

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCDOWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

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The Board of Education of the County of McDowell met in regular session Thursday, September 25, 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, Angela Robinette, Larkin Rippeth, Margaret Beavers and Ed Evans, with Amanda Peyton, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, serving as Secretary.

## BOARD ACTION

President Georgia West called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm, followed by Angela Robinette leading the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Introduction of members was made at this time – Larkin Rippeth, Angela Robinette, Margaret Beavers, Ed Evans, Georgia West with Amanda Peyton, Assistant Superintendent of Schools serving as Secretary.

### Approval of the Minutes of the September 11, 2025 Regular Session

On a motion of Margaret Beavers, seconded by Angela Robinette, and a total of “five” votes cast: “five” Yes/ “zero” No/ “zero” Abstain vote, Board Members voted to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2025 Regular Session.

### Delegations and Speakers

There were no speakers

### Discussion Item & Presentations

#### 1. Transportation Updates – Adam Grygiel, Director of Transportation

Mr. Grygiel gave a power point presentation of some general information from the Transportation Department. We currently have 55 total buses, with 35 daily routes and 5 special needs runs. He also informed the board that we currently have 5 substitute bus operators, with two of those on regular runs every day. He highlighted some of the upgrades that have been made to some buses, with new lights on front of buses as well as the lighted swing arms that have been added to the buses running on Route 52. Cameras have been installed in the driver’s ed cars to give a visual of the interior as well as the front view from the cars. He also discussed a Senior Safety Practice, where a Junior or Senior on each bus route can be trained in how to stop the school bus in an emergency. This is a practice in place in other counties, and we feel it would be beneficial here.

Mr. Evans asked Mr. Grygiel about concerns at the bottom of Mount View Hill, especially in the mornings, with coal trucks and student drivers. SRO Office, Donnie Perry, stated that he would check to see if there is availability for an officer to be stationed here for traffic control, or possibly a Welch Police Officer. Mr. Grygiel will also check about a cross walk at Coalfield Elementary. Mr. Evans also asked about new bus purchases, if air conditioning was on these new buses. Mr. Grygiel stated that all of the buses purchased for the last several years have been equipped with air conditioning. Mrs. Peyton and Mr. Grygiel also talked about bus notes from parents for students to ride different buses. This is becoming an issue with overcrowding on buses, and are stressing to the parents to only use bus notes for emergency situations.

Mr. Grygiel also discussed road conditions around the county. Many roads are still breaking off after the flooding in February. Mr. Grygiel has been in contact with the Department of Highways, and has been advised that many of these repairs are being done by contractors and they don’t have dates for completion. As such, some of the bus routes have been changed for the safety of students and drivers.

#### 3. Perfect Attendance Recognition for 2024-2025 School Year – Aaron Lester, Director of Child Nutrition and Student Services

Mr. Lester, along with Mrs. Peyton presented Perfect Attendance Certificates to students who didn’t miss any days of school during the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. Lester thanked both the students and their families for their attendance rate and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

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2. Child Nutrition Office Updates – Aaron Lester, Director of Child Nutrition and Student Services

Mr. Lester gave a power point presentation highlighting the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. Lester reported that during the 24-25 school year, we've seen incredible growth in participation, resources and community support. He went over the reimbursements secured during the year including the summer feeding and flood relief, totaling \$2,562,780.93. Additional revenue collected from staff meals was \$38,551. More than 226,000 breakfasts and 253,000 lunches were served to our students during the school year. Summer meals served totaled 77,856 breakfasts and lunches, this was in part thanks to the summer 10-day food boxes that were delivered from the end of June through August. We have purchased new equipment for some of our schools, making the presentation of the fresh fruits and vegetables more appealing to students. We are also meeting with SMART Mouth Pizza next week with hopes to pilot this program at our high schools. The Child Nutrition Department is committed to building innovative meal programs and upgrading equipment across our schools.

**Personnel**

1. Personnel Agenda

**September 26, 2025**

**Personnel Agenda**

**Professional Personnel**

<b>Employment of Professional Personnel</b>						
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
1.	Employment	Sparks	Tamela	County-wide	Substitute Teacher	Oct. 6, 2025

<b>Resignation/Retirement/Other of Professional Personnel</b>						
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
1.	Termination	Anderson	Eric	County-wide	Substitute Teacher	Sept. 18, 2025

<b>Employment of Extra-Curricular Professional Personnel</b>					
	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
1.	Hankins	Shasta	County-wide	Home Bound Teacher	Oct. 6, 2025
2.	Sparks	Tamela	County-wide	Home Bound Teacher	Oct. 6, 2025

**Coaching**

<b>Employment of Coaching Personnel</b>
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	Last Name	First Name	Location	Position	Effective Date
1.	Mullins	Farrah	Bradshaw Elementary	Cheer Coach	Sept. 29, 2025

<b>Resignation of Coaching Personnel</b>					
	Last Name	First Name	Location	Position	Effective Date
1.	Hale	Carson	Mount View High	Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach 9-12	Sept. 18, 2025

**Service Personnel**

<b>Transfer of Service Personnel</b>					
	Last Name	First Name	From Position	To Position	Effective Date
1.	Blankenship	Sandra	Bradshaw Elementary, Aide/ECCAT (S-B-21)	Coalfield Elementary, Aide/ECCAT (S-CF-11)	Oct. 6, 2025
2.	Dyer	Virginia	Sandy River Middle, Secretary (S-SR-01)	Mount View High, Bus/Program Aide (S-CI-06)	Oct. 6, 2025
3.	Campbell	Amy	Southside K-8, Bus/Program Aide (S-CI-32)	Southside K-8, Aide/ECCAT (S-SS-23)	Oct. 6, 2025
4.	Sutherland	Courtney	Southside K-8, Cook II, 3.5 hrs. (S-SS-22)	Southside K-8, Cook II, 8 hrs. (S-SS-09)	Oct. 6, 2025
5.	Goins	Austin	Mount View High, Custodian, 8 hrs. (S-MV-11) AND Mount View High, TEMP Custodian, 8 hrs. (S-MV-14)	Mount View High, Custodian, 8 hrs. (S-MV-13)	Oct. 6, 2025
6.	Gibson	Brittany	Southside K-8, Aide/ECCAT (S-SS-20)	County-wide, Substitute Aide	Oct. 6, 2025

<b>Resignation/Retirement/Other of Service Personnel</b>						
	Action	Last Name	First Name	Location	Position	Effective Date
1.	Resignation	Warrix	Evelyn	Bradshaw	Aide/ECCAT (S-B-02)	Sept. 18, 2025
2.	Resignation	Click	Charles	Sandy River Middle	Custodian, 8hrs. (S-SR-08)	Sept. 18, 2025

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Specialized Health Care				
	Last Name	First Name	Location	Effective Date
1.	Anthony	Alexandria	Mount View High	Sept. 19, 2025
2.	Reynolds	Stacy	laeger Elementary	Sept. 4, 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
Judith Small	CFES	School Activities/Concession Stands/Volunteer Coach
Callie Ferrell	CFES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Georgia West	All Schools	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Kaitlyn Blair	IES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Scott Greer	IES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Bobbi Greer	IES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Delores Bishop	IES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Kelsey Johnson	SS K-8	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Amy Oliver	MVHS	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Roger Hale	BES	School Activities/Concession Stands/Volunteer Coach
Leann Auville	BES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Bridgette Hess	SRMS	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Anthony Baker	MVHS	School Activities/Concession Stands/Volunteer Coach
Santana Blankenship	IES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Sandra Blankenship	IES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Linda Robinette	IES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Sheila Muncy	BES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Tiffany Bryant	BES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching

On a motion of Ed Evans, seconded Margaret Beavers, and a total of “four” votes cast: “four” Yes/ “zero” No/ “one” Abstain, the Board voted to approve the Volunteer List.

## Finance

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

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On a motion of Larkin Rippeth, seconded by Angela Robinette, 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 of McDowell County Board of Education Monthly Financial Report for the month of August (Reports are Unaudited)

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 to approve the McDowell County Board of Education Monthly Financial Report for August (reports are unaudited).

3. Approval to Authorize School Fundraiser Events

Mount View High School, Beta Club – Holiday Candle Sales (September 15, 2025 – September 27, 2025)

Sandy River Middle School, General Fund – Hershey Ice Cream Sales (September 22, 2025 – June 6, 2026)

River View High School, Cheerleaders – Homecoming Dance (September 27, 2025)

Career & Technology Center, Nursing Program – Krispy Kreme Donut Sale (September 29, 2025 – October 8, 2025)

Mount View High School, Varsity Cheerleaders – Goodwill Trailer (November 8, 2025 – November 15, 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 all five Fundraiser Requests: Mount View High School, Beta Club – Holiday Candle Sales (September 15, 2025 – September 27, 2025); Sandy River Middle School, General Fund – Hershey Ice Cream Sales (September 22, 2025 – June 6, 2026); River View High School, Cheerleaders – Homecoming Dance (September 27, 2025); Career & Technology Center, Nursing Program – Krispy Kreme Donut Sale (September 29, 2025 – October 8, 2025); Mount View High School, Varsity Cheerleaders – Goodwill Trailer (November 8, 2025 – November 15, 2025).

## **Action Items**

1. Approval to Purchase Smart Boards for Title I Schools, Zones (\$282,331.82)

On a motion of Larkin Rippeth, seconded by Ed Evans, and a total of “five” votes cast: “five” Yes/ “zero” No/ “zero” Abstain, the Board voted for the Approval to purchase Smart Boards for Title I Schools, Zones (\$282,331.82).

2. Approval to Purchase KLOUD Cameras for Use Within Our District, Kloud-12 (\$113,958.00)

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 to Approve the Purchase of KLOUD Cameras for Use Within Our District, Kloud-12 (\$113,958.00). Mrs. Peyton informed the board that these cameras are 360 cameras, and can only be turned on by the teacher in the classroom.

3. Approval to Place Policy 12-002, School Attendance Areas, Up for Revision

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 to Approve the Placement of Policy 12-002, School Attendance Areas, Up for Revision. Mrs. Peyton advised the board that this policy revision was made to strike Kimball Elementary, Welch Elementary and Fall River Elementary and add Coalfield Elementary to the areas listed.

4. Approval to Place Revised Policy 2-001, Professional Staff Development Policy and Professional Staff Development Council, Up For Final Approval

On a motion of Larkin Rippeth, seconded by Margaret Beavers, and a total of “five” votes cast: “five”

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Yes/ "zero" No/ "zero" Abstain, the Board voted to Approve the Placement of Policy 2-001, Professional Staff Development Policy and Professional Staff Development Council, Up for Final Approval.

5. Approval to Place Revised Policy 6-007, Use of Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices in Schools and by School Bus Operators, Up for Final Approval

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 Placement of Revised Policy 6-007, Use Of Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices in Schools and by School Bus Operators, Up For Approval. Mr. Evans asked how things were going in the schools with this new policy, and Mrs. Peyton answered that Principals reported at the Principals' meeting last week that students have been very respectful of the new policy. Families seem to be more upset that they can't reach their children at any time.

6. Approval to Place Repealed Policy 11-049, Advanced Placement Into Kindergarten, Up For Final Approval

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 to Approve the placement of Repealed Policy 11-049, Advanced Placement Into Kindergarten, Up For Final Approval.

7. Approval of Student Trip Request – Liberty High School – Mount View High School, Grades 6-12 – Cross Country Meet (October 4, 2025)
8. Approval of Student Trip Request – Pikeview High School – Mount View High School, Grades 6-12 – Cross Country Meet (October 11, 2025)
9. Approval of Student Trip Request – Marshall University – Career & Technology Center Gifted Students, Grades 2-12 – WV Makes Festival (October 24, 2025)
10. Approval of Student Trip Request – Camp Caesar, Cowen, WV – River View High School, Grades 9-12 – Young Life Weekend Trip (November 21, 2025)
11. Approval of Student Trip Request – Camp Caesar, Cowen, WV – River View High School, Grades 9-12 – Young Life Weekend Return Trip (November 23, 2025)
12. Approval of Student Trip Request – Kimball War Memorial Building – Mount View High School, Grades 8-9 – Local History of Wars (February 12, 2026)

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 Action Item Numbers 7-12: Approval of Student Trip Request – Liberty High School – Mount View High School, Grades 6-12 – Cross Country Meet (October 4, 2025); Approval of Student Trip Request – Pikeview High School – Mount View High School, Grades 6-12 – Cross Country Meet (October 11, 2025); Approval of Student Trip Request – Marshall University – Career & Technology Center Gifted Students, Grades 2-12 – WV Makes Festival (October 24, 2025); Approval of Student Trip Request – Camp Caesar, Cowen, WV – River View High School, Grades 9-12 – Young Life Weekend Trip (November 21, 2025); Approval of Student Trip Request – Camp Caesar, Cowen, WV – River View High School, Grades 9-12 – Young Life Weekend Return Trip (November 23, 2025); Approval of Student Trip Request – Kimball War Memorial Building – Mount View High School, Grades 8-9 – Local History of Wars (February 12, 2026).

## **Superintendent's Updates**

Mrs. Peyton started out by giving a Shout Out to Tonya White and Renee Jones for getting fingerprints set up and completed for over 100 staff members in order to meet new PreK Policy Requirements.

The Dedication Ceremony for Coalfield Elementary School will be Monday morning, September 29, starting at 9:00 am. We have a sentimental, but low-key program planned.

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iReady Benchmark Assessments close at 4:00 pm today. Mrs. Peyton will have those numbers for the board at a meeting in the near future. We are also getting ready to start the Benchmark for Grades 9-11. Special Ed monitoring was just completed last week, and we are getting ready to start PreK monitoring. We are waiting for the final report on the Special Ed Monitoring.

We had a team participating in a Math training yesterday, and another team in a Literacy training today in Lewisburg. These participants will bring back the information they gather and share it with other teacher/teams.

laeger Elementary has come off of the school improvement list, but we have had two different schools be identified for school improvement – Bradshaw Elementary and Southside K-8. The State Department will create a plan and make regular visits to meet with the schools. Title I Schools that are in the bottom 5% of performance are the once identified as needs improvement.

Mid Terms go out next week, on September 30.

Principals are conducting peer walk-throughs, focusing on Safety. The Safety Conference held this summer has been a very useful tool. SRO Office Donnie Perry gave an update on school safety at River View and Sandy River. Mr. Lester is in the process of getting measurements for shades that will be placed on interior doors at all schools. These shades are only to be pulled during drills or an actual emergency, blocking the view into classrooms from the hallway. We have weapons detection bids out for the two high schools, with the plan being to purchase two for each location. We partnered with law enforcement and both high schools, along with Mr. Lester, and visited Oak Hill High School to watch how the system will work. They are mobile, so they will be able to be moved around the building or outside for ball games, as needed.

Mrs. West commented about the music at the football games coming through the press box being too loud. Mrs. Peyton said that she would speak with Mr. McGuire and Mr. Kennedy about that.

**Announcement of Future Meetings**

**Date:** Thursday, October 2, 2025  
**Time:** 4:00 PM  
**Type:** Regular Meeting  
**Location:** Central Office  
900 Mount View Road, Welch, WV  
[Live Stream Link](#)

**Adjournment**

On a motion 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 5:36 pm.

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Georgia West, President Date

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Amanda Peyton, Assistant Superintendent Date