



Fall Conference Program Approved

Hot topics for sessions include school security and improvement

At its July 15 meeting in Dunbar, the West Virginia School Boards Association Executive Board approved a conceptual outline for the organization's Conference '05, which is slated for Sept. 16-17 at the Radisson Hotel in Morgantown.

The conference begins at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16 and will adjourn before noon on Sept. 17.

Friday afternoon sessions will be devoted to school improvement and school security. The security workshop is an outgrowth of the Winter Conference program earlier this year that received high marks for its relevance and the importance of addressing school safety. The school improvement program will feature D. Lynn Canady, who presented at WVSBA's 2005 Leadership Conference at Lakeview Resort in Morgantown.

Canady's program received very high evaluations, according to WVSBA President Debbie Thompson (Pleasants). "When the state superintendent visited our Executive Board meeting on July 15, he talked about the role we have in school improvement – a role that we often don't recognize," Thompson said. "I applaud Dr. Steven Paine for this observation and Dr. Canady for his ability to show us how we can make a difference in policies relating to school improvement, curriculum, assessment and evaluation."

Thompson also announced that the program will feature a banquet and a small reception. "We want the association to become more like a community when we meet. To

reach that objective, the board thought a banquet would be a good start." The reception and banquet won't occur at every meeting and most likely will be limited to the Fall Conference, she said.

Other programming will include workshops, and Thompson asked that members submit their ideas for those workshops to WVSBA staff.

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– Debbie Thompson, WVSBA president*

Conference '05 programming must be approved by the WVSBA/West Virginia Board of Education Training Standards Review Committee (TSRC), which will meet after WVBE appointments are made. (See story on page 2.)

County board members whose terms expire June 30, 2006 must receive their required seven clock hours of training by Dec. 31, according to Howard M. O'Cull, Ed.D., WVSBA Executive Director.

Call WVSBA at 304-346-0571 for more information.

Superintendent shares 'ambitious' agenda

Paine discusses teacher salaries, development and partnerships

West Virginia's new state schools superintendent, Steven L. Paine, Ed.D., outlined what he called an "ambitious" agenda for the next several years during the July 15 WVSBA Executive Board meeting at Regional Education Service Agency III headquarters in Dunbar.

Paine told county board members he wants their input both through the West Virginia School Boards Association and as local issues or circumstances may require.

Progress can't be made in 'isolation'

Paine said he and West Virginia Department of Educa-

tion officials can't accomplish state educational progress "in isolation," and that any vision for public education must be broad, drawing upon "partnerships for 21st century skills and a 21st century educational system."

Paine told the Executive Board he is intent on "celebrating" classroom excellence, especially teacher contributions toward increasing student achievement. He also discussed the need to raise teacher salaries, as well as Senate Bill 603 and its professional development requirements. He said further efforts regarding professional development must be "embedded" within the school and classroom and should concentrate on results.

The state superintendent also alluded to a desire to promote staff development during the instructional term. He discussed what he calls the "critical" role of principals.

Paine concluded by saying county boards and professional educators and administrators must develop a "com-

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42 counties pay FY06 membership fees

Early birds get discount on annual dues

According to West Virginia School Boards Association Executive Director Howard M. O’Cull, Ed.D., 42 of the state’s 55 county school boards have paid FY06 Membership Subscription Fees (MSFs) or dues to the WVSBA.

Boards of education that joined WVSBA for FY06 include: Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Jackson, Jefferson, Lewis, Lincoln, Marion, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Upshur, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt and Wood Counties.

Through payment of WVSBA MSFs, member-county boards have a voice in the Legislature’s key education committees and are eligible to attend educational conferences and receive legislative reviews, O’Cull said. They also receive timely updates on legislation and the latest education and education-related news through the association newsletters, including the award-winning legislative publication, *The Legislature*. Members also receive customized training programs, research and policy services.

Boards that pay MSFs by July 31 receive a 2.5 percent discount.

Briefly...

Directory information

The West Virginia School Boards Association has provided county board executive secretaries a form to gather WVSBA directory information. Some executive secretaries have distributed the forms to board members at the end of their meetings, asking them to send the completed forms to WVSBA Administrative Assistant Shirley Davidson. The form, which is used to compile the organization’s *Membership Directory*, which is distributed annually, as well as mailing lists and other related purposes, asks for name, address, tele-

phone numbers, preferred e-mail address and other pertinent information. WVSBA *does not* distribute the directory to vendors, however, mailing labels often are distributed to agencies such as the West Virginia Department of Education and similar entities that request county board members’ addresses. For more information, please contact Davidson at sdavidson@wvsba.org.

Training records

County board member training records will be presented to the WVSBA/West Virginia Board of Education Training Standards Review Committee (TSRC) during the group’s next meeting. That session will be scheduled upon the appointment of WVBE committee representatives, which should occur next week, according to WVBE President Lowell Johnson, Ph.D. (Greenbrier). County board members who haven’t turned in FY05 training information should contact the WVSBA office so the information can be included in the TSRC report which is forwarded to the state board of education in early fall. That information also is included in state and county report cards as prepared by the WVDE. For more information, please contact Shirley Davidson.

Communications meeting/focus group

The WVSBA’s Committee on Communications will meet at 1 p.m. Saturday, August 13 at the Days Inn in Flatwoods. WVSBA President Debbie Thompson (Pleasants) said committee members will receive an agenda before the meeting. Thompson also said that an association focus group has been formed to provide legislators and state policymakers the organization’s stance on professional development, as required by the passage of Senate Bill 603. Members invited to join the focus group will be notified early next week. Those who cannot serve should contact Thompson directly. The focus group is open only to school board members and will not include the association executive director or school administrators, according to Thompson. One item the Communications Committee will discuss relates to revamping

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The Legislature provides county board of education members, state policymakers, school administrators, and others information, opinion and commentary regarding West Virginia legislative issues. This publication does not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions or policies of the WVSBA, unless specifically stated.

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AMBITIOUS AGENDA

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mon vision to head toward . . . You (county board members) effect and influence change at the classroom level.”

Needs assessment

WVSBA’s executive board and Regional Education Service Agency executive directors met prior to the WVSBA retreat on July 15.

That session featured considerable dialogue between WVSBA members and RESA executive directors. As a result, the groups agreed to create a joint WVSBA/RESA needs assessment instrument that will be forwarded to county board members and superintendents in September or October.

The needs assessment, which will be developed by WVSBA representatives and RESA directors, will focus on areas of potential services (such as staff development) that RESAs could provide. Once the assessment is complete, the two groups may appoint a committee or other entity to further refine recommendations to improve service.

Other RESA recommendations

During the meeting, representatives discussed WVSBA providing greater program vantage for RESAs during conferences and workshops. The groups also discussed ways in which the association and its members can more directly and vocally support RESAs and RESA funding in the 2006 regular legislative session.

Among other recommendations, RESA directors and WVSBA executive board members discussed the need for better communication among county boards and RESAs, including explanatory brochures and similar efforts.

WVSBA Executive Director Howard M. O’Cull, Ed.D., suggested that the state’s “Standards of Efficiency,” which are included in state board of education policy as well as Office of Education Performance Audits (OEPA) evaluative criteria, focus on greater ties to RESA efficiencies and economies of scale.

Board action items

The following items were considered in the Executive Board meeting:

- Based on staff-prepared financial information, the association’s deficit should be erased by the end of FY07. The current deficit totals about \$42,000.
- Action on establishing an association foundation has been deferred until additional information regarding cost and foundation “purposes” is obtained. The board directed O’Cull to provide a definitive report at the September Executive Board Meeting.

Pension Bond Amendment

- O’Cull expressed his concern over the failure of proposed Pension Bond Amendment. “The defeat may make it more difficult to secure money for a ‘significant’ school employee pay increase,” he said. He also voiced concern that a “pro-amendment coalition” failed to include WVSBA

among groups supporting the amendment. He noted, however, that the Governor’s Office included WVSBA endorsement in its communications. O’Cull and other members also said pension bond supporters didn’t seem to run a successful campaign, especially in terms of educating the public about the benefits of passing the proposed constitutional amendment.

- The board discussed potential issues that may be considered during the upcoming Special Session. O’Cull said some “work-rules” legislation may be considered as well as possible changes in the school employee grievance procedure.
- Based on a recommendation by O’Cull, the board approved a motion relating to discussions of issues affecting individual county boards. While the WVSBA Executive Board will consider these matters, representatives of counties being discussed will be invited to the meeting or asked to share correspondence relating to the items of concern. Any executive board discussion will be confined to the issues of concern to a particular county, and the county board(s) affected must receive written notification of pending executive board discussions of individual board situations. Additionally, board discussions must be constructive with the goal of gleaning information all boards can use to “avoid similar circumstances,” such as pending litigation. In the event of divided boards, all five members will be invited to participate in executive board discussions. While the board reserved the right to make recommendations in regard to school board matters being considered, the primary intent is informational, according to WVSBA executive officers.

Director’s evaluation completed

- The executive director’s evaluation was completed. The board, based on a 360-degree evaluative tool, provided O’Cull with a “very commendable job” rating, saying he was responsive to association and organizational needs, and that his performance was exemplary. For his FY06 evaluation, the board will cease to use a 360-degree evaluative tool. Instead, O’Cull – based on the “model evaluation” for county superintendents – will develop both organizational and his professional goals and objectives to be accomplished during the next year. These will be approved by the board and members in September.
- The board expressed an interest in revising its meeting agenda format and also discussed forwarding the meeting agenda via the association’s general Listserv, which has about 350 registrants. In a separate discussion, an internal association Listserv will be used for matters germane only to WVSBA members.

The board will meet September 15 at the Radisson Hotel in Morgantown.



BRIEFLY

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the organization's Web site.

Presidents Retreat/The November Meeting

President Thompson said she encourages county board presidents and vice presidents to mark their calendars for the Presidents Retreat on Oct. 7-8 at Stonewall Resort and Conference Center near Weston. State Superintendent of Schools Steven Paine, Ed.D., and WVBE officers/members are invited to participate. Thompson also announced a Nov. 5 program about school law and the state school aid formula. That meeting also will be at Stonewall Resort. For more information on these meetings, please contact Thompson or the association staff.

Stay informed.

On the Web at:
WVSBA.ORG

Future Meetings

WVSBA Fall Conference '05

September 16/17, 2005
Radisson Hotel, Morgantown

Presidents Retreat '05

October 7/8, 2005
Stonewall Resort, Roanoke

The November Workshop: School Aid Formula & School Law

November 5, 2005
Stonewall Resort, Roanoke

WVSBA Winter Conference '06

February 17/18, 2006
Marriott Hotel, Charleston

Orientation '06

June 14-16, 2006
Stonewall Resort, Roanoke

WVSBA Monthly

A West Virginia School Boards Association Publication
P.O. Box 1008
Charleston, WV 25324