

# West Virginia Professional Educators

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

Website: [wvprofed.org](http://wvprofed.org)



# NEWS

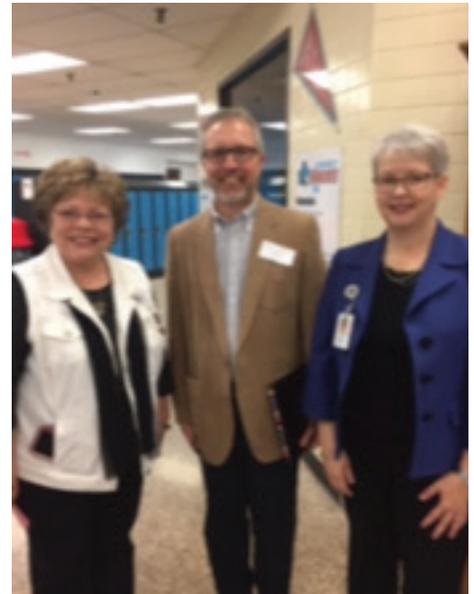
Spring 2019

## WVPE Prepares To Spring Forward

The 2018-2019 school may have ended for educators and students, but the Executive Board and WVPE staff are poised to “spring forward” with plans for the year ahead. At this time, the West Virginia Legislature is in its extended session. Watch for legislative updates to come.

Many thanks go to WVPE Executive Director David Gladkosky, Legislative Chairman Mark Higginbotham and Johnna Gaunch of the WV Lobbyist Group, for meeting with many state legislators and increasing WVPE's presence during the session. A one-page flyer was developed and distributed to many legislators and key people. Many WVPE members, school personnel, and community members attended the Education Forums held around the state. As David Gladkosky details in his article, he has consistently attended State Board of Education meetings and presents members' views each time. Susan Adkins and Don Bucher have continued to serve members across the state as well.

During the 2019 summer months, the Executive Board and staff will be meeting in June and August to address any legislative action as it unfolds and to make strategic plans for the year ahead.



Several WVPE members attended the Education Forum in Parkersburg this spring. Pictured left to right are Michelle Fling, school counselor; WVPE Executive Director David Gladkosky; and Melanie Cutright, Coordinator of Early Learning.

### WEST VIRGINIA PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS

DAVID GLADKOSKY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
E-MAIL: [DAVID@WVPROFED.ORG](mailto:DAVID@WVPROFED.ORG)  
WEBSITE: [WVPROFED.ORG](http://WVPROFED.ORG)

ALMA PAGE  
OFFICE MANAGER & MEMBERSHIP  
E-MAIL: [WVPE@AOL.COM](mailto:WVPE@AOL.COM) • (304) 586-3451

SUSAN ADKINS, GRIEVANCE MANAGER  
(304) 429-8434 - HOME • (304) 633-5515 - CELL

### CURRENT STATE OFFICERS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2018-2019

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## Editor's Corner



Libby Surface

If you are like me, you have a summer “to do list” to tackle. Summertime is also great time to begin planning for the year ahead – and that includes helping WVPE grow and expand its services to members. Here is your summer WVPE “to do list” to step up your involvement, and you won’t need a Fitbit!

- Tell current and new colleagues about WVPE’s philosophy and benefits.
- Share with others WVPE’s reasonable dues. They will appreciate the cost savings!
- Plan ahead and apply for a membership mini-grant or Ernest Page Memorial Classroom grant. (The applications are posted on the WVPE website; contact WVPE for more information)
- Pass this newsletter around or leave it in your teachers’ workrooms for prospective new members to see.
- Request some brochures and posters from Alma Page in preparation for back to school.
- Share the address of our website and tell others an application is available there.
- Let WVPE know of any events at which we may set up a table, display or speak.

Contact David Gladkosky for information on starting a county chapter. Have a Happy, Restful Summer!

## Have You Moved or Changed Counties?

Please contact Alma Page if you have had a change of name or address. If you are now working in a different county, you will need to inform your new payroll office to have dues payroll deducted.

Questions? Ask Alma!



