



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Education

Minutes for February 17, 2026, 1:30 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Education met on February 17, 2026, 1:30 PM, in the House Education Committee Room 432-M.

Members present: Delegates Statler, Toney, Hamilton, Garcia, Bell, Campbell, Coop-Gonzalez, Crouse, Dittman, Ellington, Kimble, Miller, Pritt, Pushkin, Stephens, Vance, White.

Members absent: Delegates Chiarelli, Hornby, Jennings, Mallow, Parsons, Shamblin, Ward, B., Willis.

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

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

The next item on the agenda was markup and discussion for **H. B. 5453**, To modify the school aid funding formula. The Chair recognized the Vice-Chair for a motion to consider the proposed committee substitute for the bill. Without any objection to the motion, Aaron Kidd, Committee Counsel, explained the committee substitute for the bill. Following their explanation, the Chair opened the meeting to questions for counsel. The Chair then asked for any amendments. Hearing none, the Chair recognized the Vice-Chair, who moved that Committee Substitute for **House Bill 5453** be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was committee hearing of **H. B. 5412**, Future Ready Education Act. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Sean Whelan, General Counsel to Governor Morrisey, to explain the bill. Then the Chair opened the committee for questions to the sponsor. Then the Chair recognized Dale Lee, president of the West Virginia Education Association (WVEA), to speak to the bill. The bill was then advanced to markup and discussion.

The next item on the agenda was committee hearing of **H. B. 5438**, To modify the foundation allowance to improve instructional programs. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Delegate Toney, to explain the bill. Then the Chair opened the committee for questions to the sponsor. Then the Chair recognized Uriah Cummings, School Financial Operations Officer for the West Virginia Department of Education, to speak to the bill. The bill was then advanced to markup and discussion.

With no further business before the committee, on motion of Delegate Toney the committee adjourned.

Joe Statler

Committee Chair

Ethan Hatfield

Committee Clerk