

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

March 20, 2024

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, in the District Office Board Room located at Wilson Elementary School. The President, Mr. Robert Ostrander, presided. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Directors

Present -	Robert Ostrander – President Todd Kosenina Steven Pons Seth Tomei	Tracy Pustover – Vice President Debbie Mirich Steve Psomas
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Absent -	George Bartha	Vicki Bozic
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Also Present -	Mr. William Andrews, Solicitor Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent Dr. Chris Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Shauna Nelson, Assistant to the Superintendent Ms. Tammy Adams, Assistant to the Superintendent Mr. George Safin, Business Manager Mrs. Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary
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3. Public Comment

No comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the February 21, 2024, meeting to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve the minutes as distributed.

5. Treasurer’s Report

The treasurer’s report from last month was read by Mr. George Safin, Business Manager, and accepted by the board indicating a balance on February 29, 2024, of \$54,402,579.19.

6. Communications

No communications this month.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. Lippert recognized Tina Bruce from Monark Student Transportation.

Dr. Lippert recognized Steve Groba.

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Mrs. Ruhl reported on the following activities in April surrounding Military Child Month:

- T-shirt sales
- Enlisting Day – Breakfast
- Diaper & baby wipe drive

Dr. Lippert reported on the following activities:

- Donaldson – Annual Reading Night
- McKee – SRO for a Day – Easton Sanabria won and got to shadow Officer Brandon
- Wilson – Down Syndrome Day
- Middle School
 - construction update
 - History, Science and Geography Bees of Western PA
 - Placement in Geography – Cash Cacia, Nolan Dunaway, Jaiden Calezo-Delgado, Max Gunther and Jonas Wrigley
 - Placement in Science – Jaiden Calezo-Delgado and Jonas Wrigley

Dr. Roche reported that RHP, the company who manages Redwood Estates and Virginia Hills, has awarded West Allegheny with \$8000.

9. President's Report

Mr. Ostrander thanked the staff and students.

Mrs. Pustover read an excerpt from the Dedication of Life that honored Joel Colinear, a former Board member.

10. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business this month.

11. Solicitor's Report

No report.

12. Personnel

Mrs. Mirich presented the Personnel portion of the Committee report:

On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mr. Pons, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 12.1 through 12.18 on the Personnel agenda.

- 12.1 Approving the list of professional and support substitutes as presented.

PROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTES - \$135/day

Jamie Sheppard

Kelly Hanna

Austin Schoppe

PROFESSIONAL NURSE SUBSTITUTE - \$150/day

Karen Smith

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES - \$15/hr.

Jessica Kiss

- 12.2 Approving the retirement resignation of Sara Augustin, Donaldson kindergarten teacher, effective the end of the 2023-24 school year.
- 12.3 Approving a PSERS recommended Special Sick Leave for Sara Augustin to cover the period of January 9, 2024 through February 26, 2024.
- 12.4 Amending Item 12.5 from February 21, 2024, adjusting Joshua Bears from Master's (\$109,875) to Master's +15 (\$110,875) effective January 3, 2024.
- 12.5 Approving a salary adjustment for Curt Russell from Master's (\$109,875) to Master's +15 (\$110,875) effective February 29, 2024.
- 12.6 Approving the retirement resignation of Ann Lutz, middle school paraprofessional, effective June 1, 2024.
- 12.7 Approving the retirement resignation of Anna Merhaut, Wilson Elementary swim aide, effective May 31, 2024.
- 12.8 Approving the resignation of Michelle Sauers, Class IV-B server at McKee, effective March 11, 2024.
- 12.9 Approving a restoration of health sabbatical leave of absence for Daniel Prevade, high school social studies teacher, for the 2024-25 school year.
- 12.10 Approving an intermittent family medical leave of absence for Wallace Darbous, high school custodian, beginning February 8, 2024 not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.11 Approving a family medical leave of absence for Angela Brutt, high school mathematics teacher, beginning April 1, 2024, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.12 Approving a family medical leave of absence for Harold Nation, truck driver/custodian, beginning March 18, 2024, not to exceed 60 days.

- 12.13 Approving a family medical leave of absence for Deborah Stockhausen, McKee grade 2 teacher, beginning April 1, 2024 not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.14 Approving hiring Anna Goss, High School music teacher, effective with the start of the 2024-25 school year. Salary, 1st step Bachelors per WAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 12.15 Approving hiring Bridget Jones, High School German teacher, effective with the start of the 2024-25 school year per WAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 12.16 Approving the following student interns at a cost of \$11/hour effective through the end of the 2023-24 school year:
- Education Interns -
Grace Staub
Georgia Lutz
- Marketing and Communications Interns -
Davina Snyder
Brianne Stiscak
- Technical Theater Interns -
Addison Shaughnessy
Kiera Smith
- Sports Medicine Interns -
Muslimakhon Bakhodirova
Molly McMullen
Brooklyn Stewart
Raegan Tate
- 12.17 Approving the resignation of Michael Shaffer, high school English teacher, effective with the end of the 2023-24 school year.
- 12.18 Approving Erin Stewart as a substitute Registered Nurse (RN) at a rate of \$200/day. Start date to be determined based upon receipt of favorable clearances.

13. Property & Supply

The Property & Supply portion of the Committee report was presented by Mr. Ostrander:

On a motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 13.1 through 13.7 on the Property & Supply agenda.

- 13.1 Approving Dennis Orcutt as a bus driver for the district. All requirements have been met.
- 13.2 Approving Change Order GC-020 with the Hudson Group to install a new two hour fire rated enclosure at the north wall above the ceilings in science classrooms A207 and A206 for a total cost of \$3,899.00.

- 13.3 Approving Change Order GC-021 with the Hudson Group to build temporary bulkheads and reinstall ceiling grid and tile to close off the ceiling in corridor 204 at the temporary construction wall installed at the Phase 3 work area for a total cost of \$2,114.00.
- 13.4 Approving Change Order GC-022 with the Hudson Group to install a temporary wall around the existing ductwork required to remain until Phase 6 in the boys gang restroom (RC-20) for a total cost of \$1,042.00.
- 13.5 Approving Change Order GC-023 with the Hudson Group to install a new chase wall in the northeast corner of the E-Sports classroom (Phase 4) to enclose a new rain leader line in the corner of the classroom for a total cost of \$579.00.
- 13.6 Approving Change Order GC-024 with the Hudson Group to install two new structurally improved concrete pads to support the placement of the new building chillers (Concrete pads are thickened, haunched and structurally reinforced) for a total cost of \$20,288.00.
- 13.7 Approving Change Order EC-010 with Allegheny City Electric to remove and relocate electrical conduit that was inline with the rework of mechanical duct for the girls gang restroom (RB-12). Work was completed on a time and material basis for a total cost of \$1,158.11.

14. Finance

The Finance portion of the Committee report was presented by Mr. Tomei:

On a motion by Mr. Tomei, seconded by Mrs. Pustover, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 14.1 through 14.7 and 14.9 and 14.10 on the Finance agenda.

- 14.1 Approving the payment of bills from the General Fund as per list presented to the Board Members.
- 14.2 Approving the Construction Fund and Construction Treasurer's reports as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.3 Approving the Cafeteria Report as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.4 Accepting February Activity Reports as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.5 Approving the proposed 2024/2025 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget in the amount of \$2,263,093. The Allegheny County (AIU3) school districts' total contribution to the budget is \$1,936,965.

The West Allegheny School District's contribution to the Program of Services Budget is estimated to be \$76,383 (an increase of \$1,249.54 from prior year). The districts' final withholding allocation will be based on the District Aid Ratio and Weighted Average Daily Membership (WADM). The withholding allocations will be determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education sometime after July 1, 2024.

- 14.6 Approving the purchase of 1,575 Chromebooks, Google licensing, asset tagging, and enrollment services from Dell Education, a PEPPM-approved vendor, PEPPM #C000001024003, at a cost not to exceed \$437,771.25.
- 14.7 Approving the audit report as of June 30, 2023 as presented by the District's independent auditor, Mark Turnley, CPA.
- 14.8 On a motion by Mr. Tomei, seconded by Mrs. Pustover, and on a roll call vote, it was unanimously moved to approve the adoption of the Resolution as attached, and as presented by Bond Counsel, authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000.00, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Unit Debt Act, for the purpose of funding the design, construction and equipping of additions and alterations to the West Allegheny Middle School.
- 14.9 Approving a real estate tax assessment settlement appeal with 17 William Dr LLC for commercial property in Findlay Township as recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.10 Approving a real estate tax assessment settlement appeal with Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County/200 Industry Partners, LLC for commercial property in North Fayette Township as recommended by the solicitor.

15. Policy & Programs

The Policy & Programs portion of the Committee report was presented by Mrs. Pustover:

On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mr. Pons, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 15.1 through 15.5 on the Policy & Programs agenda.

