

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

May 15, 2024

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, May 15, 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 7:02 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Directors

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

Also Present -

- Mr. William Andrews, Solicitor
- Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent
- Dr. Chris Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent
- Dr. Lynn Utchell, Assistant to the Superintendent
- Mr. George Safin, Business Manager
- Mrs. Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary

Mr. Ostrander announced that the Board met in executive session on May 8, and prior to tonight's meeting in regards to safety, personnel and legal matters.

3. Public Comment

No comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the April 17, 2024, meetings 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 April 30, 2024, of \$46,431,738.78.

6. Communications

No communications this month.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. Lippert and other Administrators recognized the following 2023-2024 retirees:

Betty Stawiarski – 25 years
John Lacek – 14 years
Vimala Hari – 20 years
Becky Claus – 30 years
Robert DeMario – 31 years
Sara Augustin – 22 years
Chrisanne Canovali – 27 years
Anna Merhaut – 25 years
Renee Caruso – 34 years
Karen Frech – 20 years
Linda Hogg – 28 years
Leda Niccolai – 31 years
Andrew Peters – 31 years
Kim Buser – 19 years
Katie Zanella – 33 years
Jen Rieger – 32 years
Lisa Carter – 28 years
Tammy Adams – 6 years
Dave McBain – 24 years

Mr. Ostrander thanked all of the retirees for their hard work and dedication. He wished them the best of luck.

Mr. Ostrander recognized the three student representatives:

Esther Newton
Jacob Monti
Nathaniel Elek

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

No report.

9. President's Report

No report.

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. Tomei, 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

Carly Agnew
Jessica Borovich
Jordan Castelluci
Cayla Chiodo
Mackenzie Johnson
Grace Weidinger
Abigail Wensell
Perry Connor

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES - \$15/hr.

Alexis Chiccarello
Vaishali Shinde
Mollie Wolfe

12.2 Approving a salary adjustment for Olivia Pasquino, McKee grade 4 teacher, from Bachelor's Step 11 (\$63,975) to Master's Step 11 (\$65,975) effective April 26, 2024.

12.3 Approving hiring Courtney Hayes as a long-term substitute high school science teacher, retroactive to the beginning of the 2023-24 school year. Salary, Step 1 Bachelor's, \$49,975.

12.4 Approving hiring Courtney Hayes as a long-term substitute high school social studies teacher for the 2024-25 school year. Salary, Step 1 Bachelor's per WAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

12.5 Approving summer hours for the following employees:
School Psychologists - 160 hours each

12.6 Approving George Safin as the School District Treasurer and Purchasing Agent for the 2024-25 school year.

12.7 Approving Allison Vaupel, High School English/Language Arts teacher, effective with the start of the 2024-25 school year. Salary, 1st step Master's per WAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

12.8 Approving hiring Elizabeth Klinkner as a Class IV-B 3.75-hour cafeteria server at McKee Elementary effective May 16, 2024. Salary, \$19.47/hour.

- 12.9 Approving hiring Cathy Mathias as a Class IV-B 3.75-hour cafeteria server at Donaldson Elementary effective with the start of the 2024-25 school year. Salary, \$20.15/hour.
- 12.10 On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Pustover, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the West Allegheny School District and West Allegheny Education Association for a period of three (3) years beginning the first day of the 2024-2025 school year and expiring the day before the first scheduled day of the 2027-2028 school year.

13. Property & Supply

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

Mr. Ostrander announced that the Property & Supply Committee met and took a tour of the construction project at the Middle School.

On a motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 13.1 through 13.6 on the Property & Supply agenda.

- 13.1 Approving Change Order GC-027 with the Hudson Group for additional drywall changes necessary in Phase 4 construction area. Total Cost \$8,287.00.
- 13.2 Approving Change Order GC-028 with the Hudson Group to install a thickened, structurally reinforced concrete slab for the new emergency generator. Total Cost \$10,145.00.
- 13.3 Approving Change Order GC-029 with the Hudson Group to install additional security control devices at overhead coiling doors and grilles. Total Cost \$3,118.00.
- 13.4 Approving Change Order GC-030 with the Hudson Group to perform demolition at the gymnasium locker rooms during 2nd shift work areas ahead of the summer work schedule. Total Cost \$4,799.00.
- 13.5 Approving the district telephone system upgrade by Advent Communications, PEPPM contract, at a cost not to exceed \$18,493.16.
- 13.6 Approving AireSpring as the telephone service carrier for the District, with a one-time service initialization cost of \$114 and recurring monthly cost of \$641 for a 3-year term commencing July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

14. Finance

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

On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 14.1 through 14.6 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 April Activity Reports as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.5 Approving awarding bids for the following: General Supplies, Arts and Crafts Supplies, Light Bulbs, Janitorial Supplies, Industrial Arts Supplies and Lumber, Athletics Supplies and Equipment, and Copier Paper.
- 14.6 Approving the proposed final 2024-25 general fund budget with revenues of \$80,864,669 and expenditures of \$83,300,921 containing a property tax millage rate of 18.51. This millage rate reflects no increase to our property tax levy (which equates to no millage increase). It should be noted that this budget and millage rate is not official until the passage of the final general fund budget on June 19, 2024.

15. Policy & Programs

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

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

- 15.1 Approving the Comprehensive Services Agreement and Special Education Addendum with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2024-25 school year as presented.
- 15.2 Approving Policies 214-237 of Section 200 of the updated policy manual. This represents the first of two required readings.

