

West Virginia Professional Educators

A Student's Mind Is Too Precious To Be Bargained For

Website: wvprofed.org



NEWS

Winter 2019

WVPE Announces 2019 Goals

WVPE Executive Board members have developed six goals based on members' responses to the annual survey in December. The goals listed below will be presented to the West Virginia State Board of Education and will be provided to members of the West Virginia Legislature. Executive Director David Gladkosky will work with WVPE Legislative Liaison Johnna Gaunch to promote these goals during the Legislative Session.

WVPE 2019 ANNUAL GOALS

- Funding must be provided for more school counselors and social workers in order to address truancy, behavioral, social and mental health issues.
- All secondary schools must be staffed with full-time, certified media specialists, and given flexibility in schedules in order to provide solid media programs to assist in increasing student achievement within a properly funded media center.
- Faculty Senate Days should be returned to a full day format to allow school staff time for collaboration, data analysis, training, parent communication, technology implementation and productive Faculty Senate meetings.
- The West Virginia Board of Education and West Virginia Department of Education must address issues related to the General Summative Assessment including student accountability and timely delivery of accurate and usable data in order for the assessment to be taken seriously by students and stakeholders.
- To attract and retain quality teachers, salaries should be increased by at least 5% and teachers hired after 2015 should be allowed to accrue sick days toward retirement benefits.
- PEIA premiums should be based on coverage provided, not on salaries, and PEIA needs to have a dedicated funding source.

WVPE members will receive timely legislative updates in electronic and
(Continued on page 2)

WEST VIRGINIA PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS

DAVID GLADKOSKY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
2525 WOODLAND AVENUE
SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV 25303
(304) 550-1598
E-MAIL: DAVID@WVPROFED.ORG
WEBSITE: WVPROFED.ORG

ALMA PAGE
OFFICE MANAGER & MEMBERSHIP
10587 CHARLESTON ROAD
RED HOUSE, WV 25168
E-MAIL: WVPE@AOL.COM • (304) 586-3451

SUSAN ADKINS, GRIEVANCE MANAGER
143 WARREN ROAD • HUNTINGTON, WV 25704
(304) 429-8434 - HOME • (304) 633-5515 - CELL

CURRENT STATE OFFICERS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2018-2019

PRESIDENT:
JACQUELINE A. MCDANIELS • (304) 472-7520
133 PHILLIPS DAIRY ROAD
BUCKHANNON, WV 26201

VICE PRESIDENT:
BETH POST • (304) 472-3361
10 THIRD AVENUE, BUCKHANNON, WV 26201

RECORDING SECRETARY & NEWSLETTER:
LIBBY SURFACE • (304) 295-4817
707 37TH STREET • VIENNA, WV 26105

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
JANE YOKUM • (304) 257-1285
9530 FRANKLIN PIKE
PETERSBURG, WV 26847

TREASURER & PAST PRESIDENT:
ALICIA MULLINS • (304) 583-6858
P.O. BOX 209
DAVIN, WV 25617

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN:
MARK HIGGINBOTHAM • (304) 757-0012
1023 MARINA DRIVE #5
HURRICANE, WV 25526

EDITOR OF LEGISLATIVE REPORT:
ELIZABETH MOW
ONE BELL TOWER DRIVE, APT. 2206
WATERVLIET, NY 12189

PRESIDENTS OF EACH LOCAL CHAPTER
ALSO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

In This Issue...

- President's Message
- From the Desk of the Associate Director:
David Gladkosky
- Editor's Corner
- WVPE Welcomes Johnna Gaunch
as Legislative Liaison
- Survey Questions, Members' Responses

Editor's Corner



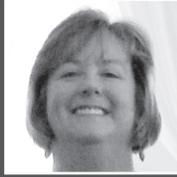
Libby Surface

Happy New Year! I hope the year ahead brings you and your loved ones many blessings. While many will make resolutions for the new year, I urge you to consider your involvement in WVPE. A new year would be a perfect time to start a county chapter and seek new potential members. It is never too late for a new member to join. We still find many educators who are unaware that WVPE offers many benefits and a unique philosophy for a reasonable price.

If the Executive Board can be of any help to you, don't hesitate to contact us. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, please contact me if I can help you start a county chapter, encourage new members, or provide some information. Lastly, I need your news! Please send me news of members' awards and accomplishments, the work your chapter is doing, and any ideas for additions to this newsletter. If I have missed any members who were named County Teachers of the Year, National Board Certified teachers, Arch Coal Winners, or any other designations, please let me know!

Thank You!

Thank you to all WVPE Members who completed the annual survey. In WVPE, you have a voice and your input is invaluable. Please watch now for emails and legislative reports through the upcoming session!



President's Message

Jackie McDaniels

Fellow WVPE members:

How time flies. It is strange to think that the school year is half over! As teachers, we are encouraged at the beginning of a new quarter or semester to remind students of basic procedures in our classrooms and schools. These reminders are helpful to students and beneficial for the teachers trying to keep things running smoothly.

The same goes for WVPE. I would like to take this opportunity to remind members that the legislative goals you will read in this newsletter were based upon input you sent us either through the mail

or by electronic survey. If you did not take advantage of giving your input through our legislative survey this year, don't miss the opportunity next year! We are your state professional organization; we answer to no one but you. You are the roots in our grassroots association! Continue to stay informed through our Facebook page, our web page – wvprofed.org, our newsletter and our listserv. And if you ever find yourself in need assistance, don't hesitate to contact our grievance manager, Susan Adkins.

Jackie McDaniels
WVPE President

2019 Goals (Continued from page 1)

hard copy format. We encourage members to stay informed and alert; email alerts may be used to notify members of issues needing attention. There may be occasional online survey questions sent by listerv for additional input from members. Please contact President Jackie McDaniels to add email addresses to the WVPE listserv.



ATTENTION WVPE MEMBERS: GET CONNECTED!

In order to send email and important announcements, WVPE must have current email addresses. Please send your current preferred email address to Jackie McDaniels if you are not receiving WVPE notices. Send to Jackie@wvprofed.org

Don't forget to "like" West Virginia Professional Educators on Facebook too!



From the Desk of the Executive Director:

David Gladkosky

One of the most critical concerns that directly affects students, teachers, and administrators is managing mental health issues. Students are coming to school with more extreme struggles, less parent support, and fewer coping skills. Teachers are begging for assistance with the effects of the opioid epidemic. Our guidance counselors are being placed in crisis mode on a daily basis.

I've talked with teachers and counselors around the state and presented a report of their concerns to the WV State Board of Education in November. Here are the main points:

WHAT IS WORKING?

- When administrators assist with scheduling/testing/grading, freeing up counselor time.
- Student mentoring to assist counselors with issue, like the STREAM Mentoring Program.
- Receiving referrals from teachers with students struggling with personal/communication issues
- Opportunities to attend college board/FAFSA (Federal Student Aid) training.

WHAT DID WORK?

- Meeting the requirements for continuing education needs were easier when state-wide counselor conferences were held by the WVDE. They were a valued opportunity for policy review, collabora-

tion, and learning latest counseling techniques.

- In the past, Title 1 schools had two counselors (1 teaching/1 crisis), creating more timely response to individual student needs

WHAT IS NOT WORKING?

- The log requirement is cumbersome and unreasonable; it needs to be modified.
- The lack of full time counselors in elementary schools; each needs at least one.
- Case loads are too large; the recommended ratio is 1 counselor per 250 students.
- Inadequate work space; appropriate student conference/office/storage space is needed.
- Counselors are weighed down with too many administrative duties.
- PEP plans and declaring a major in high school; keeping up with required WVEIS forms takes up an enormous amount of time. A more efficient system is needed.

These and other concerns have been a topic of discussion at recent State Board of Education meetings between the board, the Principals' Association, and the teacher associations.

WVPE plans to pursue these issues in the upcoming legislative session which begins on January 9th.

Don't forget to like our Facebook page. We will keep you informed!

WVPE Welcomes Johnna R. Gaunch as Legislative Liaison



For the upcoming Legislative session, West Virginia Professional Educators has contracted to work with Johnna R. Gaunch of the Walker and Stevens West Virginia Lobbyist Group. Members of the Executive Board met with Johnna in December and feel she is an excellent fit for promoting the goals and work of WVPE in the coming year.

As a public relations director, program director and lobbyist since 2015, Johnna brings expertise and a strong interest in issues that affect West Virginia youth. A lifelong West Virginia resident and Marshall University graduate, her previous work experiences include working in county school systems as a speech pathologist and working in Marshall's Department of Communication Disorders. Johnna will be monitoring legislation, providing legislative reports, and may possibly help WVPE draft legislation. She has stated that she is looking forward to working with WVPE; she is enthusiastic about our philosophy and inclusive membership.

Welcome Aboard Johnna!

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10587 Charleston Road
Red House, WV 25168

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Survey Comments from WVPE Members

Below is a sampling of responses given to open-ended survey questions. Space does not permit including all responses. For a complete list of comments, contact David Gladkosky.

Q: Aside from pay raises and PEIA, what is the best thing the legislature could do to support the classroom teacher?

- Give more appropriate training instead of wasting time at the beginning of the year review test scores/data, new testing material, etc.
- Revamp the test and format of the summative test, additional school nurses, increase Faculty Senate monies, focus on student attendance and behavior, stop making it harder for administration to discipline students
 - Less required student testing
 - Give more time to collaborate and plan together
 - Maintain consistency of standards and testing for a few years so we can work on improvement
 - Better funding of materials, resources, and updating of technology
 - Provide adequate work and planning time to handle the workload required
 - Smaller class sizes and hold stu-

dents accountable for assessments, as well as better support from school administration for discipline/academics/overall expectations

- Fund a program to better train and prepare teachers for their first three years in the classroom similar to the National Board Certification process.
- Create strict truancy laws that force parents to be accountable and for schools to enforce and file
 - A Social Worker for each school to help handle all the problems the teachers can't handle in school, but these problems affect the WHOLE CHILD and their school progress
 - Get rid of 3 hour delays and 2 hour early outs. We are in the education business, not just getting in 180 days. No education services occur on these interrupted days. They are wasted with frivolous activities. LET'S EDUCATE OUR STUDENTS and not just fulfill a number count
 - More student support in the schools (social workers, therapists, crisis management counselors, etc.)
 - We need to be treated like well-educated college professionals. Secondary should have the same accountability that elementary teachers do.

• More teacher work time built into the school year where teachers can collaborate longer and work in their classrooms.

- Protect planning periods
- Address mental health in the schools. We need counselors and social workers that work with students, not doing administrative duties!
- More teacher work time built into the school year so teachers can collaborate longer and work in their classrooms
 - Hold students accountable for attendance and behavior
 - Our state desperately needs staff training and additional staff to deal with the results of the opioid epidemic, which is seen daily in classrooms. Please, we need help!
 - Class size restriction for middle schools
 - Provide up-to-date technology to teachers, along with tech support/training. My biggest challenge is dealing with internet outages.
 - Legislators are not educators and need to leave pedagogy and standards out of mandates. Support should be safety, finance, and benefits for schools.
 - Pay raises and PEIA

West Virginia Professional Educators Annual Survey 2019

Survey Questions and Members' Responses

Each year WVPE members are invited to voice their opinions through an annual survey. Questions are developed from current issues and members' concerns. These questions and answers are given below. Annual goals are developed from the responses; these goals are shared with the West Virginia State Board of Education, members of the West Virginia Legislature, WVPE members, the WVPE Legislative Liaison, and other stakeholders.

Participants' Work Location:

PreK/Elementary School	39.72%
Middle School	25.53%
High School	31.91%
Friends of WVPE/Retired	2.84%

Participants' Student Body Size:

1-250 Students	10.07%
251-500 Students	42.45%
501-1000 Students	28.06%
1000+ Students	19.42%

Survey Questions

Q: Adequate mental health services for students with behavioral/social issues are provided at my school.
Strongly Disagree/Disagree 54.34% Neutral 17.32% Agree/Strongly Agree 28.34%

Q: At my school we have enough school counselors for the size of our student body.
Strongly Disagree/Disagree 53.54% Neutral 16.54% Agree/Strongly Agree 29.92%

Q: My county's guidance counselors perform their jobs without being interrupted with school administration duties.
Strongly Disagree/Disagree 46.03% Neutral 29.37% Agree/Strongly Agree 24.60%

Q: My county provides an adequate number of personnel and/or social workers to address truancy and family issues.
Strongly Disagree/Disagree 79.53% Neutral 9.45% Agree/Strongly Agree 11.02%

Q: The school in which I teach takes the required measures to insure student safety at all times.
Strongly Disagree/Disagree 11.03% Neutral 24.41% Agree/Strongly Agree 64.57%

Q: My school building is equipped to handle the addition of new technologies as they are introduced.
Strongly Disagree/Disagree 35.71% Neutral 19.05% Agree/Strongly Agree 45.24%

Q: West Virginia has a shortage of certified teachers, and this has directly affected student learning, comprehension, and test scores.
Strongly Disagree/Disagree 6.30% Neutral 22.05% Agree/Strongly Agree 71.66%

Q: Teacher salaries must continue to increase in order to attract and retain high quality educators.
Strongly Disagree/Disagree 0.79% Neutral 3.94% Agree/Strongly Agree 95.28%

- Q: I support the proposed additional 5% pay raise.
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 0.00% Neutral 7.87% Agree/Strongly Agree 92.13%
- Q: Faculty Senate Days should be returned to their full day format to allow school staff time for Collaboration, documentation, data analysis, technology integration and parent contacts as well as the required Faculty Senate meeting.
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 14.96% Neutral 17.32% Agree/Strongly Agree 67.71%
- Q: Half days are more difficult for working parents.
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 3.15% Neutral 31.50% Agree/Strongly Agree 65.36%
- Q: Students should be held accountable for their performance on the General Summative Assessment for it to be taken seriously for students.
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 0.79% Neutral 14.29% Agree/Strongly Agree 84.93%
- Q: Every secondary school should be required to have a full-time certified Library Media Specialist.
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 3.15% Neutral 18.90% Agree/Strongly Agree 77.95%
- Q: At the secondary level, Media Specialists' schedules should remain flexible so that solid media Programs can be developed to assist in boosting student achievement.
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 3.96% Neutral 20.63% Agree/Strongly Agree 75.40%
- Q: At the secondary level, class size should have limits.
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 0.00% Neutral 4.72% Agree/Strongly Agree 95.28%
- Q: I am pleased with the work and the direction of the PEIA Task Force.
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 48.38% Neutral 41.13% Agree/Strongly Agree 10.49%
- Q: The Governor's proposal to fix PEIA is an adequate solution.
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 52.39% Neutral 37.30% Agree/Strongly Agree 10.32%
- Q: PEIA premiums should be based on coverage provided, not salaries.
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 5.60% Neutral 14.40% Agree/Strongly Agree 80.00%
- Q: I have been affected by the change in the RESA structure.
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 32.28% Neutral 40.94% Agree/Strongly Agree 26.77%
- Q: Students who are home-schooled should be allowed to play sports for their local school's teams.
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 51.18% Neutral 22.83% Agree/Strongly Agree 25.98%
- Q: I support allowing for the creation of charter schools.
 Strongly Disagree/Disagree 52.75% Neutral 30.71% Agree/Strongly Agree 16.54%