West Virginia School Board Association
November Statewide Training Session

Stonewall Resort & Conference Center
Saturday, November 14, 2026

(5.75 Training Hours – Includes Pre-Conference Readings)



Buckhannon Upshur Camera Club
David Taylor

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, November 13, 2026

Pre-Conference Meeting

7:00 p.m. **Executive Board Meeting**
Oak Boardroom

Saturday, November 14, 2026

8:00 a.m. **Buffet Breakfast Provided by the West Virginia School Board Association**

9:00 a.m. **Training Segment 1 (1.75 Hours)**
Stonewall Ballroom II

Presiding/Introduction of Program and Facilitators
Torie Jackson, EdD (Ritchie), President

Title: "**Now That We Are Here, Where Are We?": West Virginia County Boards of Education Consider Strategies Relating to School District Governance Accountabilities, Including WEST VIRGINIA SYSTEM OF SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (2322) /§126-12-1. General and §5.3. County Operational Effectiveness: Indicators of Efficiency"**

Facilitation:
Participating West Virginia School Board Association Co-Regional Directors with county boards of education members, including WVSBA Executive Committee and Executive Board members participating and county schools superintendents serving as Conference resource persons, discussing Preconference ***West Virginia Board of Education Accreditation Standards As Per West Virginia Board of Education Rule §2322 Survey*** Results.
The Conference segment will flow with purpose in terms of time management and format.

For Consideration

- **"Proverbial wisdom counsels against risk and change. But sitting ducks fare worst of all."** – Mason Cooley (1927-2002), U.S. aphorist known for his witty aphorisms. One of the aphorisms Cooley developed was "The time I kill is killing me." He was professor emeritus of French, speech and world literature at the College of Staten Island.
- **"Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."** – Steven Paul "Steve" Jobs (1955 – 2011) U.S. entrepreneur. businessman, inventor, and investor. A pioneer of the of the personal computer revolution of the 1970s and 1980s, co-founder of Apple. After the company's board of directors fired him in 1985, he founded NeXT the same year and purchased Pixar in 1986, becoming its chairman and majority shareholder until 2007. (From The "Crazy Ones" Quote (from Apple's Think Different campaign)."
- **"Some people see things that are and ask, Why? Some people dream of things that never were and ask, Why not? Some people have to go to work and don't have time for all that . . ." –** George Denis Patrick Carlin (1937 –2008), U.S. American stand-up comedian, satirist, social critic, actor and author.
- **"When we appreciate reality, it can actually work on us."** - Chögyam Trungpa (1939-1987), Tibetan recognized by both Tibetan Buddhists and other spiritual practitioners and scholars as a preeminent teacher of Tibetan Buddhism.

10:45 a.m. **Break**

11:00 a.m. **Training Segment 2 (1.00 Hours)**
Stonewall Ballroom II

Presiding/Introduction of Program and Presenters
Dan Metz (Wirt), Vice President

Title: **Revisiting the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act**
Presenter(s): Rodd Monts, Director of State Policy at SchoolHouse Connection / https://schoolhouseconnection.org/
For Consideration

"Amid all the moves, one thing has been constant for Dayana: her school. That's because a federal law, known as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, allows students like her to stay in their school even when their housing takes them far from where they originally enrolled."

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12:00 p.m. **Lunch Provided by the West Virginia School Board Association**
Stillwaters Restaurant

1:00 p.m. **Training Segment 3 (2.50 Hours)**
Stonewall Ballroom II

Presiding/Introduction of Presenters/Facilitator
Kathy Skinner (Jefferson), Financial Officer

Title: **One-Hour Fireside Chat Theme: Governance That Works: Trust, Clarity, and Stewardship**
Presenters:

- Ryan S. Saxe, EdD, EdS, Berkeley County Schools Superintendent
- Dr. Diane Greene, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Literacy Initiative
- Brent Sherrard, President, Berkeley County Board of Education
- Jeffrey S. Kelley, Associate Superintendent, West Virginia Department of Education

Facilitator

- Kimberly S. Croyle, Partner, Bowles Rice LLC

For Consideration

"This conversation is not about catching mistakes. It is about learning from patterns that have emerged in school systems across the state and asking a more useful question: What practices help a board and superintendent work well together, preserve public trust, and keep the focus on students?"