Policy 214 Class Rank

Policy 215 Promotion and Retention

Policy 216 Student Records

Policy 216.1 Supplemental Discipline Records

Policy 217 Graduation

Policy 218 Student Discipline

Policy 218.1 Weapons

Policy 218.2 Terroristic Threats

Policy 218.3 Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault

Policy 220 Student Expression/Dissemination of Materials

Policy 221 Dress and Grooming

Policy 222 Tobacco and Vaping Products

Policy 223 Use of Bicycles and Motor Vehicles

Policy 226 Searches

Policy 227 Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia

Policy 229 Student Fundraising

Policy 231 Social Events and Class Trips

Policy 233 Suspension and Expulsion

Policy 234 Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students

Policy 235 Student Rights and Responsibilities

Policy 235.1 Surveys
Policy 236 Student Assistance Program
Policy 236.1 Threat Assessment
Policy 237 Electronic Devices

15.3 Approving Statistics and Probability with Applications (BFW) as the textbook for the Probability and Statistics course at a cost not to exceed \$10,948.01.

15.4 Approving the following Early College in High School Academy (ECIHSA) textbooks for courses provided through Robert Morris University:

INTRO TO CYBER (ECIHSA-RMU): Computer Security Fundamentals (SAVVAS) as the textbook for the Intro to Cybersecurity course at a cost not to exceed \$2,819.64.

CORRECTIONS & SOCIAL ISSUES (ECIHSA-RMU): Corrections (Justice Series) and Social Problems (SAVVAS) as the textbooks for the Corrections and Social Issues course at a cost not to exceed \$6,880.14.

SPORT MANAGEMENT (ECIHSA-RMU): Principles and Practice of Sport Management 7E (Jones and Bartlett) as the textbook for the Sport Management course at a cost not to exceed \$4,699.08.

Sports Business Journal (Street & Smith) as a supplemental resource for the Sport Management course at a cost not to exceed \$229.00.

15.5 Approving the student agreement extension for Student L as presented.

16. Athletics & Activities

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

On a motion by Mr. Kosenina, seconded by Mr. Pons, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 16.1 and 16.2 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

16.1 Approving the resignation of Brian Partyka, 3rd assistant softball coach, effective April 23, 2024.

16.2 Approving the amended softball coaching salaries effective April 23, 2024:
Brian Partyka - Softball 3rd Assistant (MS Head) - \$5,686.93 to \$4,423.17
Beth Schwartzwelder - Softball 4th Assistant (MS Asst./Interim Head) - \$4,652.94 to \$5,474.39
Khristian Tisdale - MS Interim Assistant - \$442.32

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

No report.

18. Student Representatives

Jacob Monti, Esther Newton and Nathaniel Elek thanked the Board for the opportunity. They reported on the following activities:

Culture

- HEI 5K - April 27 - HUGE SUCCESS
- PBIS - SOAR Cards - Teachers get 2 cards a week to give out to students when they catch them being good – opportunity to earn gift card, candy, other incentive
 - Silent and away
 - On time, every time
 - Accountable & respectful
 - Ready to learn
- True U - Transition activities for rising freshmen with Varsity iLead where they will learn about the SOAR program
- Prom was May 4 at the Hyatt - Food was good; lots of fun
- Senior Week
 - Cap & Gown last week
 - May 23 - Chromebook return, Gateway Clipper & Senior Movie Night (Grown Ups)
 - Senior Hall of Fame - how nice it looks
 - Next week starts Senior Breakfast week
 - Last week of school is packed! Excited for Senior Sunrise and class photo before graduation practice on 5/28
 - Senior Celebration 5/29 - share school returning to
- Move Up Day for underclassmen - May 29
- ESP Final meeting on Monday

Academics

- AP Tests started May 6 and end this Friday
- Keystone Exams started this week
- Senior grades are due on Monday (5/20)
- Senior Awards Night - May 21
- ACCELERATE: Internships wrapping up - 23 interns this school year (does not include summer interns)

JROTC

- Bingo raised about \$1300
- Bought 2 Drones for FLAG students to practice - hopes of expanding to more students to WA next year

Arts/Activities

- Art Show was a success
- AP Art students painting mural for VFW - May 24
- Senior Pillar in progress
- May 22 - Pen Pal Field Trip to Wilson School - SIA

Athletics

- Grace Fritzman, sophomore, won the 5K Pittsburgh Marathon!!!! She's only 15 years old
- Softball team is section champs!!! Softball won on 5/13 vs Fox Chappel 12-1; playing Greater Latrobe today in the 2nd round of the playoffs

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- Baseball received a buy and is playing in the 2nd round on Monday - opponent TBD
- 16 Student Athletes are being recognized at the Big 56 5A conference next week on 5/23
- Track & Field competing today in WPIALs at SRU - This year we have the most qualifying student athletes in our history - 23 total students!
- Girls Flag Football - Senior Rose DiStefano was live on KDKA PTL Live today talking about the growth of girls' flag football - hopefully soon to be a WPIAL sport

19. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Summer Reading Program – June 3 through July 26
- Summer programs open May 18

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

20. Parkway West CTC

Mrs. Mirich reported on the following activities:

- 303 students graduating
- Over 1300 students already enrolled for next year

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

21. SHASDA

Mr. Bartha reported on the spring conference held at the Hilton Garden Inn. The students representing West Allegheny were Nicholas Hahn and Alexa Bickerington.

22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

Mr. Psomas reported that a meeting was held on May 2. The banquet will be held on October 5. Nominees are needed by the end of June.

23. West Allegheny Foundation

Mrs. Mirich announced that 7 teacher grants were awarded for \$5600 total. Matt DeChicko, Leah Vestal, Allison McLaren, Melissa Taranto, Elana Ragan and the Physical Training Department were the recipients this year.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

No update.

25. New Business

No new business.

26. Open Forum

No comments.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Pustover, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Robert Ostrander, Board President

Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary