MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCDOWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026

The Board of Education of the County of McDowell met in regular session Tuesday, November 2, 2026, at 5:00 pm at the Central Office, 900 Mount View Road, Welch, West Virginia, with the following members being present and serving throughout: Vice-President Jennifer Justice, James Copolo, Linda Lester White and President Ed Evans. Superintendent Dr. Ingrida Barker served as secretary.

BOARD ACTION

President Ed Evans called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm, and then led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Introduction of Board Members was made at this time, all members, with the exception of Georgia West, are present. Superintendent Dr. Ingrida Barker served as Secretary.

Approval of the Minutes of the October 20, 2026 Regular Session

On a motion of Jennifer Justice seconded by Linda Lester White, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes/ "zero" No/ "zero" Abstain, the Board Members voted to approve the Minutes of the October 20, 2026 Regular Session.

Delegations and Speakers

There were none.

Personnel

1. Personnel Agenda

November 2, 2026

Personnel Agenda

Professional Personnel

Resignation/Retirement/Other of Professional Personnel						
	Action	**Last Name**	**First Name**	**Location**	**Position**	**Effective Date**
1.	Resignation	Hackney	Gail	County-wide	Substitute Teacher	November 2, 2026

Transfer of Professional Personnel					
	Last Name	**First Name**	**From Position**	**To Position**	**Effective Date**
1.	Rutter	Mary	Bradshaw Elementary, Grade 1/2 (P-B-10)	Bradshaw Elementary, Multi-Cat (P-B-40)	At the start of the 2026-2027 School Year Unless Someone is Recruited that can Immediately Assume her Job

Professional Personnel Leave Requests					
	Last Name	**First Name**	**Location/Position**	**Type of Leave**	**Effective Date**
1.	Grizzel	Erica	Career & Technology Center,	Medical Leave	Change in Effective date from October 20, 2026 - To Be

			Cosmetology Instructor		Determined to September 17, 2026 – To Be Determined
2.	Stilwell	Theresa	Southside K-8, Grade 2/3 Teacher	Medical Leave	August 17, 2026 – March 30, 2027

Coaching

Resignation of Coaching Personnel					
	Last Name	**First Name**	**Location**	**Position**	**Effective Date**
1.	Clemins	Kaitlyn	Southside K-8	Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach 6-8	October 14, 2026

Service Personnel

Correction to Previous Agenda		
1.	Previous agenda listed Rebecca Muncy for employment as a Substitute Secretary	Should have read: Betty Muncy for employment as a Substitute Secretary

Reclassification of Service Personnel						
	Last Name	**First Name**	**Location**	**From Position**	**To Position**	**Effective Date**
1.	Boyd	Zachary	Central Office	Foreman/Electrician	Foreman/Electrician/Plumber/ HVAC/ Mason/Carpenter	November 4, 2026

Transfer of Service Personnel					
	Last Name	**First Name**	**From Position**	**To Position**	**Effective Date**
1.	Owens	Alicia	Preferred Recall	Rescind transfer to County Itinerant, Bus/Program Aide (S-CI-50) Transfer to Coalfield Elementary, Temporary Aide/ECCAT (S-CF-7)	Nov. 9 – until the regular employee returns, resigns, or retires
2.	Mallette	Roberta	Preferred Recall	Rescind transfer to Coalfield Elementary, Temporary Aide/ECCAT (S-CF-7) Will remain on Preferred Recall	November 9, 2026

3.	Stevens	Katessa	Coalfield Elementary, Aide/ECCAT (S-CF-6)	County Itinerant (Coalfield Elementary), Bus/Program Aide (S-CI-50)	November 9, 2026

Resignation/Retirement/Other of Service Personnel						
	Action	**Last Name**	**First Name**	**Location**	**Position**	**Effective Date**
1.	Resignation	Sutherland	Courtney	Southside K-8	Cook II (S-SS-09)	October 30, 2026
2.	Resignation	Lester	Chelsia	Iaeger Elementary	Custodian, 3.5 hrs. (S-I-15)	November 2, 2026

