REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE COUNTY OF ROANE, HELD NOVEMBER 5, 2026, AT 6:00 PM, AT SPENCER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SPENCER,

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

Absent: (none)

Meeting called to order by Daris Harper (6:01 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.

Presentations

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

Board members shared several positive events occurring throughout the district. Mr. Gray recognized Braxton Nichols for serving as a poll worker during the recent election and noted his recognition in a news article highlighting youth civic engagement. Board members also recognized three former students who received the highest FFA honor, celebrated the success of the Spencer Elementary Color Run and thanked the PTO, volunteers, and community sponsors who supported the event. Additional recognitions included Roane County students winning all three divisions of a tractor driving competition in Braxton County, the success of the volleyball and football teams during postseason play, and appreciation for district employees who advocate for public education, including Ms. Jurkovich for publicly sharing her passion for teaching and serving students.

    b. Recognition of Veterans Day - Employees with Veteran Service

As part of the Board's annual Veterans Day recognition, Superintendent Stellato recognized veterans in attendance and district employees with military service, including Ben Goodson, Future Leaders Program substitute teacher; Jim Slingerland, bus driver; Annette Claypool, Principal of Spencer Middle School; and James Minney, Board Member, and thanked them for their service to the nation. Mr. Minney shared remarks regarding the sacrifices made by veterans and their families and the importance of military service.

    c. Students of the Month

As part of the Superintendent Spotlight, the Board recognized Students of the Month from Spencer Elementary School, Spencer Middle School, and Roane County High School. Elementary students were recognized for demonstrating the monthly character traits of enthusiasm and fairness, while middle and high school students were selected by their schools for outstanding achievement and contributions to their school communities. Students received certificates of recognition and participated in photographs with Board members. Parents and families were invited to attend the recognition ceremony.

2. Public Participation

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. No individuals signed up for public participation.

3. Policy 2322

a. SES Accountability Report / LSIC Meeting

LSIC Accountability Report: Principal Lori Cottrell, Assistant Principal Kate Gainer, LSIC President Leah James, and members of the Spencer Elementary Local School Improvement Council presented the annual accountability report. Enrollment was reported at 619 students, with staffing consisting of 48 professional staff members, 24 service personnel, and 3 administrators. Attendance data reflected a 93.74 percent attendance rate, a 21.63 percent chronic absenteeism rate, and 120 students with perfect attendance.

The school currently serves 156 students with IEPs, 22 students with 504 Plans, and 89 students participating in the SAT process. Administrators reviewed behavior and academic data, discussed goals to increase ELA and Math proficiency rates to 50 percent by Spring 2028, and highlighted implementation of House Bill 3035, intervention services, staffing challenges, special education needs, facility limitations, and strategies to improve student achievement. Board members discussed attendance, behavior, special education staffing, classroom space, mental health services, and the impact of student behavior on instructional time.

4. HB 3035 Presentation and Update - Amy Cole and Lorra Tanner

Amy Cole, Director of Federal Programs and Compliance, and Lorra Tanner, Director of Instructional Programs and Personnel, presented an update on implementation of House Bill 3035. Beginning-of-year benchmark data showed third-grade ELA proficiency at 14 percent compared to the state average of 17 percent, while math proficiency was 6 percent, matching the state average. Administrators reported that 73 third-grade students were identified as not meeting mastery in one or more academic areas, with 28 students currently not meeting the retention exemption criteria. The district continues to provide intervention plans, SOAR programming, parent communication, and targeted instructional supports. Board members discussed retesting opportunities and intervention strategies.

New Business for Consideration and Potential Action

1. Board Meeting Dates - Second Semester 2026-2027

Motion by John Gray and seconded by Eileen Richardson to approve. Motion carried. (9:07 pm)

The following meeting dates were approved:

Thursday, January 7, 2027
Thursday, January 21, 2027
Thursday, February 4, 2027
Tuesday, February 9, 2027(Special Meeting-Superintendent Evaluation and Contract Discussion)
Thursday, February 18, 2027
Thursday, March 11, 2027
Thursday, March 25, 2027(Statutory Meeting-Proposed Levy Rates)
Thursday, March 25, 2027(Regular Meeting)
Tuesday, April 6, 2027
Tuesday, April 20, 2027(Statutory Meeting-Levy Rates)
Tuesday, April 20, 2027(Regular Meeting)
Thursday, May 13, 2027
Thursday, May 27, 2027
Thursday, June 10, 2027
Thursday, June 24, 2027

2. Student Disciplinary Issue

No discussion was held. This item required an executive session. All executive sessions will be deferred to the Proposed Executive Session portion of the agenda later in the meeting.

Continuing Business

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

No discussion was held. This item required an executive session. All executive sessions will be deferred to the Proposed Executive Session portion of the agenda later in the meeting.

2. State of Emergency Update

Superintendent Stellato informed the Board that the West Virginia Department of Education has revised the reporting process for counties under a state of emergency. District representatives will attend an upcoming review meeting to provide updates on district finances, facilities, personnel, and academic improvement efforts.

3. 2 Student transfers - Athletic purposes only - Home School from Calhoun

Administration reported that the students had initiated the transfer process prior to the September 1 eligibility deadline and were determined to be eligible under WVSSAC requirements.

Motion by James Minney and seconded by John Gray to reconsider the previously approved motion regarding student athletic transfers from the Board meeting of September 27, 2026. Motion carried. (9:13 pm)

Motion by John Gray and seconded by James Minney to approve the out-of-county transfer for 2 students from Calhoun County to Roane County for athletic purposes. Motion carried. (9:17 pm)

Consent Agenda - (Action)

Motion by John Gray and seconded by Terry Miller to approve the following consent agenda as recommended by Michelle Stellato, Superintendent. Motion carried. (9:24 pm)

1. Approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 15, 2026 and Special Board Meeting held on November 2, 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

Treasurer Ann Hardman reviewed the P-Card payment and check register submitted for approval. Mrs. Hardman reported a Poca Valley Bank balance of $181,213.92 and an Investment Pool balance of $1,698,670.17, for a total cash position of $1,879,884.09. Mrs. Hardman noted that the district's cash position at the same time last year was $1,316,254.89, representing an approximate increase of $564,000. She further stated that when considering the approximately $400,000 in state aid advances utilized during the previous year, the difference was approximately $961,000, indicating a significant improvement in the district's cash flow position compared to the prior year.

    d. Board Member Pay for Meeting and Training Attendance
3. Policies

4. Contract(s) / Bid(s) / Agreement(s)
    a. MOU - WV Rural Health Transformation Program - Cartwheel

Superintendent Stellato explained that the agreement would expand access to telehealth and tele-mental health services for students and families through the Rural Health Transformation initiative.

5. Field Trips
    a. RCHS Greece Tour with EF Tours (3/26/27 to 4/3/27)

Superintendent Stellato noted that the proposed trip would be similar to the previous educational trip to Europe coordinated by Ms. Boggs, with participating students fundraising to support the travel experience.

6. Volunteers
7. Student Transfers

Personnel Consent Agenda - (Action)
Motion by Terry Miller and seconded by James Minney to approve the following personnel items as recommended by Michelle Stellato, Superintendent. Motion carried. (10:21 pm)

1. Resignation(s)
    a. Hammack, Frederick - Assistant Coach, Boys Basketball (Roane County High School), effective October 15, 2026
    b. Pena, John - Assistant Coach, Wrestling (Spencer Middle School), effective October 20, 2026
    c. Pena, John - Coach, Track (Spencer Middle School), effective October 20, 2026
    d. Stotts, Amy - Teacher / Special Education (Multi-School) (Spencer Middle (49%), Spencer Elementary (51%)), effective October 30, 2026
    e. Taylor, Christopher - Assistant Coach, Track (Spencer Middle School), effective October 30, 2026
2. New Employment(s)
    a. Stotts, Amy - Substitute teacher (RCS - Substitutes), effective November 6, 2026
    b. Wilson, Laura - Substitute teacher (RCS - Substitutes), effective November 9, 2026
    c. Krajeski, Shawn - Assistant Principal (Spencer Elementary School), effective November 18, 2026
3. Extracurricular(s)
    a. Karickhoff, Misty - Assistant Coach, Track (Spencer Middle School), effective November 6, 2026
    b. Rector, Joseph - Coach, Track (Spencer Middle School), effective November 6, 2026
    c. Laxton, Rebecca - Assistant Coach, Boys Basketball (Spencer Middle School), effective November 6, 2026
    d. Roberts, Anthony - Assistant Coach, Wrestling (Spencer Middle School), effective November 6, 2026
    e. Smelko, Ernest - Assistant Coach, Boys Basketball (Roane County High School),

effective November 6, 2026

Reports of Committees

1. Student Advisory Council Meeting (11/2/26)

Student Advisory Council Report: Superintendent Stellato recognized members of the Roane County High School Student Advisory Council. Student representative Braxton Nichols introduced new members Brogan Burdette, Natalie Miller, Jordan Nichols, and Naomi Raines and thanked staff for their support during the recent consolidations. The Council highlighted the Student of the Month program and discussed concerns regarding unreliable Wi-Fi throughout portions of Roane County High School and its impact on online coursework and classroom instruction. Students also shared feedback on the implementation of the Capturing Kids' Hearts program, school culture, student discipline, communication between students and staff, facility maintenance issues, and potential future school calendar changes related to state attendance requirements. Council members expressed support for gathering input from parents, staff, and the community when considering future calendar changes.

Superintendent's Remarks

Superintendent Stellato reported that district representatives, including Mr. Garner, Mrs. Hardman, and Mrs. Cottrill, would travel to Charleston to present to the School Building Authority (SBA) regarding district facility needs. She also provided an update on the State of Emergency process, noting that district representatives would attend a West Virginia Department of Education review meeting to discuss district finances, facilities, personnel, and academic improvement efforts. Superintendent Stellato reminded the Board that schools would be closed in observance of Veterans Day and advised that a state webinar regarding the proposed school funding formula was scheduled for November 19, which could require an adjustment to the start time of the next Board meeting.

Proposed Executive Session

Motion by John Gray and seconded by Eileen Richardson to go into an executive session to discuss student disciplinary issues pursuant to WV Code 6-9A-4(b)(3), property matters pursuant to WV Code 6-9A-4(b)(9), and personnel matters pursuant to WV Code 6-9A-4(b)(2)(A). Motion carried. (9:30 pm)

Motion by Terry Miller and seconded by John Gray to return to open session. Motion carried. No action was taken in closed session. (10:21 pm)

Adjournment

1. Adjourn until the Regular Meeting of the Roane County Board of Education on Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 6:00 pm at Roane County High School

Motion by Eileen Richardson and seconded by James Minney to Adjourn until the Regular Meeting of the Roane County Board of Education on Thursday, November 19, 2026, at a time to be determined at Roane County High School. Motion carried. (10:21 pm)