REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE COUNTY OF ROANE, HELD OCTOBER 15, 2026, AT 4:30 PM, AT SPENCER MIDDLE SCHOOL, SPENCER,

Present: John Gray, Daris Harper, Terry Miller, James Minney, Eileen Richardson

Absent: (none)

Meeting called to order by Daris Harper (4:30 pm)

This meeting could be joined remotely. The public could join by calling 1-304-553-7794 and entering the provided conference ID or on Microsoft Teams using the provided link.

*****The Board of Education meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. with an Expulsion Hearing at the Roane County High School Library. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the Board will recess and reconvene at 6:00 p.m. at Spencer Middle School to conduct the regular business of the Board.**

Student Expulsion Hearing

1. Student Expulsion Hearing #20261015

Student and parent / guardian requested an open hearing.

Motion by Terry Miller and seconded by Eileen Richardson to go into an executive session to consider Student Expulsion #20261015, pursuant to WV Code 6-9A-4(b)(3). Motion carried. (5:07 pm)

Motion by John Gray and seconded by Terry Miller to return to open session. Motion carried. No action was taken in closed session. (5:18 pm)

Motion by John Gray and seconded by Daris Harper to follow the Superintendent's recommendation that Student #20261015 serve an expulsion for the remainder of the 2026-27 school year. Motion failed. John Gray, Daris Harper, Terry Miller, James Minney, Eileen Richardson opposed. (5:20 pm)

Recess

1. The Board will reconvene at 6:00 p.m. at Spencer Middle School.

Presentations

1. Superintendents Spotlight
    a. Capturing Kids Hearts (CKH) - Good Things

The superintendent briefly recognized the district's ongoing Capturing Kids Hearts initiative before board members shared positive observations about student achievements, including participation in the Black Walnut Festival, livestock sale, and snowplow art contest. Board members commended students for their leadership, respect, and positive representation of Roane County Schools.

    b. Black Walnut Festival Queen - Natalie Mertz

The board recognized Natalie Mertz, Roane County High School senior and Black Walnut Festival Queen, for her leadership and community involvement. She shared that her favorite part of serving as queen was visiting county schools and interacting with students during festival week. Ms. Mertz also discussed her involvement in FFA, plans to attend the National FFA Convention, and her goal of attending law school and practicing law in West Virginia. The board

presented her with a certificate in recognition of her accomplishments.

2. Public Participation

Public participation was available prior to the 4:30 pm portion of the meeting; however, no individuals signed up to speak. Prior to the regular portion of the meeting, Ms. Ota set out the public participation sign-in sheet at 5:45 pm, and it was removed at 5:55 pm in accordance with Roane County Schools Policy 020 - Meetings. The following individual spoke: Wayne Jarvis.

3. Policy 2322

a. SMS Accountability Report / LSIC Meeting

Principal Annette Claypool and Assistant Principal Randy Brown presented the annual LSIC report for SMS. The school reported an enrollment of 279 students, attendance of 93.98%, and a chronic absenteeism rate of 21.99%. Staff continue to address attendance concerns through family outreach, administrative interventions, and collaboration with the school-community coordinator.

As of October 13, the school recorded 129 discipline incidents, including 90 Level 1, 22 Level 2, and 14 Level 3 incidents involving 75 students. Administrators highlighted the use of PBIS and Capturing Kids Hearts to improve school culture and student relationships.

The school currently has 21 students in the SAT process (19 academic and 2 behavioral referrals) and 18 students on 504 plans. Additional opportunities include 22 students enrolled in Algebra I, 22 students attending agriculture courses at RCHS, and three eighth-grade students participating in vocational programs.

Academic data showed significant achievement gaps, particularly in mathematics. Reading assessments indicated 121 students (46%) were three or more grade levels behind, while math assessments showed 123 students in the same category. District leaders emphasized the need for targeted interventions and improving foundational math skills to increase student achievement.

b. 2026-27 Certified Data - Jerry Garner

Mr. Garner presented the October 1 certified enrollment report. Total enrollment was 1,315 students with a full-time equivalent count of 1,309.76, a decrease of approximately 230 students from the previous year. Of those losses, 100 students utilized the Hope Scholarship, 83 transferred out of county, 29 were homeschooled, 17 moved out of state, 14 enrolled in charter schools, 4 enrolled in private schools, 2 were foreign exchange students, and 1 preschool student withdrew. Special education enrollment increased from 307 students (21.1%) to 325 students (23.4%). Although 605 students were assigned to Spencer Elementary School in WVEIS, 53 preschool students are housed on the Roane County High School campus, resulting in actual building enrollments of 552 students at Spencer Elementary School, 276 students at Spencer Middle School, and 487 students at Roane County High School.

New Business for Consideration and Potential Action

1. 2026 WVDE Accountability Report

The superintendent presented the district's annual accountability status report. Roane County Schools received a classification of "Needs Assistance" in operational effectiveness due to the district's financial condition. No schools were identified as needing intensive intervention. Areas identified for monitoring included Math Progress, On-Track to Graduation, and Math

Achievement. The superintendent reported that a state-provided numeracy coach would be working with district staff on a weekly basis to improve mathematics instruction and outcomes.

2. Approval of Bus Purchase

Transportation Director John Garner presented a recommendation to purchase a new handicap-accessible school bus to replace aging equipment and maintain adequate service capacity.

Motion by John Gray and seconded by Terry Miller to approve. Motion carried. (7:14 pm)

Continuing Business

1. Property matters involving Walton Elementary Middle and Geary Elementary Middle Schools

Consent Agenda - (Action)

Motion by James Minney and seconded by Eileen Richardson to approve the following consent agenda, as recommended by Michelle Stellato, Superintendent, noting the adoption of Policies 221, 222, and 219 on second reading due to the absence of public comments. Motion carried. (7:17 pm)

1. Approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 1, 2026, and the Special Board Meetings held on October 1, 2026, and October 13, 2026.
2. Finance
    a. Transfers/supplements to the budget
    b. Payments of bills as submitted; pre-approval to release checks not to exceed $20,000 prior to the next board meeting
    c. Financial Reports

Superintendent Stelalto reported that the district's Poca Valley Bank account balance was $768,084.25 and the investment pool balance was $1,642,767.53, for a total cash position of $2,410,851.78. She noted that these figures were reported prior to the October 14 payroll being processed, meaning the balances had since changed, but stated that the district's overall cash position remained solid.

3. Policies
    a. Second Reading
        i. Policy 221 - Program of Study for Early Learning Programs (Grades PK through 5) (revision)
        ii. Policy 222 - Program of Study for Middle School (Grades 6 through 8) (revision)
        iii. Policy 219 - Promotion, Acceleration, Placement and Retention of Students (new)

Administration reported not receiving any comment on any of the three policies in comment. All policies will be adopted within consent agenda motion and vote.

4. Contract(s) / Bid(s) / Agreement(s)
5. Field Trips
6. Volunteers
7. Student Transfers

Personnel Consent Agenda - (Action)
Motion by John Gray and seconded by Terry Miller to approve the following personnel items as recommended by Michelle Stellato, Superintendent. Motion carried. (7:19 pm)

1. New Employment(s)
    a. Taylor, Robert - Substitute teacher (RCS - Substitutes), effective October 16, 2026
2. Transfer(s)
    a. Parkins, Melinda - Assistant Principal (Spencer Elementary School) to SOAR Program Coordinator/Collaborative Liaison (RCS - Central Office), effective November 6, 2026

Reports of Committees
1. Superintendent Advisory Council Report (10/2/26)

The superintendent summarized discussions regarding school calendar changes under Senate Bill 890, district finances, the P and I penalty, Spencer Elementary School facility improvements, vaping concerns at Roane County High School, student behavior concerns, etc. Committee members praised staff efforts during the first year of consolidation and encouraged future planning for district rebranding initiatives. Members in attendance included Rachel Hays, Dianna Carpenter, Rick Atkinson, Jeff Tanner, Cari Ward, and Lora Matheney.

2. Faculty Senate Minutes (10/7/26)
    a. Spencer Elementary School
    b. Spencer Middle School
    c. Roane County High School

Superintendent's Remarks
The superintendent provided updates on Capturing Kids Hearts implementation, district finances, school calendar discussions, former school properties, state funding formula revisions, and school safety planning. She also recognized students participating in the livestock sale and commended the efforts of local 4-H and FFA programs.

Board member James Minney requested that a previously denied athletic transfer request involving two Calhoun County students be placed on the agenda at the next board meeting.

Proposed Executive Session
Motion by John Gray and seconded by Terry Miller to go into an executive session to discuss property matters pursuant to WV Code 6-9A-4(b)(9). Motion carried. (7:33 pm)

Motion by Eileen Richardson and seconded by John Gray to return to open session. Motion carried. No action was taken in closed session. (8:01 pm)

Transferring the property to the Roane County Commission would allow the county to manage the sewer system associated with the site.

Motion by James Minney and seconded by Terry Miller to give Superintendent Stellato the authority to transfer Geary Elementary Middle School property containing the sewage treatment facility to the Roane County Commission. Motion carried. (8:02 pm)

Adjournment
1. Adjourn until the Regular Meeting of the Roane County Board of Education on Thursday, November 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Spencer Elementary School.

Motion by John Gray and seconded by Terry Miller to approve. Motion carried. (8:02 pm)