a real-life scenario where they manage bills and income. Mr. Evans also asked about the Tourism class, if students are able to travel. Mrs. Howington said that they do have some trips planned, but transportation is an issue with having to get buses back in time to get students home in the afternoon.

Dr. Barker asked if any of the board members had industry contacts that could be useful for the Career and Technology Center, to let Mrs. Howington know of them.

2. State of the School Address to the Board – Jessica Anglin, Principal, Sandy River Middle School

Jessica Anglin gave a Power Point Presentation reviewing staff and student enrollment. SRMS currently has 203 students enrolled. As of November 5, 2025, chronic absenteeism is at 23%, with only 6 students having been referred to Mr. Lester for absences. She introduced several student council members, Laya

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Cline, Demi Kennedy and Leslie Estep, and ended her presentation with the School Mission Statement – “Roar with Tiger Pride, Lead with Courage, Pounce on Challenges, and Strive for Greatness”.

Mr. Evans asked about one of the parent concerns, time on school buses, that had been brought to her attention. Mrs. Anglin answered that this was a concern because students do spend a good deal of time on buses. Mr. Evans asked if she could give an example of how long, and she referred to Lay Cline, a student that travels from Bull Creek to Sandy River Middle School, which would be about the longest commute. Laya stated that she gets on the bus around 6:40 in the morning and gets home around 4:00 in the afternoon. Mrs. Anglin said that she arrives at school between 7:30 – 7:40, making her morning commute approximately an hour. Dr. Barker and Mrs. Peyton added that we do have a waiver in McDowell County for bus commutes which allows for one hour on a bus traveling to and from school for secondary students.

At this time, Mrs. West announced a short recess. The meeting reconvened at 5:07 pm.

Personnel

1. Personnel Agenda

October 16, 2025

Personnel Agenda

Professional Personnel

Employment of Professional Personnel						
	Action	Last Name	First Name	Location	Position	Effective Date
1.	Employment	Lacy	Gwendolyn	County-wide	Substitute Teacher	November 17, 2025
2.	Employment	Price	Lois	Coalfield Elementary	Kindergarten (P-CF-35)	November 17, 2025
3.	Employment	Blankenship	Jessica	County-wide	Short-term Restricted Substitute Teacher	November 17, 2025
4.	Employment	Pugh	Geneva	County-wide	Substitute Teacher	November 17, 2025
5.	Employment – Add Substitute Administrator	Sparks	Tamela	County-wide	Substitute Administrator	October 6, 2025

Transfer of Professional Personnel					
	Last Name	First Name	From Position	To Position	Effective Date
1.	Johnson	Fronie	Southside K-8, Multi-Cat K-5 (P-SS-50)	Southside K-8, Multi-Categorical 6-8 (P-SS-68)	November 17, 2025
2.	Bailey	Emily	County-wide, Substitute Teacher	laeger Elementary, Grade 5 (P-I-36)	November 17, 2025 – pending issuance of initial WV First-Class Permit

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Resignation/Retirement/Other of Professional Personnel						
	Action	Last Name	First Name	Location	Position	Effective Date
1.	Rescind Termination	Montgomery	Adrienne	County-wide	Substitute Teacher	October 17, 2025
2.	Resignation	Goodman	Amy	Southside K-8	Grade 1/2 (P-SS-63)	November 6, 2025

Employment of Extra-Curricular Professional Personnel					
	Last Name	First Name	Location	Position	Effective Date
1.	Finley	Destany	County-wide	Home Bound Teacher	November 17, 2025
2.	Grygiel	Kayla	County-wide	Home Bound Teacher	November 17, 2025
3.	Stowers	Marissa	County-wide	Home Bound Teacher	November 17, 2025
4.	Pruitt	Chasity	County-wide	Home Bound Teacher	November 17, 2025

Coaching

Employment of Coaching Personnel					
	Last Name	First Name	Location	Position	Effective Date
1.	Addair	Savannah	Southside K-8	Head Girls' Basketball Coach	November 10, 2025
2.	Addair	Aaron	Sandy River Middle	Head Boys' Basketball Coach	November 10, 2025
3.	Prater	Timothy	River View High	Head Baseball Coach	November 10, 2025
4.	Dudgeon	Samuel	River View High	Assistant Baseball Coach	November 10, 2025
5.	Clark	Dwayne	Southside K-8	Head Boys' Basketball Coach	November 10, 2025
6.	Clemins	Kaitlyn	Southside K-8	Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach	November 10, 2025

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Resignation of Coaching Personnel					
	Last Name	First Name	Location	Position	Effective Date
1.	Baker	Tyree	Mount View High	Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach, 6-8	November 1, 2025
2.	Bell	Thomas	Mount View High	Head Boys' Basketball Coach 6-8	November 1, 2025

Service Personnel

Employment of Service Personnel					
	Last Name	First Name	Location	Position	Effective Date
1.	Harmon	Sara	County-wide	Substitute LPN/Substitute Aide	November 17, 2025
2.	Davis	Emily	County-wide	Substitute LPN	November 17, 2025
3.	Lester	Chelsia	County-wide	Substitute Custodian	November 17, 2025
4.	Campbell	Amy	County-wide	Substitute Aide	November 17, 2025
5.	Jarrells	Misty	County-wide	Substitute Custodian/Substitute Aide	November 10, 2025
6.	Jarrells	Misty	Mount View High	TEMPORARY – Custodian (S-MV-14)	November 10, 2025 – until the employee returns or Retires/Resigns

Transfer of Service Personnel					
	Last Name	First Name	From Position	To Position	Effective Date
1.	Lester	Amanda	River View High, Secretary, 3.5 hrs. (S-RV-02)	Coalfield Elementary/Mount View High, Secretary, 7.5 hrs. (S-CF-47/S-MV-21)	November 17, 2025
2.	Harmon	Barbara	Mount View High, Cook II (S-MV-07)	River View High, Cook II (S-RV-05)	November 17, 2025
3.	Owens	Alicia	County-wide, Substitute Aide	County Itinerant (Southside K-8), Bus/Program Aide (S-CI-48)	November 17, 2025

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4.	Harvey-Goins	Tae'Rone	County Itinerant (Coalfield Elementary), Bus/Program Aide (S-CI-45)	County Itinerant (Bradshaw Elementary), Bus/Program Aide (S-CI-02)	November 17, 2025
5.	Keen	Jessica	Southside K-8, Custodian (S-SS-11)	Southside K-8, Custodian (S-SS-10)	November 17, 2025
6.	Hale	Donna	Mount View Attendance Area, Bus Operator, Bus #191 (S-BM-14)	Mount View Attendance Area, Bus Operator, Bus #113 (S-BM-14)	November 17, 2025

Resignation/Retirement/Other of Service Personnel						
	Action	Last Name	First Name	Location	Position	Effective Date
1.	Termination	Wood	Anthony	County-wide	Substitute Custodian	November 6, 2025
2.	Termination	Montgomery	Patricia	County-wide	Substitute Aide	November 6, 2025
3.	Resignation	Gilliam	Roderick	County-wide	Substitute Bus Operator	October 22, 2025

****Additions to the Personnel Agenda may be made at the scheduled Board of Education meeting.****

On a motion of Angela Robinette, seconded by Larkin Rippeth, and a total of "five" votes cast: "five" Yes/ "zero" No/ "one" Abstain, the Board voted to approve the Personnel Agenda.

Volunteer Agenda

Volunteer	SCHOOL(S)	REASON
April Chapman	MVHS	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
William Chapman	MVHS	School Activities/Concession Stands/Vol Coach
Mary Dobbs	BES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Keisha Collins	BES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Susan Hardy	CFES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Kayla Hunt	IES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Jason Hunt	IES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Alyssa Bishop	IES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching

On a motion of Margaret Beavers, seconded Larkin Rippeth, and a total of "five" votes cast: "five" Yes/ "zero" No/ "one" Abstain, the Board voted to approve the Volunteer List. Mr. Evans asked about seeing volunteer names again, if it was for different sports. He was informed that this was for different schools.

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Finance

1. Allowed and Authorized Payment of Bills/Budget Revisions. Invoices presented for payment are available in the Finance Office during normal business hours.

On a motion of Margaret Beavers, seconded by Larkin Rippeth, and a total of “five” votes cast: “five” Yes/ “zero” No/ “zero” Abstain, the Board voted to approve the allowed and authorized payment of bills/budget revisions.

2. Approval to Authorize School Fundraiser Events

River View High School, Project Graduation – Student Parking Permits/Painting Parking Spaces (September 2, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

Mount View Middle School, Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball – Alumni Basketball Game (November 14, 2025)

On a motion of Angela Robinette, seconded by Larkin Rippeth, and a total of “five” votes cast: “five” Yes/ “zero” No/ “zero” Abstain, the Board voted to approve both School Fundraiser Events: River View High School, Project Graduation – Student Parking Permits/Painting Parking Spaces (September 2, 2025 – June 30, 2026); Mount View Middle School, Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball – Alumni Basketball Game (November 14, 2025).

Action Items

1. Final Approval of Policy 12-002, School Attendance Areas

On a motion of Margaret Beavers, seconded by Ed Evans, and a total of “five” votes cast: “five” Yes/ “zero” No/ “zero” Abstain, the Board voted for the Final Approval of Policy 12-002, School Attendance Areas. Dr. Barker informed the board that there were no comments during the comment period.

2. Approval of A Resolution of the McDowell County Board of Education Accepting The COPS School Violence Prevention Program Grant For School Safety Initiatives

On a motion of Angela Robinette, seconded by Larkin Rippeth, and a total of “five” votes cast: “five” Yes/ “zero” No/ “zero” Abstain, the Board voted for the approve the Approval of A Resolution of the McDowell County Board of Education Accepting The COPS School Violence Prevention Program Grant For School Safety Initiatives. Mr. Evans asked for a little more information on this resolution. Dr. Barker explained that this is the \$500,000.00 grant that we applied for and have been awarded for safety upgrades in the schools. The Board match for this grant is \$168,000.00 which allows for \$668,000.00 to be used in upgrading cameras in the schools and creating communication with First Responders and other safety upgrades. Our legal team reviewed the terms and advised that it would be best to have a Resolution to go along with this grant.

3. Approval of McDowell County Board of Education Resolution for Enhancing Collaboration with Military Organizations and Providing Supports to Military Families

On a motion of Angela Robinette, seconded by Margaret Beavers, and a total of “five” votes cast: “five” Yes/ “zero” No/ “zero” Abstain, the Board voted for the Approval of McDowell County Board of Education Resolution for Enhancing Collaboration with Military Organizations and Providing Supports to Military Families. Dr. Barker asked Dr. East to give more information on the Resolution. Dr. East explained that this allows for support to be offered to students with family members serving in the military.

4. Approval of Algebra III Standards for WVEIS Course Code 3051

On a motion of Margaret Beavers, seconded by Angela Robinette, and a total of “five” votes cast: “five” Yes/ “zero”/No “zero”/Abstain, the Board voted for the Approval of Algebra III Standards for WVEIS Course Code 3051. Dr. Barker explained that students get Algebra I in 9th grade, Geometry in 10th grade and

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Algebra II in 11th grade. This allows students to get a fourth math class, Algebra III, in high school. This is also a dual credit class through WVSU. This class is being offered at River View High School by Mr. Alley and at Mount View High School by Mrs. Valach.

5. Approval of Student Trip Request – Concord University – River View High, Grades 9-12 – Upward Bound Saturday Session (November 8, 2025)
6. Approval of Student Trip Request – Charleston, WV – Mount View High Cheerleaders, Grades 9-12 – Regional Cheer Competition (November 8, 2025)

On a motion of Angela Robinette, seconded by Larkin Rippeth, and a total of “five” votes cast: “five” Yes/ “zero” No/ “zero” Abstain, the Board voted to approve both Student Trip Requests: Approval of Student Trip Request – Concord University – River View High, Grades 9-12 – Upward Bound Saturday Session (November 8, 2025); Approval of Student Trip Request – Charleston, WV – Mount View High Cheerleaders, Grades 9-12 – Regional Cheer Competition (November 8, 2025).

