

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCDOWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION THURSDAY, October 16, 2025

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The Board of Education of the County of McDowell met in regular session Thursday, October 16, 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 4:04 pm, followed by Ed Evans leading the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Introduction of members was made at this time – Larkin Rippeth, Ed Evans, Margaret Beavers, and Georgia West with Dr. Ingrida Barker, Superintendent of Schools, serving as Secretary. Vice President, Angela Robinette, joined the meeting via telephone.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the October 2, 2025 Regular 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 2, 2025 Regular Session.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the October 6, 2025 Special 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 6, 2025 Special Session.

### **Delegations and Speakers**

Sheri Bales addressed the board at this time with several school concerns. Her grandchildren are student at Bradshaw Elementary School, and Ms. Bales first asked about the job description for a Classroom Aide. She stated that she is a former aide for McDowell County Schools, and has been told by the principal at Bradshaw that an aide doesn't have time to check student backpacks. Ms. Bales stated that she must send ice cream money every day with her 4 year old grandson, and he is responsible for taking it out of his backpack to purchase the ice cream daily because an aide doesn't have the time to check for money, and the secretary won't accept money for a month at a time. She also asked about the dress code, stating that it's hard to discern staff members from students. Ms. Bales also stated concerns about staff smoking on school property and the use of cell phones among staff members at schools. Dr. Barker explained to Ms. Bales that the Board could not respond to any of these concerns during this meeting, they could only listen and take note of her issues and would respond after investigating.

### **Discussion Item & Presentations**

#### **1. School Safety Updates – Aaron Lester, Director of Child Nutrition and Student Services**

Mr. Lester gave a power point presentation going over the safety updates for the current school year. He highlighted the findings from the Capitol Police, who conduct walk throughs with our staff. Focus is on AED and Stop the Bleed Kits that are in each school, and the placement of them. Walkthroughs have been completed at all schools, with the exception of Mount View. Mr. Lester went over these reports, going over district-wide recommendations such as man trap issues, new signs which have been ordered from Nicholas Printing to be placed at the entrance of each school, and we are working on strengthening visitor identification. Weapon Detectors are in the process of being ordered, two for each of the high schools, in addition to one detection want for each high school.

We have also applied for a COPS grant of \$500,000.00, of which the County will meet with \$138,000.00. With funds from this grant we plan to upgrade cameras throughout the county, upgrade door access controls, improve communication with law enforcement, provide panic buttons for individual teachers and purchase additional radios for each school.

Mapping RFP has been completed, school safety meetings have been scheduled monthly and all crisis plans have been submitted.

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**Personnel**

1. Personnel Agenda

**October 16, 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 – Pending issuance of initial WV Long-term Substitute Permit & CIB/FBI fingerprint clearance	Otey	Christopher	County-wide	Substitute Teacher	Oct. 20, 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	Montgomery	Adrienne	County-wide	Substitute Teacher	October 17, 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.	Dunford	Micah	County-wide	Home Bound Teacher	October 27, 2025	

**Coaching**

<b>Employment of Coaching Personnel</b>					
	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
1.	Harman	Ryan	Mount View High	Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach 9-12	October 27, 2025

<b>Resignation of Coaching Personnel</b>					
	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>

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1.	Lester	R. Aaron	River View High	Head Baseball Coach	October 9, 2025
2.	Addair	Larry	River View High	Assistant Baseball Coach	October 9, 2025
3.	Green	Melissa	Southside K-8	Elementary Cheer Coach	October 2, 2025
4.	Dobbs	Kaitlyn	Sandy River Middle	Head Boys' Basketball Coach	October 16, 2025

**Service Personnel**

<b>Transfer of Service Personnel</b>					
	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>From Position</b>	<b>To Position</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
1.	Church	Tammy	Mount View High/ Coalfield Elementary, Secretary  (S-MV-21, S-CF-47)	Sandy River Middle, Secretary (S-SR-01)	October 27, 2025
2.	Stacy	Aleisha	County Itinerant (Bradshaw Elementary), Bus/Program Aide (S-CI-02)	Bradshaw Elementary, Aide/ECCAT (S-B-21)	October 27, 2025
3.	Stacy	Marsha	River View High, Cook II, 8hr. (S-RV-05)	Southside K-8, Aide/ECCAT  (S-SS-23)	October 27, 2025
4.	Campbell	Theresa	County-wide, Substitute Aide/Substitute Cook	Southside K-8, Cook II, 3.5 hr.  (S-SS-22)	October 27, 2025
5.	McClanahan	Gabrielle	Preferred Recall	Bradshaw Elementary, Aide/ECCAT (S-B-02)	October 27, 2025
6.	Lemaster	Paige	County-wide, Substitute Cook	Coalfield Elementary, Cook II, 3.5 hrs. (S-CF-22)	October 27, 2025
7.	Bell, II	Thomas	Southside K-8, Custodian, 8 hr.  (S-SS-10)	Mount View High, Custodian II, 8 hr. (S-MV-11)	October 27, 2025
8.	Duncan	Bruce	County Itinerant (Southside K-8), Bus/Program Aide (S-CI-48)	Southside K-8, Aide/ECCAT  (S-SS-20)	October 27, 2025