- 15.1 Approving Policies 124-150 of Section 100 of the updated policy manual. This represents the second of two required readings.

Section 100 – Programs

Policy 124 – Alternative Instruction

Policy 125 – Adult Education

Policy 127 – Assessment System

Policy 130 – Homework

Policy 137 – Home Education Programs

Policy 137.1 – Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students

Policy 137.2 - Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Course by Home Education Students

Policy 137.3 – Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students

Policy 138 – Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners

Policy 140 – Charter Schools

Policy 140.1 – Extracurricular Participation by Charter/Cyber Charter Students

Policy 146 – Student Services

Policy 150 – Title I – Comparability of Services

- 15.2 Approving Policies 200-214 of Section 200 of the updated policy manual. This represents the first of two required readings.

Policy 200 - Enrollment of Students
Policy 201 - Admission of Students
Policy 202 - Eligibility of Non-resident Students
Policy 203 - Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
Policy 203.1 - HIV Infection
Policy 204 - Attendance
Policy 205 - Postgraduate Students
Policy 206 - Assignment Within District
Policy 207 - Confidential Communications of Students
Policy 208 - Withdrawal from School
Policy 209 - Health Examinations/Screenings
Policy 209.2 - Diabetes Management
Policy 210 - Medications
Policy 210.1 - Possession/Administration of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors
Policy 212 - Reporting Student Progress
Policy 214 - Class Rank

- 15.3 Approving submission of the K-12 Guidance Plan to the PA Department of Education.
- 15.4 Approving the student adjudication for Student O as presented.
- 15.5 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement with Community College of Allegheny County continuing partnership in the Early College in High School Academy programs.

16. Athletics & Activities

The Athletics & Activities portion of the Committee report was presented by Mr. Kosenina:

On a motion by Mr. Kosenina, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve item 16.1 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Approving the following musical arts volunteers for the 2024 musical production. All clearance requirements have been met.
Madeline Steineck
Robert Bollman

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

Mrs. Adams discussed the McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. She is the homeless liaison for the District.

18. Student Representatives

Esther Newton and Nathaniel Elek reported on the following activities:

Culture

- Senior Superlative - voting now

- Zoo Trip - 3/14
- Student in Action - HIE 5K - April 27
- 10th grade Mental Health presentation - last Thursday
- Pep Assembly - last Friday - Students won the basketball game

Academics

- End of 3rd 9 weeks - this Friday!
- Seniors in Art went to Mattress Factory & Randy Land two weeks ago
- Freshman went to CCAC last Thursday
- Preschool Field Trip to Carnegie Science Center

ROTC

- Colorguard @ Pens game - March 28 & April 11
- Leadership Conference @ Valley Forge - 2 Students - Feb. 29-Mar. 2
- 2nd Annual Bingo @ Activity Center - Date Apr 5, 2024
- FLAG started 3/11 - 6 students

Arts/Activities

- Stand Together Presentation to all 9th grade Health
- Band/Show Choir Trip to Disney - left yesterday
- Art Show April 24-26 - Opening day is a Remake Learning event where participants get to tell their story through art with 2 local artists
- Musical - April 11-14 - Bye, Bye Birdie
- Art Club Meeting yesterday

Athletics

- Spring Sport Season
- Track Senior Night was Monday
- New Athletic Director started on Monday
- Swimming and diving this past weekend at bucknell
- 2 Wrestlers went to paaa wrestling finals
- All fall schedules have been released and completed
- Working on setting the date for homecoming.
- 27th is homecoming game against ambridge and dance will be Saturday the 28th

19. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Spring Reading Challenge
- Book Sale – April 25-27

Please visit the Library and their website for more information

www.westernallegHENYlibrary.org.

20. Parkway West CTC

Mrs. Mirich reported on the following activities:

- Open House – March 5th
- Competitive Equipment Grant
- Student of the Month – Nathan Galant

Please visit their website for more information www.ptcollege.edu.

21. SHASDA

No report.

22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

No report.

23. West Allegheny Foundation

Mrs. Mirich announced that the Teacher's Cup was a success. Over 500 people were in attendance and the Middle School won. 20 National Honor helped, as well as Texas Roadhouse.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

No update.

25. New Business

Mr. Ostrander announced that the Board met in executive session on March 13, and prior to tonight's meeting in regard to negotiations, legal and student matters.

26. Open Forum

Jamie Holmes, North Fayette, asked about Middle School athletics.

Dr. Lippert, Mr. Ostrander and Dr. St. Surin responded.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mr. Pons, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Robert Ostrander, Board President

Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary