



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Education

Minutes for January 22, 2026, 2:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Education met on January 22, 2026, 2:00 AM, in the House Education Committee Room 432-M.

Members present: Delegates Ellington, Statler, Hamilton, Garcia, Barnhart, Bell, Crouse, Dittman, Kimble, Mallow, Miller, Pritt, Pushkin, Shamblyn, Stephens, White, Willis.

Members absent: Delegates Campbell, Chiarelli, Coop-Gonzalez, Hornby, Jennings, Toney, Vance, Ward, B.

A silent roll call being taken, the presence of a quorum was established.

On motion of Delegate Statler, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The next item on the agenda was the Committee Hearing for **H. B. 4656**, Relating to chronic absenteeism. The Vice Chairman stepped into the Chair and recognized Delegate Ellington to explain the bill. Following his explanation the floor was opened for questions of the sponsor. Next the Vice Chairman asked if there were any agencies, organizations or members of the public wishing to address the bill Education West Virginia Co-Presidents Kristie Skidmore was sworn-in and took the podium to speak in support of the bill. With no one else being heard the bill was moved to the markup and discussion stage.

The next item on the agenda was the Committee Hearing for **H. B. 4660**, To move any remaining sixth grade classifications from elementary schools to middle schools. The Chair recognized the sponsor Delegate Statler to explain the bill. Following his explanation Delegate Statler entertained questions from the committee. Following questions, the Chairman asked if there were any agencies wishing to address the bill. Delegate Stephens asked that someone from the WVDE if in attendance take the podium for questions. Drew McClanahan, Legislative/Policy, WVDE answered questions. The Chairman then asked if there were an organizations or members of the public wishing to address the bill with none being heard the bill was moved to the markup and discussion stage.

With no further minutes to come before the Committee and on Motion of Delegate Statler the committee adjourned.

Joe Ellington

Committee Chair

Melinda Ryan Swagger

Committee Clerk