



PRESIDENTS RETREAT TO EXPLORE SEVERAL SUBJECTS

County boards of education presidents will convene October 11/12 at the Lakeview Scanticon Conference Center for their annual meeting. The Presidents Retreat is also open to county board vice presidents. The conference center is located near Morgantown, W. Va.

The meeting will commence at 1:00 p.m., on Friday, October 11, and will adjourn by 12:30 p.m., Saturday, October 12.

W.Va. Board of Education President J.D. Morris (Clay) will address attendees.

Program offerings will include discussion regarding the role of the county board president, legal issues facing county boards, tips for effective county board meetings and meeting management, and a major session dealing with EQ (emotional intelligence) and its impact on leadership.

The federal No Child Left Behind Act will be discussed, as will issues likely to be considered in the state Legislature's 2003 regular session.

Finally, attendees will participate in a focus group to discuss/refine WVSBA programs and services.

For more information, please contact WVSBA Meetings/Conference Registrar Shirley Davidson at sdavidson@wvsba.org.

The annual program is underwritten by the West Virginia School Board Effectiveness Project (WVSBEP), a venture between WVSBA and the West Virginia Legislature.

OVER ONE HUNDRED SIGN UP FOR PROJECT LEADERSHIP

West Virginia School Boards Association Executive Director Howard M. O'Cull, Ed.D, has announced that 107 individuals have registered for Project Leadership, a two-and one-half day leadership program for persons who aspire to the superintendency, sponsored by WVSBA with the West Virginia Association of School Administrators.

The program will be held December 2-4 at the Lakeview Scanticon Conference Center, located near Morgantown, W. Va.

State Schools Superintendent Dr. David L. Stewart, House Education Chairman Jerry L. Mezzatesta (D-Hampshire), Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation President William P. Getty and other state education and legislative officials will welcome program participants, according to O'Cull who is

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WVSBA EXECUTIVE BOARD, DELEGATE ASSEMBLY MEET

The West Virginia School Boards Association Executive Board met September 13, in conjunction with WVSBA's Fall Conference. Several business items were considered, with the Executive Board voting to:

1. Freeze WVSBA Membership Subscription Fees (dues) at the FY03 level. A \$342,061 FY03 budget also was adopted.
2. Proceed with the development of a handbook for school board members. WVSBA Executive Director Howard M. O'Cull, Ed.D., is working with his counterpart in Washington State to secure rights to a handbook that will be adapted for school board members in this state. The state School Board Effectiveness Project is underwriting the cost of the handbook.
3. Ratify O'Cull's service on *A Vision Shared's* Intellectual Infrastructure Implementation Team. State Senate Education Chairman Lloyd G. Jackson II (D-Lincoln) chairs that team, and has appointed O'Cull as a member the team's core steering committee.
4. Continue efforts to develop a multi-faceted leadership program for spring 2003.
5. Authorize the Association president to appoint a steering committee concerning BoardWorks®, WVSBA's for-profit subsidiary.

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PROJECT LEADERSHIP

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working on final PL programmatic details. The Pittsburgh-based Benedum Foundation and the W.Va. Department of Education, along with WVSBA, assisted in underwriting the inaugural PL program.

The final listing of PL attendees will be announced October 15.

All but five counties—the Jefferson, Mason, Pocahontas, Summers and Wyoming County Boards of Education—have registered participants. According to superintendents from those counties, there was little interest in the program, partly due to several administrators nearing retirement age.

Final PL programmatic details will be determined by an ad hoc committee comprised of Dr. Daniel D. Curry, Wood County Schools Superintendent; Dr. Lyn Guy, Monroe County Schools Superintendent; Dr. Mark A. Manchin, McDowell County Schools Superintendent; Dr. Steve Paine, Morgan County Schools Superintendent; John H. Shott (Mercer), WVSBA Vice President; Ed Pell (Monroe); Karen Larry, administrative assistant to the State Superintendent of Schools; and O’Cull. The WVSBA executive director noted that other WVASA and WVSBA members were welcome to attend the Wednesday, October 16 meeting at WVSBA’s office, 2206 Washington St. E., Charleston. The meeting will commence at 2:30 p.m., and is expected to adjourn by 4:00 p.m.

The inaugural PL session will be devoted to participants’ work and involvement in several facets of leadership, all of

which is designed, when combined with what O’Cull hopes to be future “culminating” PL sessions, to provide prospective superintendents greater understanding, depth and knowledge of the superintendency.

“The PL mission is clear: As more and more of our superintendents near retirement age, we must gear and focus on the aspiring superintendent, while also ensuring that we work and develop all educational leaders,” said O’Cull.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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6. Proceed with the institution of a policy service in conjunction with Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love PLLC and an Ohio policy consulting service.
7. Renew O’Cull’s contract as executive director for a renewable two-year term ending July 1, 2002. His compensation will remain at \$60,000 per annum.

Annual Membership Meeting (reconvened)

In WVSBA’s FY03 Annual Membership Meeting (reconvened), delegates voted to:

1. Fill several Executive Board officerships, including the election of Dr. Rodney S. Thompson (Wayne) as Association financial officer. Associate regional director positions were filled by Lester Vaught (Raleigh), Region I; James Crawford (Kanawha), Region III; Steve Pilato (Fayette), Region IV; and Sally Cann (Harrison), Region VII. Due to the election defeat of Jerry Godby, John H. Shott (Mercer) was named Association vice president. William A. Parker (Lewis) serves as president, and William J. Raglin (Kanawha) serves as president-elect. Persons elected to fill unexpired terms are entitled to seek reelection at the FY04 Annual Membership Meeting.
2. Approve the FY03 budget.
3. Endorse Amendment One. (See page 3 story)
4. Urge the state Legislature to adopt the Southern Regional Education Boards *Goals for Education: Challenge to Lead*, relating to increasing educational accountability.
5. Receive a report from WVSBA’s staff relating to the establishment of a refined boardsmanship academy.

In other action, WVSBA Executive Assistant Jason Keeling reported on the progress of the association’s Web site, WVSBA.ORG. He indicated that usage of the site had increased, and presented the site as a viable mean of promoting future WVSBA activities. Counties will be distributed a “MEMBER: WVSBA” banner for their Web sites and allowed to register for conferences via WVSBA.ORG in the near future, according to Keeling.

The FY04 Annual Membership Meeting will be held Feb. 14, 2003 in conjunction with the WVSBA Winter Conference.

WVSBA Monthly provides county boards of education members, superintendents, and state policymakers with information regarding WVSBA programs and activities. This publication does not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions or policies of the WVSBA, unless specifically stated.

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WVSBA COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION TO MEET

The West Virginia School Boards Association's Committee on Legislation will meet Saturday, October 26 at the Holiday Inn Express located on Corridor G (Southridge Center), about four miles South of Charleston. Directions will be included with the mailing.

This is the first of two committee meetings that will be scheduled prior to the 2003 regular legislative session, focusing on a review of the 2002 regular session as well as planning for the upcoming Legislature.

At the October meeting, committee members primarily will review the 2002 Association *Legislative Philosophies* (first drafted and revisited each legislative session since 1990) and *Legislative Priorities* (updated yearly). The WVSBA staff-led review will be prefaced by a discussion of this year's regular session and interim meeting activity. Likely issues to be addressed in the 2003 regular session will also be discussed.

At the December meeting, committee members will review revised *Philosophies* and *Priorities* documents, determining the top five issues the organization will espouse in the 2003 session. A WVSBA Executive Board meeting will be held in conjunction with that meeting, which is slated for mid-December.

Also to be reviewed will be the recommendations of the School Board Reform Committee, whose last meeting will be held in early December.

A mailing will be made to all Committee on Legislation members prior to the October meeting.

The meeting is open to any WVSBA member or county superintendent.

If your board has yet to select a Committee on Legislation member, please contact the WVSBA staff, if no contact is designated, the board's president will receive mailing.

AMENDMENT ONE: WVSBA EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT

During its September Fall Conference, the West Virginia School Boards Association unanimously passed a resolution expressing its public support for the Local Option Economic Development Amendment, also known as *Amendment One*. Association members explicitly proclaimed the amendment's potential value for attracting new businesses and "retaining" existing ones.

If approved by the state's voters during the upcoming November election, the amendment would encourage entrepreneurship by offering economic development projects a tax credit, providing an incentive for expansion and growth. Such tax credits would only be permitted if projects *increase the value* of their properties. Projects/businesses would always be required to pay originally assessed property taxes. The credit would be earned once the property value goes up. A project's developer and its investors would carry all risk and the originally assessed property taxes would always have to be paid, protecting the finances of local governments and taxpayers.

Such projects would have to be approved by the respective county commission or municipality and the state Economic Development Office.

Forty-six states currently have some form of tax increment financing, according to state Secretary of Tax and Revenue Brian Kastick.

In addition to WVSBA, *Amendment One* has a broad range of support from business, labor, and government groups such as the W.Va. Roundtable, W.Va. Chamber of Commerce, Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation, W.Va. AFL-CIO, W.Va. Education Association, W.Va. Federation of Teachers, and the W.Va. Legislature.

For more information on *Amendment One*, please visit www.wvallfor1.org

REFORM COMMITTEE 'MAKING PROGRESS'

The School Board Reform Committee, a WVSBA-appointed ad hoc committee comprised of several persons who are studying possible reforms to school board governance in West Virginia, will hold its fourth meeting on October 30 at the Stonewall Jackson Conference Center, located near Weston.

In its last several meetings, the group, which includes legislative appointees as well as county school board representatives, a county superintendent representative and others, has discussed several matters, including the impact of the No Child Left Behind legislation on local school governance, the NCLB role for Local School Improvement Councils, possible ways to increase dialogue between county boards and LSICS, especially given NCLB, and ways in which to strengthen a 1993 section of statute relating to school board effectiveness (W. Va. Code §18-5-14).


At the October SBRC meeting, members are scheduled to discuss possible reforms for the county superintendency.

Two meetings will be held in November, including a discussion relating to regionalization of county board services.

All meetings are open to county board members, superintendents and the public.

Contact WVSBA Executive Director Howard M. O'Cull, Ed.D., at hocull@wvsba.org for more information.

STAY INFORMED!



VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WVSBA.ORG

TIPS FOR PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS

- Have a clear, stated purpose that all participants know and understand.
- Have an agenda, circulated before the meeting, that contains only items pertaining to the meeting's purpose. Include a time budget for each agenda item.
- At the beginning of the meeting, briefly review the agenda and make adjustments to it if necessary.
- Either limit meetings to 90 minutes, or plan scheduled breaks into the agenda.
- Make sure the agenda is followed, which includes keeping participants within the time constraints.
- Use visual aids when possible.
- Summarize the meeting at the end, acknowledging what has been accomplished and decided.
- Send all relevant people a written summary of the meeting within 24 hours.

Source: The 3M Company

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