

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

October 16, 2024

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, October 16, 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 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Directors

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Present - | Robert Ostrander – President | Tracy Pustover – Vice President |
| | George Bartha | Vicki Bozic |
| | Debbie Mirich | Steven Pons |
| | Steve Psomas | Seth Tomei |

Absent - Todd Kosenina

Also Present - Mr. William Andrews, Solicitor
Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent
Dr. Chris Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Lynn Utchell, Assistant to the Superintendent
Dr. Shana Nelson, Assistant to the Superintendent
Mr. George Safin, Director of Finance
Mrs. Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary

Mr. Ostrander announced that the Board met in executive session on October 9, and prior to tonight's meeting in regards to legal and personnel matters.

3. Public Comment

No comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the September 18, 2024, meetings to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mr. Bartha, 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 September 30, 2024, of \$70,449,530.27.

6. Communications

No communications this month.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

The recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award is Bill Gamble. Dr. St. Surin spoke about Mr. Gamble and his 65 years of service. Mr. Gamble thanked everyone for the recognition.

Dr. Lippert also recognized the following recipients of the Distinguished Achievement Awards:

- Jeff Kiser and Pearl Hellman for their efforts with the attendance campaign.
- T.J. Fox and Steve Groba for their work with the marching band.

Mr. Tomei acknowledged the program that was put together for the student perfect attendance recipients at the football game.

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Dr. Lippert reported on the following activities:

- Donaldson walk-a-thon
- McKee PBIS store
- Wilson celebrated world smile day
- Middle School construction updates

9. President's Report

Mr. Ostrander wished Dr. Nelson a happy birthday.

10. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business this month.

11. Solicitor's Report

No report.

12. Personnel

On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mr. Pons, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 12.1 through 12.9 on the Personnel agenda.

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

PROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTES - \$135/day
Bollman, Mark

PROFESSIONAL NURSE SUBSTITUTE - \$150/day
Hill, Carly
Soose, Heather

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES - \$15/hr.

Calvi, Melissa
Dunn, Jessica
Mani, Shyamala

- 12.2 Approving the retirement resignation of Toni Baldanzi, high school assistant principal, effective June 30, 2025.
- 12.3 Approving Amy Lamb as a substitute Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) at a rate of \$28.13/hour (\$225/day). Start date, October 17, 2024.
- 12.4 Approving hiring Melissa Truini as a Class IV-B 3.75-hour server at Donaldson Elementary effective October 28, 2024. Salary, \$20.15/hour.
- 12.5 Approving an intermittent family medical leave of absence for Amberleigh Werling, Donaldson grade 1 teacher, effective September 1, 2024, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.6 Recognizing a final rating of "SATISFACTORY" for the individuals listed below, after completing three satisfactory years of service with the District, awarding tenure and a professional contract.

Stout, Carolyn
Bezems, Benjamin
Quinn, Emily
Ragan, Elana
Lucci, Jenna

- 12.7 Approving the following student interns at a cost of \$11/hour effective through the end of the 2024-25 school year:

Marketing & Communications - Nathalia Canelhas, Adelyn McClelland, Davina Snyder

Information Technology - Teo Hawthorne, Diego Jofre, Logan McFall, and John Taylor

Technical Theater - Addison Shaughnessy and Kiera Smith

Broadcast Media - Lindsey Bayer

- 12.8 Approving the resignation of Andrew Kavinsky, Grade 2 teacher at McKee Elementary, effective October 18, 2024.
- 12.9 Approving an intermittent family medical leave of absence for Kimberly Eater, grade 2 teacher at Wilson Elementary, beginning November 14, 2024, not to exceed 60 days.

13. Property & Supply

On a motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 13.1 through 13.9 on the Property & Supply agenda.

- 13.1 Approving Change Order GC-046 with the Hudson Group for costs associated with miscellaneous brick and CMU block repairs at the wood shop, MDF room, C200 classroom and at curtain walls C11 and C14. Total Cost of \$9,316.00.
- 13.2 Approving Change Order GC-047 with the Hudson Group for costs associated with miscellaneous structural steel revisions at A101C column line 8 and slab floor bearing above the boiler room. Total Cost of \$3,030.00.
- 13.3 Approving Change Order GC-048 with the Hudson Group to provide a credit to delete ceramic tile wainscot on a portion of the corridor wall in HB-106. Total Credit of (\$3,183.00).
- 13.4 Approving Change Order GC-049 with the Hudson Group to furnish and install Trax 95 vapor barrier in lieu of the specified 6-mil vapor barrier for the new wood flooring installation at the LGI. Total cost of \$10,452.00.
- 13.5 Approving Change Order GC-050 with the Hudson Group for costs associated with additional framing and drywall repairs at the main entrance, Classrooms A108, A209, B219 and B222, Hallways HA-100, HA- 200 and HB-106. Total Cost of \$10,973.00.
- 13.6 Approving Change Order HC-008 with Lugaila Mechanical Inc., for cost associated with revisions to existing ductwork at the undersized supply trunk line to RTU-11, reconfiguration of existing ductwork in classroom C206, B201, B213 to accommodate skylight locations and rework of the boiler room exhaust ductwork to accommodate the new exhaust fan and motorized louver. Total Cost of \$6,325.84.
- 13.7 Approving Change Order EC-016 with Allegheny City Electric to furnish and install four (4) type F11 light fixtures in room AD-016 and six (6) type F03 light fixtures in the reception area. Total Cost of \$4,780.13.
- 13.8 Approving Change Order EC-017 with Allegheny City Electric to change power for the theatrical light fixtures to 120 volt from 277 volt as originally shown on the electrical plans. Total Cost of \$2,054.66.
- 13.9 Approving Change Order EC-018 with Allegheny City Electric to remove an existing electrical panel during Phase 5 of the project that was not identified on the previous renovation documents from June 2000. A temporary panel was required to be installed to provide power to existing circuits feeding AHU-2 and phase 7 classrooms. Total Cost of \$9,923.11.

14. Finance

On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 14.1 through 14.3 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 Accepting Activity Reports as presented to the Board Members.

- 14.3 Approving the Construction Fund and Construction Treasurer's reports as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.4 On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mrs. Bozic, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve authorizing the finance team to consider the issuance of its General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2025 (the "2025 Bonds") for the purpose of financing district capital improvements and does hereby (i) authorize the School District's Administration to work with PNC Capital Markets LLC, as Investment Banker, and Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, as Bond Counsel, with respect to the proposed issuance of the 2025 Bonds and (ii) authorize Dinsmore & Shohl LLP to take such actions as may be required to prepare the proceeding for the approving of the 2025 Bonds as required by the Local Government Unit Debt Act (including, specifically, the publishing of required notices).

Mr. Ostrander commented that this is not an authorization to borrow money, it is an authorization for the finance team to begin to work on the process.

15. Policy & Programs

On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 15.1 and 15.6 on the Policy & Programs agenda.

- 15.1 Approving Policies 122 and 123 of Section 100 of the updated policy manual. This represents the second of two required readings.

Policy 122 Extracurricular Activities
Policy 123 Interscholastic Activities

- 15.2 Approving Policies 202 & 254 of Section 200 and Policies 311 – 328 of Section 300 of the updated policy manual. This represents the first of two required readings.

Policy 202 - Eligibility of Nonresident Students
Policy 254 – Educational Opportunity for Military Children (New Policy)

Policy 311 – Reduction of Staff
Policy 312 – Performance Assessment of Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent
Policy 313 – Evaluation of Employees
Policy 314 – Physical Examination
Policy 314.1 – HIV Infection
Policy 317 – Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures
Policy 317.1 – Educator Misconduct
Policy 318 – Attendance and Tardiness
Policy 321 - Political Activities
Policy 323 - Tobacco and Vaping Products
Policy 324 - Personnel Files
Policy 328 - Compensation Plans/Salary Tables

- 15.3 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement with Rosedale Technical College to include our four (4) new programs Construction Electricity Technology, Industrial Electricity Technology, HVAC Technology and Welding Technology beginning in the 2024-25 school year as part of the Early College in High School Academy.