3:30 p.m. **Concluding Comments/Announcements/Good of the Order – President Jackson**

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

The following persons are presenting, presiding, or facilitating in various capacities during the conference. All biographical information was provided by each individual listed. Some edits were made for style and other considerations.

Pat Gray, Immediate Past President, West Virginia School Board Association



James P. Gray (Pat) is the current president of the Fayette County Board of Education and is serving his fifth term representing the students and citizens of Fayette County. He has completed two, 3-year terms, on the WV Commission of Professional Teaching Standards after being appointed by the WV State Board of Education. Pat retired as an Associate Director with AT&T after a career spanning 31 years and currently is the Managing Partner of Gray Consulting and Leadership Services, LLC. He has a Master's Degree in Management and is a credentialed Project Management Professional (PMP). Pat and his wife Meredith have 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

Greg Angell, President, Summers County Board of Education, WVSBA Region 1 Co-Director



Greg Angell attended Jumping Branch Elementary, graduated from Hinton High. He raised four children in Summers County (three SCHS grads and one current junior). Greg supported Summers County youth through PTO and Local School Improvement Committees. He also served as a FFA volunteer, archery coach, and travel volleyball coach. Greg began serving on the Summers County Board of Education to complete his father's term. He was then elected to a four year term and re-elected for another four years. Greg is employed with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He also stays busy on the farm that's been in his family for generations.

Michael Raymond Prichard, Member, Wyoming County Board of Education, WVSBA Region 1 Co-Director



Michael Raymond Prichard has called Wyoming County, West Virginia, home for 74 years. A graduate of Oceana High School, he continued his education at Bluefield State College, earning an associate degree in mining engineering. He worked in the coal mining industry for 33 years and served on a mine rescue team before a hunting accident led to his retirement. Michael has served as an elected member of the Wyoming County Board of Education for 31 years, holding the positions of both president and vice president during his tenure. His decision to seek office was sparked by the consolidation of the high school his daughters attended. That experience brought school decisions close to home and inspired his longstanding involvement in public education. His commitment to service extends throughout the community. He has served as a deacon at Oceana Freewill Baptist Church since 2001 and was active in the Oceana Lions Club in his younger years. He has also served as a volunteer instructor for the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, teaching hunter education courses throughout Wyoming County. He currently serves on the boards of the Wyoming County Economic Development Authority and Integrated Resources, Inc. Michael and his wife have been married for 52 years and are proud of their family. As both a parent and grandparent, he understands the hopes families have for their children and the importance of strong local schools. Through his service on the Board of Education, Michael strives to help ensure that every student has access to a quality education and opportunities for a successful future. He values listening to families, supporting school employees, and working with fellow board members to make decisions that serve the children of Wyoming County.

Melissa “Missy” Hall, President, Wayne County Board of Education, WVSBA Region 2 Co-Director



Melissa “Missy” hall is serving her third term on the Wayne County Board of Education, where she has served for eight years, including the past six as Board President. She is a 1994 graduate of Marshall University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Athletic Training. Missy has been employed at Cabell Huntington Hospital for more than 20 years and currently serves as Coordinator of the Pain Recovery Center. In addition to her role as a Regional Co-Director for the West Virginia School Board Association, Missy serves on the West Virginia Commission for Professional Teaching Standards and is a member of the Farm Bureau. A lifelong Wayne County resident, Missy is a proud mother of three and grandmother of four. She believes strongly in public education, the importance of local school boards, and making sure students in every corner of West Virginia have opportunities to succeed.

Barry Lyle Brown, Member, Boone County Board of Education, WVSBA Region 3 Co-Director



Barry Lyle Brown is a lifelong resident of Boone County, West Virginia, and a 1977 graduate of Van High School. He has dedicated his life to his family, his community, and public service. Barry began his coalmining career in 1977 at ARMCO’s Robinhood No. 8 Mine in Twilight, West Virginia. Over the next 39 years, he worked his way from an underground coal miner to senior mine management, retiring in 2016 as Day-Shift Mine Manager at Black Oak Mine. Barry was first elected to Boone County Board of Education in 1994, serving until 2006. He returned to the board in 2018 and continues to serve today, with a total of 20 years dedicated to public education. Throughout his service, he has remained committed to supporting students, teachers, and families throughout Boone County. Bary and his wife, Connie, are the proud parents of Joshua Brown and Victor Lovett. After Victor lost his mother and grandmother within a month of each other, Barry and Connie welcomed him into their home and family, raising him as their own son. They are also proud grandparents of two granddaughters, Cindel and Elliot Brown. Throughout his life, Barry has demonstrated the values of hard work, compassion, integrity, and service to others. Whether working in the coal mines, serving the children of Boone County, or opening his home to someone in need. Barry has always believed that family and community come first.

Joseph “Joby” Groom, Member, Fayette County Board of Education, WVSBA Region 4 Co-Director



Joseph "Joby" Groom is a retired teacher/administrator from Fayette County School. A Business Education teacher by profession, Groom taught at several high schools and middle schools in Fayette County. In 2000, he became the Vice Principal of Mt. Hope High School. A couple years later, he became the school's Principal. In 2008, he became the Principal at Gauley Bridge Elementary. Joseph Groom has spent his entire life in WV. He was educated in Fayette County Schools and graduated from Montgomery High School in 1970. He received his Bachelor Degree from WVIT Tech in 1988. During the time that he was working on his educational degree, Groom did substitute teaching and coaching in Fayette County School. He started his coaching career at Gauley Bridge high School in 1986. He became an Assistant Basketball Coach at Valley High School in 1995 and became the Head Boys Basketball Coach there in 1999. Groom coach at Valley for 18 years. His coaching career was very successful. He never had a losing season and took his team to State Playoffs 5 times. In 2002, Groom received a Master's Degree in Administration and Leadership Studies from the University of Phoenix. He retired from the school system in 2016. In 2021, Groom was elected to the Fayette County School Board. "These past 4 years have been extremely enjoyable. I was blessed to work with 4 wonderful people, great Superintendents, and great Directors. I like where we are in Fayette County and I believe we are taking huge steps in educating our children." Joseph Groom is married to Stephanie Terrell Groom. He has two beautiful daughters, Alita Lightfoot and Cianna Groom. "My wife and my girls are the apples of my eye, Groom said. I don't know what I would do without them." He is also the owner of Groom Brothers Construction. He and his brothers started the business in 1986. Groom loves coaching basketball, working

with children and fishing. "Any day fishing is a great day. If you're able to catch a few, it becomes an even greater day."

Horst Motz, Vice President, Calhoun County Board of Education, WVSBA Region 5 Co-Director



Horst Motz is in his third term as an elected member of the Calhoun County Board of Education, representing the Sherman District. Horst also serves as the board representative to the Calhoun-Gilmer Career Center and is a member of its administrative council. Horst emigrated from Romania with his family in 1955, settling in a rural community in Naples, New York. After graduating high school, he attended one semester at Purdue University before enlisting in the United States Navy in 1963. Horst served two terms during the Vietnam War on the aircraft carrier, the USS Intrepid, completing his service as a petty officer 2nd class IC electrician in 1967. Horst next began his career as a technician at New Jersey Bell, holding positions of increasing responsibility as the company transitioned into Bell Atlantic and Verizon. He retired from Verizon as a first line supervisor in 2002. Horst and his wife of 57 years, Betty, moved to Calhoun County in 2007, following their dream of settling in a quiet, mountain country area. Both Horst and Betty are active members at the Brooksville Missionary Baptist Church, with Horst serving as a trustee and former leader of its AWANA program. Horst spends most of his days working around their home, training his dog, various carpentry projects, and also keeping tabs on his three grown children and multiple grandchildren.

M. Andy Garber, Member, Ohio County Board of Education, WVSBA Region 6 Co-Director



M. Andy Garber is serving his second term on the Ohio County Schools Board of Education and currently serves as vice president. A lifelong educator, Garber spent nearly four decades with Ohio County Schools as a teacher, Special Education Director, and principal of both Wheeling Middle School and Warwood School. He later served as a supervisor to resident teachers at West Liberty University. Garber holds a bachelor's degree from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree from West Virginia University, and an administrative certification from the West Virginia Graduate College and West Virginia University. His commitment to children and education extends beyond the classroom through decades of community involvement, youth coaching, and service.

John Taylor, Vice President, Taylor County Board of Education, WVSBA Region 7 Co-Director



John Taylor and his twin were born in Washington, DC on November 7, 1946. He graduated from Fairmont State as a teacher specializing in Biological, general and earth sciences. He also has a Master's in Education Administration from WVU. He taught 6 years at Smithfield High School in Virginia, 4 years at Flemington High School and 31 years at Grafton High School, both in Taylor County. While teaching, John served as a volunteer paramedic for 23 years and during that time had 7 cardiac arrest saves and delivered 3 babies. He retired in 2011 and currently serves on the Taylor County Board of Education and the Board of the Taylor County Emergency. John is also involved at both the local and state level of the Association of Retired School Employees. John has been married for 58 years to Lee Taylor. They have 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

Denver Burnside, Member, Doddridge County Board of Education, WVSBA Region 7 Co-Director



Reverend Denver Burnside has dedicated more than two decades to serving the students, families, and community of Doddridge County. A member of the Doddridge County Board of Education since July 2002, Rev. Burnside is among the longest-serving school board members in West Virginia, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to public education and community service.Throughout his tenure, Rev. Burnside has been a steadfast advocate for Career and Technical Education, recognizing the importance of providing students with practical skills, meaningful opportunities, and pathways to success beyond graduation. His passion for helping those in need reflects his belief that education is not only about academic achievement but also about supporting individuals and strengthening communities. Known for his steady leadership, servant's heart, and dedication to the people of Doddridge County, Rev. Burnside has remained committed to making decisions that place students and their futures at the forefront. Reflecting on his years of service, Rev. Burnside shared, "Serving on the Board is an opportunity to support students and strengthen our community. I'm grateful to the citizens of Doddridge County for the trust they place in us and the chance to serve." His longstanding service embodies the Doddridge County Schools mission, United to Make a Difference, and serves as a lasting example of the impact one individual can make through leadership, compassion, and commitment to others.

Michael Martin, Vice President, Berkeley County Board of Education, WVSBA Region 8 Co-Director



Michael Martin is a 2015 graduate of Musselman High School. He was a four-sport, student-athlete, assistant editor of the school newspaper, and member of the National Art Honor Society. He was first elected to the Board of Education in July 2020. Michael has a strong background in law and policy from several different trade associations in Washington, D.C. ranging from agriculture to different hospitality industries, as well as interning for a law office in The Eastern Panhandle. He is currently a Marketing Director, and his hobbies include gardening, exploring West Virginia, and spending time with his dog, Cole.

Ivan E. "Sonny" O'Neil, Vice President, Pendleton County Board of Education, WVSBA Region 8 Co-Director



Sonny graduated from Fairview High School in 1972 spending most of the summers on the family farm at Seneca Rocks. After a career in manufacturing construction and mining in Marion County, WV, he decided to move back to Seneca Rocks in February 1993. He worked for the next 23 years as the Safety Director/Dispatcher for Hinkle Trucking, retiring in 2016. While in Marion County he was a fire department officer and EMT. Sonny has also coached elementary basketball and Little League baseball. It was at this time he began his officiating career doing basketball, baseball, and softball for all age groups. Here in Pendleton County, he has served on the North Fork Clinic Board, Pendleton Community Care Board, Circleville LSIC, and the North Fork Community Council which secured the funding and built the Harold Michael Community Building and Gym. The building was then given to the Pendleton County Board of Education. Sonny served on the Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone Board for 26 years and is presently in his 25th year on the Pendleton County Board of Education which includes serving on the Eastern Panhandle Instructional Council, RESA 8, and the new Eastern Panhandle Instructional Council. He recently finished his officiating career with 32 years as a basketball official, 29 years with girls' volleyball, and many years of baseball. He is a member of High Rock United Methodist Church where he is a trustee and the Assistant Superintendent. He and his wife Paula are the seventh generation to live on the family's Harman Hills farm. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Rodd Monts, Director of State Policy at SchoolHouse Connection



Rodd Monts is Director of State Policy at SchoolHouse Connection, a national non-profit organization working to overcome homelessness through early care and education. He leads national efforts advancing state laws and policies that improve educational access and stability for children and youth experiencing homelessness. Since 2021, he has helped shape and secure legislation, policy guidance, and reforms in over a dozen states, removing barriers to school enrollment and graduation, expanding higher education access, strengthening homeless liaison systems, and improving cross-agency coordination. He leads state policy engagement with SchoolHouse Connection's national network of advocates and partners. Previously, Rodd spent over a decade as a policy strategist and campaign leader with a statewide Michigan civil rights organization, helping develop and pass major municipal and state reforms in education equity, juvenile justice, immigrants' rights, voting rights, and racial justice. He holds a B.A. from Grand Valley State University, M.A. from Wayne State University, and M.A. from Marygrove College.

Ryan S. Saxe, EdD, EdS, Superintendent, Berkeley County Board of Education



Dr. Ryan S. Saxe has served as Superintendent of Berkeley County Schools since July 1, 2024, when he was sworn in by 23rd Judicial Circuit Judge Bridget Cohee. A proud West Virginia native and graduate of Cabell Midland High School in Ona, WV, Dr. Saxe brings nearly two decades of experience in public education and district leadership. He holds a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) and an Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in Educational Leadership from Liberty University; a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Marshall University; a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Environmental Education from West Virginia University; and an Associate of Science degree from The Ohio State University. Over his 19-year career in education, Dr. Saxe has served in a variety of leadership roles across West Virginia and Florida. He began as an Agriculture Education Teacher and later held positions as Assistant Principal and Principal in Lincoln County, West Virginia. He also worked at the West Virginia Department of Education as a Coordinator in the Office of Federal Programs and School Improvement. In Manatee County, Florida, Dr. Saxe served as Director of Professional Learning, Executive Director of Secondary Schools, and Executive Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Professional Learning. From 2017 to 2024, he served as Superintendent of Cabell County Schools, where he was honored as the 2024 West Virginia Superintendent of the Year. As Superintendent of Berkeley County Schools, Dr. Saxe is committed to academic excellence, strengthening instructional leadership, expanding workforce development, improving school facilities to meet growing enrollment, and fostering a cohesive, student-centered educational ecosystem where every role, from the classroom to the cafeteria, contributes to student success.

Dr. Diana Greene, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Literacy initiative



Dr. Diana Greene is a nationally respected education leader with more than 37 years of experience in public education. Her career spans roles as a classroom teacher, school principal, district leader, and superintendent, culminating in her service as Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools, the 20th-largest school district in the nation. As superintendent, Dr. Greene led transformational, system-level change focused on improving outcomes for students and educators. Under her leadership, the district achieved high graduation rates, removed all schools from the state's turnaround list, and reduced the number of persistently low-performing schools by more than 60 percent. She also successfully led voter-approved referendums to fund new school facilities and significantly improve teacher compensation, moving the district from the bottom quartile to the top quartile statewide for teacher pay. One of the proudest moments of her career was the replacement of Jean Ribault High School with a modern facility that honored the school's legacy while investing in its future. Dr. Greene's leadership has been recognized nationally and statewide, including being named Florida

Superintendent of the Year (2021), Florida Star Superintendent of the Year (2022) and a finalist for the Green Garner Award for Urban Superintendent of the Year (2022). Today, Dr. Greene serves as Chief Executive Officer of Children's Literacy Initiative, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving literacy outcomes for children from birth through grade eight. In this role, she partners with school systems, early childhood providers, and community organizations across the country to strengthen instructional practice, build educator capacity, and support families through culturally responsive, high-quality literacy coaching and professional learning. As one of the few Black women to lead a large urban school district, Dr. Greene brings a leadership perspective grounded in equity, systems thinking, and service. She also serves on several advisory and community boards, including the A.L. Lewis Community Board, Literacy Alliance of Northeast Florida board, and the University of North Florida Silverfield College of Education and Human Services Advisory Board.

Brent Sherrard, President, Berkeley County Board of Education



Brent Sherrard graduated from Shepherd College in 1992 before earning a Master's degree in School Administration from Shenandoah University in 1999. He devoted 31 years to Berkeley County Schools, beginning his career as a science teacher before advancing to assistant principal and ultimately serving as a principal for the final 20 years of his career. Throughout his time in education, Brent was dedicated to fostering student success, providing strong instructional leadership, and building meaningful relationships with students, staff, families, and the community. His commitment to public education and service continues to guide his work as a member of the Berkeley County Board of Education.

Jeffrey Kelley, Assistant Superintendent, WV Department of Education, District and School Accountability



Jeffrey Kelley earned a bachelor's degree in English Education from West Virginia State University and a master's degree in Educational Leadership Studies from West Virginia University. He spent seven years in the field as a teacher and assistant principal prior to being named the Principal at St. Albans High School in October of 2010. During his tenure, Red Dragon students consistently ranked among the top West Virginia high schools in academic achievement while also improving graduation rates. He was twice recognized as the Mountain State Athletic Conference Principal of the Year. Kelley was selected Superintendent of Lincoln County Schools in July of 2020. He was tasked with COVID re-entry and navigating the county out of a State of Emergency, which included 199 findings by the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE). He proved successful in both while also shifting the county's focus to academic achievement. In March of 2023, Kelley accepted a position with the WVDE of as the Officer of Accountability, Assessment and Leadership.

Kimberly Croyle, Bowles Rice LLP Educational Legal Team



Kimberly Croyle provides assistance and advice to clients throughout the state on education law issues such as policy formation; Title IX; bullying and harassment; and disability discrimination and accommodation issues, including 504 accommodations, personnel matters, FERPA, Title VII and the ADA. She represents clients before the West Virginia Public Employees Grievance Board; at due process hearings and mediations; in state and federal court; and before the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

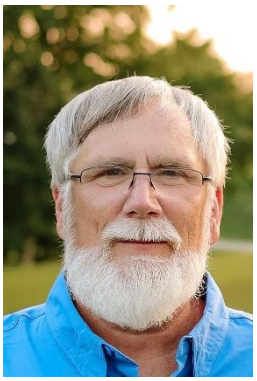
CONFERENCE PRESIDERS

Torie Jackson, PhD, President-Elect of the West Virginia School Board Association



Dr. Torie Jackson is the president of WVU Parkersburg. A first-generation college student, Dr. Jackson is WVU Parkersburg Proud, earning an associate degree in Journalism from the institution. She continued her education at WVU to receive a bachelor's degree in Journalism, a master's degree in Organizational Communication and a doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration. Additionally, she holds a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership from Salem International University. Her most recent educational credential is a Certificate of Current Affairs Fundraising in Crisis Leadership from the prestigious Indiana University Lilly School of Philanthropy. Before being named interim president, Dr. Jackson served in various roles at WVU Parkersburg, including Chief Operating Officer, Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement, President and CEO of the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation and Associate Professor of Communication. Under Dr. Jackson's leadership, the marketing division at WVU Parkersburg has won 23 national marketing awards in the past three years, the most of any college or university in West Virginia. Due to her many achievements, WV Executive magazine selected her as one of West Virginia's Young Guns Class of 2021 members. Her peers also recognized her with the WVU Parkersburg Bernard P. McDonough Faculty of the Year Award in 2015 and as the WVU Parkersburg Employee of the Year in 2014.

Daniel C. "Dan" Metz, Financial Officer, West Virginia School Board Association



Daniel C. Metz is a retired educator who lives in Newark WV, with his wife Brenda. Dan attended high school at Wirt County High School graduating in 1977. He earned his bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Special Education from Glenville State University in 1981 followed by a master's degree in educational leadership from West Virginia University in 1984. Metz began his professional journey as a teacher at Wirt County High School. He later served as principal of Newark Elementary and was the first principal of Wirt County Middle School. His leadership extended to Special Education Director / Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent of Wirt County Schools in which he served as until retirement. After retirement, Dan assumed the positions of interim superintendent of Calhoun and Roane County Schools. He also served as an adjunct instructor at West Virginia University of Parkersburg for 13 years for the Educational Division. He currently works as a consultant for DCM Educational Consultant LLC hearing Level One Grievances and conducts Special Education training for County Boards of Education through out West Virginia. Metz has participated on several state and national committees. Dan currently is serving his third term on the Wirt County Board of Education and serves as its president.

Kathryn "Kathy" Skinner, Financial Officer, West Virginia School Board Association



Kathryn "Kathy" Skinner has served as a member of the Jefferson County Board of Education since July 2014 and currently serves as President. She holds a BBA in Accounting from the College of William & Mary and an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin; her background as a CPA and her current role as CFO of Skinner Law Firm bring steady, results-focused leadership and sound financial oversight to the Board. Her record of community service runs deep: she owned a small business in Charles Town, served on the board of Charles Town Now, represented the Board of Education on Jefferson County Parks & Recreation for six years, has chaired the James Rumsey Administrative Council since 2022, and serves on the Jefferson County Development Authority, where she helps strengthen the ties between strong schools, a strong community, and a strong local

economy. For more than two decades, Kathy has also shown up as a parent volunteer—serving as a PTO officer at three schools and contributing to the County Calendar Committee, Local School Improvement Councils at three schools, the Wellness Committee, and a Five-Year Strategic Planning Committee—and with her husband Andrew, she raised four children who went through Jefferson County Schools from K–12, giving her a parent's perspective and a lasting commitment to keeping local schools focused on students, families, and results.

WVSBA NOVEMBER SPONSORS

Platinum Level

Energy Systems Group® (ESG) is a leading local sustainable energy solutions provider with an office in Charleston, West Virginia, that specializes in energy efficiency, sustainability, resiliency, and infrastructure improvement solutions. Since 1994, ESG has been helping K-12 schools like yours overcome the challenges of aging infrastructure and rising operational and energy costs by providing turnkey, self-funded solutions that directly enhance the quality and safety of learning environments. Through energy savings performance contracting and various other funding sources, ESG can help you install new energy efficient building systems, where guaranteed savings from operation budgets pay for the capital improvements. From the initial energy audit through long-term measurement and verification of project savings, the ESG team will partner with you to design and construct solutions that fit the needs of your schools and result in significant cost savings while providing environmental and educational benefits. Let us take your schools to the head of the class! Contact Audra Blackwell at ablackwell@esg.email or visit energysystemsgroup.com to learn more.

Representative: Audra Blackwell, ESG Business Development Manager – West Virginia

When you need a job done, you want a company who has seen it before. **The Thrasher Groups** dependability is based on over 40 years of experience, with professionals who know the communities we serve. Thrasher provides architecture, engineering, and field services such as environmental, survey, materials testing, and construction management. We drive projects to completion.

Representative: Matt Breakey, Project Manager

Neola is your trusted partner in educational excellence, providing expertly crafted policies that empower students and staff to thrive. Our policies are strategically designed to uphold the highest standards of teaching and learning while fostering a safe and effective school environment. With Neola, schools gain the guidance and tools needed to drive success and continuous improvement.

Representative: Sam Kalbaugh, Policy Associate

Silver Level

Country Roads Leasing, LLC, providing West Virginia school boards with lease-purchase equipment financing since 2010. Projects range from laptops and vehicles to HVAC and energy performance contracts. We work with local banks and facilitate a complete process from initial proposal to providing client service throughout the term.

Representative: Jeff Smell, Owner

Specialized Education Services, Inc. (SESI), a division of FullBloom, is a premier provider of education services for K-12 students who require additional educational and behavioral supports to overcome challenges that impede success in a traditional school setting. SESI partners with school districts to run in-district classrooms and private day schools that meet the academic, behavioral, and emotional needs of special and alternative education students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Emotional Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, and other challenges. Partnering with over 800 school districts nationwide, SESI serves nearly 13,000 students in private day schools and in-district classrooms.

Representative: Kate Bokrosh, Director of Partnerships

The **Southern Educational Services Cooperative** (SESC) empowers counties through cooperative solutions. We offer a wide array of services from bus operator training and teacher shortage solutions to full virtual school programs. All counties are able to purchase services from the SESC – even if they are a member of another cooperative. There is no membership fee, you only pay for what you purchase. Call today for more details at: 681-207-7110.

Representative: Jason Butcher, Chief Administrator