

**West Virginia Association of School Administrators**  
**Minutes**  
**Meeting held February 22, 2007 at Governor's Conference Room, Charleston**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Deborah Akers, president, at 10:00 am on February 22, 2007.

**Guests:**

Two guests made an appearance to address the group. Betty Ireland, WV Secretary of State welcomed us to the Capitol and spoke briefly about two programs initiated by her office. She thanked the Superintendents for allowing her office to come to the schools to register student voters who had reached the age of eligibility. She further explained that a new program was being initiated to inform students regarding election fraud.

David Perry, Chair of Education Committee Sub-Committee A, explained the work they have done this year on formula changes. He thanked superintendents for appearing before the sub-committee to explain the shortcomings of the current formula and hoped that his sub-committee work would create value to create needed changes to make the school aid formula fairer to all.

**Approval of Minutes:**

On motion by Butch Barcus, seconded by Lawrence Miller, minutes of the January 24, 2007, 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 and discussed various issues. She reported that SB Policy 2419 had been pulled from the State Board Meeting agenda and that Superintendent Paine was going to meet with county superintendents about the remaining concerns regarding the changes in the policy. She further reported that she had followed up regarding GASB, commended the presentations on behalf of WVASA by Danny Kaser and Greg Minnich, and said that Dr. Paine would address the concerns of WVASA regarding the bill from PEIA.

**Legislative Committee Report:**

Bill Niday, Chair of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Legislative Brochures had been widely distributed and that the response from the group had been that we support any additional funds retained by counties from local tax collections be entirely discretionary, without any direction by the Legislature as to how they would be spent. The committee continues to work on the goals and, particularly, the issue of discretionary funds.

**Treasurer's Report**

Butch Barcus, Treasurer, gave the treasurer's report. Beginning balance was \$31,158.90, income was \$7,210.80 and expenses were \$2,967.33, leaving a balance of \$35,402.37. To date, \$6,600 has been received in registrations from the January Seminar. It is anticipated that the net revenue for the Seminar will be between \$2,000 and \$3,000. On motion by Lawrence Miller, seconded by Pat Law, the treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

**Seminars Committee Report:**

Marsha Carr-Lambert, seminars chair indicated that plans are coming together for the summer conference, to be held at Stonewall Resorts, July 18-19-20, 2007. The theme is "21<sup>st</sup> Century Express - All Aboard", and we are expecting the Governor and/or First Lady to accept our invitation to be at the annual Banquet. Bill Grizzell is working on a continuous slide show of pictures from several previous years, and will be taking group pictures for us. Jim Phares has agreed to chair the Golf Competition, an Elvis Impersonator has been acquired and those who are interested are invited to enter the Elvis "look alike" contest for which prizes will be awarded. It should be a great conference.

### **GASB Committee Report:**

The chair of the GASB committee, Danny Kaser, reported that those present at the WVSBA Conference last week had expressed an interest in taking additional action to try to ameliorate the problems associated with GASB and GAAP implementation. Reportedly, the School Boards Association are writing a letter to the Attorney General to inquire about the legality of PEIA submitting a bill that cannot be paid by the school boards.

### **Pre-Kindergarten Committee Report:**

Rick Butler, Chair of the Pre-Kindergarten Committee, reported that SB 452 has passed out of Senate Education that is titled the "Kids First Act". It is not clear the total impact on current pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs. There is already an organization in place (PIECES) that has as its purpose to encourage collaboration and cooperation among the agencies providing services to this age group of children. We should watch the progress of this bill.

### **Formula Committee Report:**

Ron Blankenship, committee chair, reported that SB 541 had passed out of the Senate and that we had heard earlier from David Perry regarding the development of a bill in the House Education Committee concerning formula changes. He encouraged superintendents to remain active as the Legislative Session winds down.

### **Executive Director Report:**

Martha Dean briefly reported on current legislative action. She explained some of the provisions in SB 541 (the Senate Formula Bill) and SB 442 (the bill to change the grievance procedure). Both of these bills are ready to progress to the House. She also pointed out that she had provided the membership with a list of all bills that had passed out of the two education committees to date and suggested that they could acquire copies of the bills on line.

### **State Department Report:**

Dr. Paine, State Superintendent, reported on several issues. He reminded the superintendents that he welcomes their input and would encourage them to call him with concerns so that they can be addressed early in the process. He told the group that SB 603 is moving and contains elements of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Initiative. He is hoping that Senator Rockefeller will be able to obtain federal matching funds to assist with the costs of the initiative. He also indicated that there is some interest in the Legislature concerning a change of the compulsory attendance age to 18 from the current 16. He emphasized that his position is that it is the right thing to do but that it is critical that alternative education funds be increased so that those students who are disruptive are not disrupting the education of those students who really want to learn. He also indicated that the State Board may be interested in a survey regarding teacher working conditions. The response from the group expressed a concern that the results of the survey would not be used to negatively impact particular schools, with a suggestion that the results might best be released as only statewide data, not county or school data. Dr. Paine closed his remarks with the observation that there are so many issues that it would be an excellent time sometime following the Legislative Session to have a face to face meeting with all the county superintendents so the issues could be discussed.

Dr. McClanahan, Assistant State Superintendent, talked about some of the Legislation currently active. There is a change in one bill that moves to grade 11 the assessment for AYP. There is also a bill that would remove the current requirement for informal assessments K-2.

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Association, Marsha Carr-Lambert moved and Lyn Guy seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Dean, Executive Director