- 15.4 Approving the adoption of Unique Learning System by n2y K-12 curriculum program for reading, mathematics, science, and social studies for students receiving specialized special education programming.
- 15.5 Approving the adoption of SRA by McGraw Hill K-5 reading mastery program as a literacy intervention for students receiving specialized special education programming.
- 15.6 Approving the Title 1 Services Addendum with the AIU3 for the 2024-25 school year as presented.

16. Athletics & Activities

On a motion by Mr. Psomas, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 16.1 through 16.3 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Approving the 2024-25 winter coaches as presented.
- 16.2 Approving an overnight trip request for the varsity and junior varsity softball teams to attend The Ripken Experience in Pigeon Forge, TN from March 27-30, 2025, at a cost to the district not to exceed \$1,200 for tournament entry fee and substitute teachers.
- 16.3 Approving the following musical arts volunteer for the 2024-25 school year. All clearance requirements have been met. Madelyn Miessmer

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

Dr. Nelson reported that she and Dr. Roche will be attending a half day training on federal programs at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

18. Student Representatives

Ava Elliott reported on the following student activities:

Academics

- ACT School Day was today.
- End of the Quarter - 10/25/24

JROTC

- Upcoming events - November 2nd RMU and West A ROTC joint Color Guard for RMU Veteran's Day game

Culture

- Homecoming Feedback - thanked Mrs. Krek/Meinert
- Senior Ambassadors Highlights meeting
- Equity Scholar Panel Feedback
 - First session was 9/27 (Emotional Intelligence/Self Awareness)
 - HBCU Field Trip

Activities/Clubs

- NHS Sponsored Powder Puff Game - November 14

Arts

- Elementary Schools have reached a record number of 304 students in their beginner band program. Includes an impressive number of students who have English as a second language in Mckee
- HS Show choir is performing at the Findlay Veterans Day Luncheon (Nov. 8)
- HS Show choir is holding their first service project fundraiser for “Ellas Entourage” (Organization founded by HS Counselor Mrs. Pegher)
- Fall Musical Opening Night - Nov 7 - Little Shop of Horrors, Jack’s not able to be here tonight because he is at practice – playing Seymour in the upcoming show

Athletics

- Golf - Nico Ward made it to PIAA State Finals, leave on 10/21 @ Penn State
- Boys Soccer - Playoffs start 10/19 vs Hampton–home game start @ 2pm
- Girls Soccer - Playoffs start next 10/21 vs laurel Highlands @6:30pm
- Football - 10/11 - Celebrated Perfect Attendance - won vs Newcastle, play @ Blackhawk this Friday
- Volleyball - Dig Pink - raise \$54,737.62 over last 14 yrs
- Cross Country–Varsity and MS took on MACS this past week where Brennan Patterson and Grace Fritzman took top 5 finishes! The middle school team had Camryn Bruno finish FIRST overall and Alaina Leonard finishing 21st

19. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Fall book sale, October 31 – November 2, Educator night October 30
- Giant game night, November 16, 10 AM- 3 PM
- Fall For Your Library, \$93,000 raised
- Two North Fayette Board members needed

Please visit the Library and their website for more information
www.westernallegHENYlibrary.org.

20. Parkway West CTC

Mrs. Mirich reported on the following activities:

- Skills Competition – placed 6th in the nation
- Space Day – worked with CCAC
- Thanksgiving Feast to go – November 8 deadline, \$100, feeds 4-6 people

21. SHASDA

No report.

22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

Mr. Psomas reported that the seven nominees were inducted on October 5.

23. West Allegheny Foundation

No report.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

Dr. Shattuck reported that the first meeting was held on October 1 with presentations from Lieutenant Hamm and the school nurses. A community member also gave a presentation on a program titled “start with the love.”

25. New Business

No new business.

26. Open Forum

Jaime Sanabria, North Fayette, asked about heating in the schools.
Mr. Ostrander and Dr. Lippert responded.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mrs. Bozic, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Robert Ostrander, Board President

Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary