

West Virginia Association of School Administrators
Minutes
Meeting held December 7, 2006 at McClure Center City Hotel, Wheeling, WV

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Deborah Akers, president, at approximately 10:00 am on December 7, 2006.

Welcome:

Larry Miller, Superintendent of Ohio County, welcomed the Association to Wheeling, West Virginia.

Approval of Minutes:

On motion by Lyn Guy, seconded by Marsha Carr-Lambert, Minutes of the November 2, 2006, meeting were approved as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee Report/President Report:

Deborah Akers, President, reported that the Executive Committee had met the previous evening. Since there is currently no membership chair, due to Matt Kittle changing jobs, she asked every member to pay attention to the membership list and to attempt to secure additional members. She further reported that Mark Manchin had resigned as Legislative Chair due to his appointment as the Director of the SBA, and announced that she had appointed Bill Niday as chair of the Legislative Committee. The final issue discussed at the Executive Committee was the action on the GASB conversion for county school boards. Dr. Akers reported that there had been a meeting with Dr. Paine and Dr. McClanahan established soon after the beginning of the year. At the meeting, issues remaining regarding the GASB conversion will be addressed and additional information will be provided to the membership.

Treasurer's Report

Due to the absence of Butch Barcus, Treasurer, Martha Dean gave the treasurer's report. Beginning balance was \$36,766.84, income was \$589.20 and expenses were \$3,679.83, leaving a balance of \$33,676.21. On motion by Nick Zervos, seconded by Danny Kaser, the treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Seminars Committee Report:

Marsha Carr-Lambert, seminars chair indicated that the January Seminar will be soon held and that all speakers have agreed to participate. She distributed information and registration forms for the members' convenience. Stonewall Resorts has been contacted and dates for the summer conference have been secured. The summer conference will be held at Stonewall July 18-19 and 20, 2007.

GASB Committee Report:

The chair of the GASB committee, Danny Kaser, reported that several of his committee had met with Dr. Paine. There has been another meeting set up with both superintendents and treasurers as well as representatives from school board members for January 4, 2007. Several of the treasurers are still indicating that they need additional training to be able to accomplish the change to GASB. Howard O'Cull has set a session in the WVSBA winter conference to provide more information on GASB to school board members. It was agreed that awareness of the problems associated with the conversion to a new accounting system, accompanied by a continuation of the current system is the biggest problem to address.

Dr. McClanahan clarified the issue by indicating that Statement 34 is a process of reporting and Statement 45 addresses the issue of liability charge. He indicated that the committee would review the issues, gain agreement, and then decide on a course of action. He indicated an understanding of the issue of how to charge for benefits of federally funded employees. He further stated that the GASB implementation cannot be delayed another year, as per discussion with the State Auditor's Office.

Pre-Kindergarten Committee Report:

Rick Butler, Chair of the Pre-Kindergarten Committee, reported that the meeting of the Early Childhood Planning Committee had been cancelled this month.

Formula Committee/Legislative Committee Report:

Ron Blankenship, Chair of the Formula Committee, reported that both the Legislative and Formula Committee had met together the previous afternoon since most of the Legislative Agenda for WVASA will be centered on desirable formula changes. There will be a follow-up meeting of the Legislative Committee to develop the formal agenda and Legislative Brochure. He asked that the membership follow the committee appointments and that those who live in the district of the leaders of both Senate and House take a leadership role in promoting the Association's agenda.

The committee felt that the highest importance item is to change the formula to allow counties to capture more of the local share. This is critical to enable county school systems to meet the expectations that are currently placed on them. The formula recommendations supported by WVASA at the November meeting will be utilized in developing the Association's legislative agenda. We will also be supporting the State Department's 21st Century Issues.

Motion: Adopting Legislative Agenda

On motion by Ronald Blankenship, seconded by Carolyn Long, the membership voted unanimously to adopt the Legislative Agenda as explained by the Committee Report.

Policy Review Committee Report:

John Curry, committee chair, reported on SB Policy 2419, currently on comment, having attended one of the meetings held across the state to hear public comments. There are still some issues such as case load that need to be addressed. He further reported on Policy 2510, which passed at the last State Board Meeting.

Motion: Comprehensive Study Regarding Case Loads:

On motion by Rick Butler, seconded by Ron Blankenship, the group unanimously agreed to request the State Department of Education to do a comprehensive study of proposed SB Policy 2419 to see if it is more restrictive and/or more costly than current federal policy and to report to Superintendents on this issue.

National Conference Report:

Martha Dean reminded the group that the National Conference would be held in New Orleans this year and that the AASA web site is now open for both conference and room reservations. The WV hotel is the Embassy Suites, located only two blocks from the New Orleans Conference Center. The user name for access to room reservations in the state block is "West Virginia" and the pass code is WV07. She further passed out information about a Rural Scholars program that counties could apply for, if interested.

Grievances and Court Cases:

Debbie Akers reported that Howard O'Cull had provided the Executive Committee with a summary of proposed changes in the grievance law which will probably be introduced this session. The advisory committee recommends that the number of steps be reduced and that the option for binding arbitration be included in the process. The understanding at this time is that the option for binding arbitration must be mutually acceptable to both parties.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Association, Marsha Carr-Lambert moved and Jane Reynolds seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

The report of the State Department followed the business meeting. Dr. Jack McClanahan gave the report. He indicated that the legislative agenda for the State Board supports the position taken by the organization that the local share be reduced. The State Board is also looking at the need for flexibility for staff development of teachers and principals. There will be a spring conference in April to support the 21st Century Learning efforts. The State Board is also working on an exit strategy for all takeover counties.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Dean, Executive Director