## President's Message

Jackie McDaniels

As another school year comes to a close, I would like to paraphrase The Byrds and Ecclesiastes:

To everything (turn, turn, turn) there is a season (turn, turn, turn) and a time to every purpose, under Heaven.

A time to laugh, a time to cry

A time to state test, a time to celebrate

A time for makeup work, a time to finalize grades

A time to sign up for staff development, a time to plan a vacation

A time to close classroom doors, a time for the opening of legislative special sessions

I thank our WVPE Staff and Execu-

tive Board for the hard work they have done and continue to do. I look forward to our meeting in June to plan for next year. I appreciate their dedication to our organization, and I invite our members who would like to become more involved to contact WVPE Staff or Board.

And as I close this president’s message, sincerely, if you feel called to become more involved with your organization, in a small way or big, please contact anyone listed on the front page of this newsletter. It might be your season . . .



## From the Desk of the Executive Director:

David Gladkosky

Listening. It is one of the most important things that WVPE does as we represent and advocate for teachers and administrators all around West Virginia. Listening is key. Listening was the main component in the recent education reform forums held all over the state. Both legislators and teacher stakeholder groups were asked to be in listening mode.

As I attended many of these forums, I took notes as I made my way around the discussion tables, and compiled a couple of pages of comments. I presented these comments to a group of legislators at a town hall listening tour meeting, and to members of the WV State Board of Education.

Unsurprisingly, topping the list of comments, was the need for more support personnel (counselors, psychologists, nurses) for both students and teachers. We were all glad to see funding proposals for these needs put forth in the legislative session, but how can we attract more students to pursue this field of study, or lure more people from

our of state to come here to work and live? One teacher stated that she was more than qualified to teach with a masters +15, but she can’t afford to live in WV. The follow up comment to this was that teachers need to get the pay raise they deserve. Teachers also feel ill equipped to handle the problems associated with the opioid epidemic. This has to be solved before real learning can take place.

At the School Choice & Innovation tables, teachers and community members expressed approval over our school Innovation Zones and want to see more dedicated funding to ensure that they can expand and continue to be successful. I heard comments on the importance of community outreach, and support for the new Communities in Schools Program. Many concerns were expressed about the implementation of charter schools, and its effect on our communities. More than once I heard the comment that “maybe all schools should become

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## From David Gladkosky

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charter schools”. Their point was, provide equal funding and make education flexibility an opportunity for all students.

I heard positive support for expanding Pre-K for 3 year olds, establishing the enrollment floor at 1400 students to help our struggling counties with funding, and for social workers to be placed in each school.

On May 7th, the WVDE released the results of the recent education forums in its West Virginia’s Voice Education Report. The comprehensive report listed 3 top priorities: provide a pay raise to all school employees, increase funding for social emotional supports with local flexibility, and incentivize high-performing schools by providing additional flexibility. At the conclusion of the report the WVDE states; “communication must be improved between policy makers (legislators and board members); educational leaders (WVDE and local district leaders); and school level staff.” Again, listening is key!

This report is well worth a look and can be viewed at [wvde.us/edvoices/](http://wvde.us/edvoices/).

WVPE has been working on becoming more visible. We have become

# WVPE 2019-2020 Ballot

Send in your votes for WVPE officers by responding to the ballot sent by email or by completing and mailing this ballot to the address below by June 28, 2019. All other Executive Board positions are appointed.

### President:

\_\_\_\_\_ Jacqueline McDaniels, Upshur County

\_\_\_\_\_ Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

### Vice-President:

\_\_\_\_\_ Beth Post, Upshur County

\_\_\_\_\_ Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

### Recording Secretary:

\_\_\_\_\_ Libby Surface, Wood County

\_\_\_\_\_ Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to : Alma Page, 10587 Charleston Road, Red House, WV 25168

more directly involved with the educational issues that our teachers and administrators face on a daily basis.

We are serving on, and attending education-related committee meetings. We present timely reports of concerns on a monthly basis to the WV State Board of Education, and are called upon by the WVDE for input from you, our members.

