



## Presidents Retreat to Focus on WVSBA's Future

The annual W. Va. School Boards Association Presidents Retreat will be held November 7/8 in Morgantown (Radisson Hotel).

WVSBA President William J. Raglin (Kanawha) has announced that the program will be preceded by an "all presidents planning session." Raglin said topics to be discussed include future goals and direction for the organization; presidents' assessment of various WVSBA programs, services and offerings; and, a review of future emphases for WVSBA, which will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year.

"This session is critical. While the Association Executive Board is responsible for governing the organization, I'm asking for county board presidents' input in preparation for the FY05 Annual Business Meeting. Come with suggestions, ideas and plans," said Raglin.

He added that the session will be held "without the WVSBA staff. We'll get that input at the Executive Board meeting in December. In fact, in December we'll activate the Committee on Fiscal Integrity, which Mr. John Shott (Mercer) is chairing," commented Raglin.

The Kanawha County board president said his goal is

two-fold: "I believe I speak for any Association member in saying that we want a strong organization, one that isn't afraid to take on issues, and to advance the cause of school boards and public education. That organization must be reflective and adaptive. We're lean now, and we'll stay that way, I suspect. But, we need to explore where we are and where we should go," said Raglin.

The Presidents Retreat is open to all county board presidents, vice presidents and other board members who are designated to attend by board officers, according to WVSBA Executive Director Howard M. O'Cull, Ed.D.

He said members should contact Association Conference Registrar Shirley Davidson (sdavidson@wvsba.org) for details regarding lodging. The deadline to reserve lodging is October 2.

The retreat's programming will include 5.00 hours of school board member training, one session of which will be conducted by a member of the Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love Education Practice Group.

For more program information, please contact O'Cull at hocull@wvsba.org.

## On Comment: Superintendent Evaluation Policy

By direction of W. Va. School Boards Association President William J. Raglin (Kanawha), the Association will provide a series of comments regarding proposed W. Va. Board of Education Policy §5309, relating to county superintendent evaluation.

"I have instructed the WVSBA staff to forward each Association member a copy of this proposed policy, and am asking that members provide any comments they have to the executive director for his inclusion in an 'association response,'" said Raglin.

The WVSBA president noted that he served as a member of the ad hoc committee that formulated the draft policy,

which he said had been "slightly modified" by the state school board prior to being placed on comment until October 24.

"I know our executive director (Howard M. O'Cull, Ed.D.) worked hard with that committee to help formulate a proposal. But, as Howard says, the proposed policy is a state Board of Education document, not a 'Senate Bill 522 Implementation Committee' document and, as such, it requires an Association review for response," said Raglin.

The mailing to county board members will be made later this week. The deadline for board members to respond is October 17. "That'll give Howard and his staff about a week to collate and fashion a WVSBA response," said Raglin.

The WVSBA president has directed O'Cull to be in "close contact" with W. Va. Association of School Administrators Executive Director Dr. Martha Dean to "share information" about the policy. "Dr. Dean did serve as a valued member of the implementation committee, and Howard needs to consult her and the superintendents' association," said Raglin, adding, "this policy has got to work for both boards and superintendents."

Policy §5309 is accessible online from the "policies on comment" banner on WVSBA's Web site (www.wvsba.org).

According to various sources, the proposed policy will be discussed at this weekend's statewide county superintendents conference.

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"Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource."

—John F. Kennedy

# Two Project Leadership Sessions Upcoming

The W. Va. School Boards Association, with funding from the W. Va. Department of Education and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, will conduct the first of two 2003 Project Leadership sessions on October 7/8 in Bridgeport (Clarksburg/Bridgeport Holiday Inn).

Presenters will include Dr. Phil Boyle, who spoke at the Association's Institute for Leadership Advancement program in May (Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center, Davis, W. Va.), Association counsel Howard E. Seufer Jr., Esq., Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love, and Kanawha County educator and former superintendent Dr. Jorea M. Marple.

The program is designed for persons who aspire, at some point in their career, to become county superintendents. "We're working with executive-level school administrators and some principals," said WVSBA Executive Director Howard M. O'Cull, Ed.D., who designed the October program.

Boyle's presentation is entitled, "Values and Politics in Administrative Decision Making" and relates to the school administrator's role in interpreting and putting into practice school board governance goals and directives. Seufer will discuss the "foundations of the schools superintendency in West Virginia," and Marple will discuss her book, *An Insider's Guide to Making School Systems Work*, followed by a panel discussion headed by McDowell County Schools Superintendent Dr. Mark A. Manchin.

The second and final PL program of this "phase" will be

held December 8-10 in Charleston (Embassy Suites Hotel), and will focus on "superintendent practitioners working with superintendent aspirants," said O'Cull, who added, "We've got about a dozen superintendents who've signed up for the December program thus far."

Dr. Richard Goodman also will work with PL attendees in December, focusing on student achievement and performance. Additional sessions will relate to West Virginia school facility needs, demographics and the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

O'Cull will contact the state Association of School Administrators to plan the December session. "This can be an exciting program for our county superintendents as they impart their knowledge and skills to aspirants. We've also revamped the program to add some 'cracker barrel' sessions. If you're a county superintendent, please consider attending," said O'Cull.