7. Approval of 2025-2026 River View High School Wrestling Schedule
8. Approval of 2025-2026 River View High School Girls’ Basketball Schedule
9. Approval of 2025-2026 River View High School Boys’ Basketball Schedule
10. Approval of 2025-2026 Sandy River Middle School Basketball Schedule
11. Approval of 2025-2026 Southside K-8 Basketball Schedule
12. Approval of 2025-2026 Mount View High Girls’ Basketball 9-12 Schedule
13. Approval of 2025-2026 Mount View High Boys’ Basketball 9-12 Schedule
14. Approval of 2025-2026 Mount View High Boys’ Basketball 6-8 Schedule
15. Approval of 2025-2026 Mount View High Girls’ Basketball 6-8 Schedule

On a motion of Angela Robinette, seconded by Larkin Rippeth, and a total of “five” votes cast: “five” Yes/ “zero” No/ “zero” Abstain, the Board voted to approve Action Items 7 through 15: Approval of 2025-2026 River View High School Wrestling Schedule; Approval of 2025-2026 River View High School Girls’ Basketball Schedule; Approval of 2025-2026 River View High School Boys’ Basketball Schedule; Approval of 2025-2026 Sandy River Middle School Basketball Schedule; Approval of 2025-2026 Southside K-8 Basketball Schedule; Approval of 2025-2026 Mount View High Girls’ Basketball 9-12 Schedule; Approval of 2025-2026 Mount View High Boys’ Basketball 9-12 Schedule; Approval of 2025-2026 Mount View High Boys’ Basketball 6-8 Schedule; Approval of 2025-2026 Mount View High Girls’ Basketball 6-8 Schedule.

Superintendent’s Updates

Dr. Barker told the board that yesterday, Hitachi presented a \$5,000.00 check to River View High School for the new, multi-use scoreboard. Hitachi also invited the students from the CTC to visit their company, and they will come to the CTC in the future as well.

We are still working with Thrasher and FEMA on the engineering estimates for the River View baseball field repairs. There were no bids for the job in the first go-round. We are still trying to get work done on this grass field. We are still actively exploring various options to have the field repaired before spring season.

In addition to the COPS grant, we have also applied for a \$200,000.00 safety grant. We won’t know if we get awarded the grant until the spring.

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The weapon's detection systems are in, and we are waiting on the training before we can start using those on Mount View and River View campuses.

Mr. Chapman is still working with FEMA on the bus garage storm drain repairs, as well as the baseball field, Phoenix Center and other big projects. As for the Phoenix Center, the building has been kept temperate so the air flow hasn't been an issue. The Phoenix Center was mitigated right after the flood. We are now waiting on our insurance to start reconstruction of spaces there. The Phoenix Center is a building that we lease.

Mr. Evans asked if there were any updates on the Kimball and Welch properties. Dr. Barker said she had sent a letter to Welch, and they are working with their attorneys on a response. She spoke with Mayor McBryde and he advised that they are working on the letter to send to the board. Once we have that, we will have it on a board agenda as a discussion and an action item. As for Kimball, there were 8 deeds that had to be researched. Some of these had a "revert clause", meaning that if the property wasn't used for education it would revert back to its original owners. Bowles Rice works with Pocahontas Land Co. too, and feels that they may be amenable to removing that clause and have the property appraised for fair market value.

Announcement of Future Meetings

Date: Thursday, November 20, 2025
Time: 4:00 PM
Type: Regular Meeting
Location: Central Office
900 Mount View Road, Welch, WV
[Live Stream Link](#)

Adjournment

On a motion by Margaret Beavers, seconded by Angela Robinette, and a total of "five" votes cast: "five" Yes/ "zero" No/"zero" Abstain the Board moved to adjourn at 5:37 pm.

Georgia West, President Date

Ingrida Barker, Superintendent Date