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9.	Stevens	Virgil	Mount View Attendance Area, Bus Operator, Bus #113  (S-BM-14)	Mount View Attendance Area, Bus Operator, Bus #2403 (S-BM-13)	October 27, 2025
10.	Gorsky	Abigail	County-wide, Substitute Aide	County Itinerant (Coalfield Elementary), Bus/Program Aide (S-CI-49)	October 27, 2025
11.	Horn	Stephanie	County-wide, Substitute Aide	County Itinerant (Southside K-8), Bus/Program Aide	October 27, 2025

<b>Resignation/Retirement/Other of Service 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	Hagerman	Ashlea	County-wide	Substitute Custodian	October 17, 2025
2.	Termination	Hagerman	Tiffany	County-wide	Substitute Custodian	October 17, 2025
3.	Termination	Hagler	Harold	County-wide	Substitute Custodian	October 17, 2025
4.	Termination	Keyser	Kaitlyn	County-wide	Substitute Custodian	October 17, 2025
5.	Termination	Stowers	Melissa	County-wide	Substitute Secretary	October 17, 2025

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

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

**Volunteer Agenda**

<b>Volunteer</b>	<b>SCHOOL(S)</b>	<b>REASON</b>
Crystal Green	MVHS	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Christopher Cogdill	MVHS	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Arlie Matney	SRMS	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Karen Matney	SRMS	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Dylan Smith	MVHS	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Joey Belcher	CFES	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
Nila Estep	SRMS	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching

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Bridgette Hess	SRMS	School Activities/Concession Stands/non-coaching
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On a motion of Margaret Beavers, seconded Ed Evans, and a total of “five” votes cast: “five” 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.

On a motion of Larkin Rippeth, seconded by Margaret Beavers, 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 September (Reports are Unaudited).

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 Monthly Financial Report for the month of September.

3. Approval of McDowell County Board Financial Statement Ending June 30, 2025 (Statements are Unaudited).

Janna Conn gave a brief overview of the statement, in order to make the board more comfortable with what they are seeing. At this time (4:54 pm), Dr. Barker noted that Angela Robinette had lost cell service and was no longer online. On a motion of Margaret Beavers, seconded by Ed Evans, and a total of “four” votes cast: “four” Yes/ “zero” No/“zero” Abstain, the Board voted to approve the Financial Statement Ending June 30, 2025.

4. Approval to Authorize School Fundraiser Events

Mount View Middle School – Bottle Water Sales (September 29, 2025 – May 8, 2026)

McDowell County Career & Technical Center, ProStart Program – Baked Goods Sales (October 1, 2025 – May 1, 2026)

Mount View High School, BETA Club – Cookie Dough Sales (October 6, 2025 – November 3, 2025)

McDowell Career & Technical Center, Gifted Students – Arts & Crafts Sales (October 23, 2025 – October 27, 2025)

laeger Elementary School, Wildcat Family Committee – Halloween Dance (October 24, 2025)

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

River View High School, All Sports Boosters – Christmas Formal (November 14, 2025 – December 6, 2025)

Mount View High School, Varsity Cheerleaders – Goodwill Trailer (December 14, 2025 – December 21, 2026)

On a motion of Margaret Beavers, seconded by Larkin Rippeth, and a total of “four” votes cast: “four” Yes/ “zero” No/ “zero” Abstain, the Board voted to approve all eight School Fundraiser Events: Mount View Middle School – Bottle Water Sales (September 29, 2025 – May 8, 2026); McDowell County Career & Technical Center, ProStart Program – Baked Goods Sales (October 1, 2025 – May 1, 2026); Mount View High School, BETA Club – Cookie Dough Sales (October 6, 2025 – November 3, 2025); McDowell Career & Technical Center, Gifted Students – Arts & Crafts Sales (October 23, 2025 – October 27, 2025); laeger

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Elementary School, Wildcat Family Committee – Halloween Dance (October 24, 2025); Mount View Middle School, Girls' & Boys' Basketball – Alumni Basketball Game (November 14, 2025); River View High School, All Sports Boosters – Christmas Formal (November 14, 2025 – December 6, 2025); Mount View High School, Varsity Cheerleaders – Goodwill Trailer (December 14, 2025 – December 21, 2026).

## **Action Items**

1. Approval of Student Trip Request – Charleston, WV – Mount View Middle School, Grades 6-8 – WV State BETA Convention (November 5, 2025)
2. Approval of Student Trip Request – Charleston, WV – Coalfield Elementary School, Grades 4-5 – WV State BETA Convention (November 5, 2025)
3. Approval of Student Trip Request - Mount View High – County-wide, Grades 3-12 – County Science Fair (December 5, 2025)
4. Approval of Student Trip Request – Mount View High – County-wide, Grades 9-12 – County Math Field Day (December 11, 2025)
5. Approval of Student Trip Request - Mount View High – County-wide, Grades 4-5 – County Math Field Day (December 12, 2025, AM)
6. Approval of Student Trip Request - Mount View High – County-wide, Grades 6-8 – County Math Field Day (December 12, 2025, PM)
7. Approval of Student Trip Request - Mount View High – County-wide, Grades 3-12 – County Social Studies Fair (February 13, 2026)

On a motion of Larkin Rippeth, seconded by Margaret Beavers, and a total of “four” votes cast: “four” Yes/ “zero” No/ “zero” Abstain, the Board voted to approve all seven Student Trip Requests: Approval of Student Trip Request – Charleston, WV – Mount View Middle School, Grades 6-8 – WV State BETA Convention (November 5, 2025); Approval of Student Trip Request – Charleston, WV – Coalfield Elementary School, Grades 4-5 – WV State BETA Convention (November 5, 2025); Approval of Student Trip Request - Mount View High – County-wide, Grades 3-12 – County Science Fair (December 5, 2025); Approval of Student Trip Request – Mount View High – County-wide, Grades 9-12 – County Math Field Day (December 11, 2025); Approval of Student Trip Request - Mount View High – County-wide, Grades 4-5 – County Math Field Day (December 12, 2025, AM); Approval of Student Trip Request - Mount View High – County-wide, Grades 6-8 – County Math Field Day (December 12, 2025, PM); Approval of Student Trip Request - Mount View High – County-wide, Grades 3-12 – County Social Studies Fair (February 13, 2026).

## **Superintendent's Updates**

Dr. Barker informed the board that Accountability Ratings are coming in, and Mrs. Conn only lost 3 points for having less than 3 years of experience. The CTC Accountability Review had to have 75 points and we had 90 points, with 100% of our teachers certified. Students passing the NOCTI test were at 66%, and we had 12% of our students participate in work-based learning.

We've had four schools with 20% or less Absenteeism this week – laeger Elementary at 13%, Bradshaw Elementary, Southside K-8 and Sandy River Middle are all tied at 19%. M. Lester pulls reports every week to make sure student absences are coded correctly. We are working with Mr. Norris on text messaging to allow parents to submit excuses electronically, trying to use technology as much as possible.

We will be having the County Science Fair on December 5 and the County Social Studies Fair will be held February 13. Board members are invited to participate as judges. Miss Hunt appreciates all the help she can get.

Georgia West mentioned a couple of complaints she has heard in the community about the price of sports admission. She stated that for a family with several children, the cost adds up quickly, making it hard to

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attend functions. Dr. Barker advised that the ticket prices are outlined in Policy. Mr. Lester will review the policy to see if changes can be made. Mr. Lester did advise that the policy was changed a couple of years ago to help schools off-set the cost of officials for games. He will speak with Principals to possibly come up with a way to offer family passes, with each family member receiving a card to avoid families bringing children that aren't there own. There might be a possibility of having local business sponsor a sporting event to cover the cost of officials, allowing families to attend for free.

Another concern Mrs. West brought from the community is the occurrence of concussions among students. There is a worry that the middle school students at Sandy River are using old helmets, that might not meet current regulations. Mr. Lester advised that the football team at Sandy River Middle School received brand new helmets within the last two years, due to consolidating Sandy River with Southside for football and getting new uniforms. He also stated that all equipment has to pass regulatory inspection each year. Mr. Lester will follow up with the schools to make sure there are no legitimate needs.

## **Announcement of Future Meetings**

**Date:** Monday, October 27, 2025  
**Time:** 9:00 AM  
**Type:** Special Meeting  
**Location:** Central Office  
900 Mount View Road, Welch, WV

**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2025  
**Time:** 4:00 PM  
**Type:** Special Meeting  
**Location:** Central Office  
900 Mount View Road, Welch, WV  
[Live Stream Link](#)

## **Adjournment**

On a motion by Margaret Beavers, seconded by Ed Evans, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes/ "zero" No/"zero" Abstain the Board moved to adjourn at 5:22 pm.

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Georgia West, President Date

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Ingrida Barker, Superintendent Date