The WVSBA executive director said the PL programming, which commenced with a major session last December at Lakeview Scanticon Resort and Conference Center (Morgantown), is designed to allow superintendent aspirants a "feel for leadership and the needs and requirements of the superintendency."

He said the evaluation of that program, which included two focus groups of December 2002 PL attendees, conference evaluations and dialogue will be "fused" with a review of the 2003 program in order to develop "an executive educators leadership academy, which would be open to county superintendents and high-level central office administrators, as well as principals." O'Cull said a WVSBA/WVASA team, along with PL attendees and others, would designate a model for future programming, and then seek external funding from corporate sources, among others.

"This program is designed to enhance the leadership talents and skills of our superintendents and central office educational leaders. It's not designed to supplant any existing programs, but rather to enhance what WVASA is doing, as well as the state superintendent's programs with superintendents," he said.

He also thanked the SDE and Benedum for funding the effort.

For more information, please contact O'Cull: [hocull@wvsba.org](mailto:hocull@wvsba.org).

**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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# Various Topics Discussed at Fall Conference

Two hundred and twenty six school board members from across the state attended the W.Va. School Boards Association's Fall Conference on September 12/13 in Charleston (Marriott Hotel). Conference presentations focused on the federal No Child Left Behind Act, meeting security, school board information usage, and workshops on upcoming legislative issues, healthy schools, and leadership.

Dr. Richard Goodman of the New England School Development Council encouraged board members to accept the challenges associated with NCLB by viewing the law as a catalyst for positive change. He said school boards must use their central office staff persons to obtain school system data and related information to make informed policy decisions. He also urged board's to allow their superintendent's to manage their systems.

State Department of Education officials provided attendees information regarding the SDE's role within NCLB, ranging from testing and accountability to school improvement.

In the wake of violence at a July Kanawha County board meeting, the second general session featured a presentation and panel discussion moderated by Kimberly Croyle, Esq., Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love PLLC. Although the threat of violence cannot be eliminated, school boards can greatly reduce its potential by paying attention to warning signs and preemptively disengaging situations, said Croyle.

The final general session featured Monongalia County school board member Dr. Barbara Parsons, who focused on the role of school boards in obtaining and using sound information for decision making purposes. Her presentation also focused on the importance of school board's having a vision for their systems, and implementing strategies to achieve such.

"I want to commend each conference presenter for a job well done," said WVSBA Executive Director Howard M. O'Cull, Ed.D. "I especially have to thank Dr. Parsons. Her presentation encouraged innovative thinking, and doing such before one's peers can be difficult," he said.

WVSBA's Winter Conference will be held at the Charleston Marriott on February 13/14, 2004.

## NCLB Tape to be Mailed

The W. Va. School Boards Association Fall Conference included training that focused on the federal No Child Left Behind Act. This training was mandated by the W.Va. Legislature for county school board members.

The Association staff will forward a videotape and "credit hours training form" to county superintendents for distribution to board members who did not attend the NCLB session.

Please address questions regarding this training to WVSBA Administrative Assistant Shirley Davidson by phone or at [sdavidson@wvsba.org](mailto:sdavidson@wvsba.org).

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*WVDBTAC is headquartered at the Center for Excellence in Disabilities at West Virginia University and is funded by the U.S. Department of Education.*

## ODDS N' ENDS

- The Training Standards Review Committee's newly revamped training regulations will be forwarded to the state Board of Education in mid-October. The committee also will be "reconstituted" to include new members. Members must be approved by the SBE, as well as the revamped regulations. SBE members Ron Spencer (Doddridge), Paul Morris (Kanawha) and Sheila Hamilton (Berkeley) serve on that committee, along with WVSBA representatives Debbie Thompson (Pleasants) and Steve V. Chancey (Jackson). Executive Director Howard M. O'Cull, Ed.D., represents the Association staff.
- An article on home schooling by WVSBA Executive Director Howard M. O'Cull, Ed.D., has been published by an Eastern Panhandle newspaper. In that article,

O'Cull uses figures supplied by the state Department of Education, which show a 695 percent increase in home schooling enrollments during the last 11 years. O'Cull, in interviewing a home schooling official, explores some of the "whys" of home schooling, stating the practice constitutes a "parallel educational system" which, if its students were included in one school district, would include enrollments greater than 35 West Virginia counties. He concludes by saying that, unlike private and parochial schools, home schooling's accountability lies in its two major state organizations, whose membership is voluntary. An aside: The number of home-schooled parents who are members of state home schooling organizations is not known. For a copy of the column, please contact O'Cull at [hocull@wvsba.org](mailto:hocull@wvsba.org).

### WVSBA'S *Committee on Legislation*

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED.  
ENSURE YOUR BOARD IS REPRESENTED.  
December 6 - 10:00 a.m., Days Inn, Flatwoods

## WVSBA Monthly

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