We had strong representation at the legislative session with our new lobby-

ist. We want to thank Johnna Gaunch for her extensive and intensive work and insight as she guided us through every aspect of the legislative process, and opened up communication lines between WVPE and members of both the House and Senate. Our presence is known! We are also continuing our work to connect with more teachers and administrators in expanding our membership. We ARE listening!

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Editor’s Note:** *Educators are always looking for ways to help students become more successful. Here are some interesting ideas!*

**Excerpts from “Tips for Allowing Test Retakes,” David Cutler, Edutopia, May 23, 2019**

Giving students a chance to redo tests and assignments can help them keep striving for mastery, if the process is well managed. During the first week of school, I spell out my retake policy to my high school history and government students:

- Aim to perform well the first time around on all assignments and assessments

- A retake must be completed within one week of my returning the original; schedule it with me during a

shared free period, or come in before or after school. You may also ask a proctor who is willing to sit with you, as long as you inform me in advance.

- Keep in mind that while the retake will cover the same content, I may ask you to respond to different questions.

- I will record the higher of the two scores in the online gradebook.

- No matter what grade you initially earned on an assignment or assessment, if you did not perform to the best of your ability, I encourage you to take advantage of a retake.

- Retake policies are not applicable for small quizzes or midterm and final exams

Retakes let students know that I acknowledge their humanity, that we all have bad days. This certainly involves

more work on my end, but it’s worth it given how often students achieve more success on retakes. The key, I think, is treating each situation as unique. When it comes to being fair, one size does not fit all.

**Excerpts from “Helping Students With ADHD Stay Organized,” Ezra Werb, Edutopia Online, April 24, 2019**

Students with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder often have difficulty keeping their things organized. Students with attention challenges are typically not geared for this type of organization, and many of them also have concurrent learning and developmental disabilities like dyslexia, spectrum disorders, fine motor delays,

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION (Continued from page 3)

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or sensory integration issues that may add to the struggle.

An online classroom, or learning management system (LMS), is an app teachers can use to upload and present all the information students need: documents, grades, the assignment calendar, etc. These portals—Google Classroom, Hapara, Canvas, and Moodle, to name a few—are, in my observation, highly effective systems with many benefits for students who struggle with classroom organization.

1. Tracking assignments and calendars: Teachers can create calendars or charts in their LMS showing the upcoming schedule for projects and readings, which allows students to see clearly what assignments are left to complete and when they're due. Some systems even generate an "upcoming assignments" scroll right on the home page.

2. Following teacher feedback: With an LMS, students can submit a typed document and receive direct feedback from their teachers in comments typed on the side of the document. Students can easily access them, and better yet,

they can then respond to the teacher's comment, creating a dialogue or conversation that the student can refer back to later.

3. Editing and rewriting: Students with struggle with writing production, expressive language, and attention issues should have an easier time with this kind of work if we can get them up and running on the computer, using formats like Word, Google Docs, and PowerPoint.

4. Writing practice using real-world scenarios: Using an LMS gives students extra opportunities to develop practical writing skills.

We now live in a digital world. Thankfully for our students with ADHD and learning challenges, the online portals now available not only help scaffold the organization process but also help them become more independent and confident in their ability to track assignments, hand them in on time, and interact with their teachers in the digital space.

### **"Chelsea High School Grades Improve from One-Hour Lunch Break," From WBRC, Chelsea, Alabama, by Hannah Ward, April 17, 2019**

Chelsea High School adopted the one-hour lunch this year called half-time. Principal Wayne Trucks says students are now more involved and grades are going up.

"It is really a time for students to have their own sort of choices. We do provide opportunities for remediation. We provide opportunities for intervention, like ACT training. It also gives them the opportunity to meet with teachers for perhaps make up work missed assignments," he says. If students' grades are good then some days students can choose what they want to do.

"We have ping-pong tables in the lobby. We have groups in the hallway we have a courtyard where when the weather is nice. Students can sit out there so they have that opportunity to really take a mental break," he says. Principal Trucks says they plan to continue halftime next school year but they will make a few changes.