Service Personnel Leave Requests					
	Last Name	**First Name**	**Location/Position**	**Type of Leave**	**Effective Date**
1.	Hale	Donna	MV Attendance Area, Bus Operator	Family Medical Leave	October 23, 2026 – November 23, 2026

Employment of Extra-Curricular Service Personnel					
	Last Name	**First Name**	**Location**	**Position**	**Effective Date**
1.	~~Sutherland~~ Hubbard	~~Courtney~~ Diana	Southside K-8	After-school Cook	November 4, 2026

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

On a motion of Jennifer Justice, seconded by James Copolo and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes / "zero" No / "zero" Abstain vote, Board Members voted to approve the personnel agenda. Mr. Evans recognized HR Director, Tonya Kennedy at this time, for receiving the Gregor Bailey Human Resources Officer of the Year Award at the WVASHRO Conference last week.

2. Volunteer List

Volunteer	SCHOOL(S)	REASON
Kayla Hunt	IES	School Activities/Concession Stands/Non-Coaching
Samantha Morgan	SRMS	School Activities/Concession Stands/Non-Coaching

On a motion of James Copolo, seconded by Jennifer Justice, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes / "zero" No / "zero" Abstain vote, Board Members voted to approve the volunteer agenda.

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 Jennifer Justice, seconded by Linda Lester White, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes/ "zero" No/"zero" Abstain, the Board voted to approve the allowed and authorized payment of bills/budget revisions. Mrs. Justice asked for clarification on several line items, which were answered by Dr. Barker, Superintendent.

2. Approval of McDowell County Board of Education Monthly Financial Report for the Month of September (Reports are Unaudited)

On a motion of Jennifer Justice, seconded by Linda Lester White, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes/ "zero" No/"zero" Abstain, the Board voted to Approve the McDowell County Board of Education Monthly Financial Report for the Month of September (Reports are Unaudited).

Presentation/Reports

1. War Bus Garage/Fire Hydrant – Doug Shelton and Jimmy Ellis

No presentation given.

2. Kimball Elementary Property – Joshua Thompson, Attorney

Mr. Thompson addressed the Board, on behalf of the Kimball City Council, to ask that the legal fees for the Kimball property conveyance be reconsidered and align with a comparable amount to the Welch property conveyance. He also asked about some inventory that had been removed from the Kimball property. Mr. Evans stated, concerning the legal fees, that there was a lot more involved in the conveyance of the Kimball property, having to deal with the mining company and more than one parcel of property. Dr. Barker and Mr. Chapman stated that the inventory that was taken from the property was taken before the conveyance of the property, and that the items were distributed among the schools in the county to meet the needs of students and avoid unnecessary purchases. The Board will consider the reduction of legal fees through board action at the next meeting.

3. School Safety Initiatives in MCS – Aaron Lester, Director of Child Nutrition, Attendance and School Safety

Mr. Lester gave out a Campus Safety & Security Update sheet to each Board member and went over the bullet points, highlighting the camera upgrade at Mount View, Staff Preparedness Training, and Emergency Communications.

Board Reports/Comments

Mr. Evans reported that he had the opportunity to serve as a Judge for the Science Fair at Iaeger Elementary School. He stated that the students did a tremendous job and they are doing great work. He also commented on the Trunk or Treat around the County, stating that our schools and communities are doing great things.

Action Items

1. Approval of Student Trip Request – Jack Caffrey Center, Welch – McDowell County Career & Technical Center, Grades 11, 12 – Showcasing Student CTC Programs and skills (November 13, 2026)

2. Approval of Student Trip Request – Chapmanville High School – Mount View High School, Grades 9-12 – High School Boys' Basketball Game (December 18, 2026)

3. Approval of Student Trip Request – Chapmanville High School – Mount View High School, Grades 9-12 – High School Boys' Basketball Game (December 19, 2026)

4. Approval of Student Trip Request – Charleston, WV – Mount View High School, Grades 9-12 – National Beta Convention (November 4, 2026)

On a motion of Jennifer Justice, seconded by James Copolo, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes/ "zero" No/"zero" Abstain, the Board voted to Approve Action Items 1--4 together: Approval of Student Trip Request – Jack Caffrey Center, Welch – McDowell County Career & Technical Center, Grades 11, 12 – Showcasing Student CTC Programs and skills (November 13, 2026); Approval of Student Trip Request – Chapmanville High School – Mount View High School, Grades 9-12 – High School Boys' Basketball Game (December 18, 2026); Approval of Student Trip Request – Chapmanville High School – Mount View High School, Grades 9-12 – High School Boys' Basketball Game (December 19, 2026); Approval of Student Trip Request – Charleston, WV – Mount View High School, Grades 9-12 – National Beta Convention (November 4, 2026).

5. Approval of Mount View Middle School Girls' Basketball Schedule

On a motion of Jennifer Justice, seconded by Linda Lester White, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes/ "zero" No/"zero" Abstain, the Board voted to Approve the Mount View Middle School Girls' Basketball Schedule.

6. Approval of Mount View Middle School Boys' Basketball Schedule

On a motion of Linda Lester White, seconded by Jennifer Justice, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes/ "zero" No/"zero" Abstain, the Board voted to Approve the Mount View Middle School Boys' Basketball Schedule.

7. Approval Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Bright Life Mental Health and Recovery Services and McDowell County Schools

On a motion of Jennifer Justice, seconded by Linda Lester White, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes/ "zero" No/"zero" Abstain, the Board voted to Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Bright Life Mental Health and Recovery Services and McDowell County Schools.

8. Final Approval of Policy 11-002, Promotion & Retention

On a motion of Jennifer Justice, seconded by Linda Lester White, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes/ "zero" No/"zero" Abstain, the Board voted for the Final Approval of Policy 11-002, Promotion & Retention.

9. Final Approval of Policy 8-058, Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage

On a motion of James Copolo, seconded by Jennifer Justice, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes/ "zero" No/"zero" Abstain, the Board voted for the Final Approval of Policy 8-058, Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage.

10. Final Approval of Policy 8-059, Substitute Bus Operartors in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage

On a motion of Jennifer Justice, seconded by James Copolo, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes/ "zero" No/"zero" Abstain, the Board voted for the Final Approval of Policy 8-059, Substitute Bus Operators in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage.

11. Approval of Carryover Entries

On a motion of Jennifer Justice, seconded by Linda Lester White, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes/ "zero" No/"zero" Abstain, the Board voted for the Approval of Carryover Entries. Janna Conn gave out a packet and explained to the members that these carryovers are monies left over from the previous year's budget.

12. Approval Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Cartwheel Mental Health Services and McDowell County Schools

On a motion of Jennifer Justice, seconded by Linda Lester White, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes/ "zero" No/"zero" Abstain, the Board voted to Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Cartwheel Mental Health Services and McDowell County Schools.

Superintendent's Updates

Tomorrow is Election Day, so Central Office and Schools will be closed. Some of the schools will be used for voting. Dr. Barker reminded everyone to go out and vote.

On November 4 and 5, students from Iaeger Elementary, Sandy River Middle School and Mount View High School will be at the BETA Convention in Charleston.

Our Chronic Absenteeism is at 29.5% currently. We are keeping it below 30%. We are working to keep students engaged at the schools during the upcoming holidays to help with absenteeism.

At this time, Mr. Evans recognized student teachers from Bradshaw Elementary School that are in attendance for the Board Meeting.

Announcement of Future Meetings

Date:	Tuesday, November 17, 2026
Time:	5:00 PM
Type:	Regular Meeting
Location:	Central Office, 900 Mount View Road, Welch, WV

Adjournment

On a motion Jennifer Justice, seconded by Linda Lester White, and a total of "four" votes cast: "four" Yes/ "zero" No/"zero" Abstain the Board moved to adjourn at 6:13 pm.

Edward Evans, President Date

Dr. Ingrida Barker, Superintendent Date