

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

January 17, 2024

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, January 17, 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 7:07 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. Shauna Nelson, Assistant to the Superintendent
Ms. Tammy Adams, Assistant to the Superintendent
Mr. George Safin, Business Manager
Mrs. Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary

3. Public Comment

No comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the December 6 and 13, 2023, meetings to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mrs. Bozic, 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 December 31, 2023, of \$66,747,161.91.

6. Communications

Dr. Lippert read a thank you from Operation Gratitude regarding letters that Middle School students sent to the Troops.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. Lippert acknowledged the Board for Board Appreciation Month.

Dr. Nelson recognized Leah Shuck, High School art teacher.

Karen Ruhl recognized Tracy Pustover, Board Member, for going above and beyond for community members.

Mrs. Mirich recognized Nathan Presutti, a 2022 graduate who is still involved in all music aspects.

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Dr. Lippert reported on the following activities:

- Donaldson
 - Hosting Montour special education department
 - Talent show
 - 5th grade service project – Valentine’s
 - Multi-cultural night
- McKee
 - Wake up and walk – each Wednesday
 - January 23 – hosting ESL family celebration Lunar New Year
- Wilson
 - Arts Alive – February 22
 - WA Café – life skills
- Middle School
 - 7th grade toured Parkway West CTC
 - Clubs begin January 25
 - Afterschool chess club

9. President’s Report

Mr. Ostrander read a letter from Nathan Ellick thanking the Board and Administration for hosting a breakfast for the JROTC students. Mr. Ostrander also shared that Nathan passed his practical pilot exam.

10. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business this month.

11. Solicitor’s Report

Mr. Andrews announced that executive session was held on January 10 and prior to tonight’s meeting regarding personnel, litigation and student matters.

12. Personnel

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

On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Bozic, 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

Affa, Tyler

Bailey, Koby

Hulefeld, Edward

McDufee, Michelle

Miller, Connor

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES - \$15/hr.

Holmes, Jaclyn

Rodney, Dara

12.2 Amending Item 12.3 from December 13, 2023, adjusting Vimala Hari's retirement resignation date from February 1, 2024, to January 9, 2024.

12.3 Approving the retirement resignation of David McBain, athletic director, effective April 1, 2024.

12.4 Approving the retirement resignation of Betty Stawiarski, Class I-C custodian at the high school, effective March 4, 2024.

12.5 Approving hiring Michelle Sauers as a Class IV-B 3.75-hour cafeteria server at McKee Elementary effective January 22, 2024. Salary, \$19.47/hour.

12.6 Approving a family medical leave for Megan Napoleone, first grade teacher at McKee, beginning February 1, 2024, not to exceed 60 days.

12.7 Approving a salary adjustment for Kelsey Kuhns from Bachelor's (\$53,475) to Master's (\$55,475) effective December 8, 2023.

12.8 Approving a salary adjustment for Meagan Bruno from Master's +15 (\$110,875) to Master's +30 (\$111,875) effective December 8, 2023.

12.9 Approving a salary adjustment for Kristen Orndoff from Master's (\$59,975) to National Board Certification/Doctorate (\$64,975) effective December 9, 2023.

12.10 On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mr. Pons, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve hiring Dr. Lynn Utchell, Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services, effective April 1, 2024 at a salary of \$135,000.

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 13.9 on the Property & Supply agenda.

- 13.1 Approve Daikin Applied Americas, Inc. to provide all labor materials and equipment to replace two existing McQuay ALS150C air cooled chillers with two new Daikin AGZ150E air cooled chillers at Donaldson Elementary School per Daikin Applied quote # Q-26765 under PA COSTARS Contract Number 008-E22-848 for a total cost of \$576,200.00.
- 13.2 Approving the revised Facility Rental Agreement as presented effective February 1, 2024, with appropriate annual rate increases as necessary.
- 13.3 Approving change order GC-014 with the Hudson Group for installation of a new concrete door threshold at the overhead door opening in Industrial Arts Room. Total cost of \$1,760.00.
- 13.4 Approving change order GC-015 to the Hudson Group to laminate the new block walls at the elevator shaft in corridor HC-205 to match all other laminated corridor walls in Area C. Total cost of \$943.00.
- 13.5 Approving change order GC-016 with the Hudson Group to remove the remaining block wall found within and below the existing concrete floor slab at storage room A222. Contractor to demolish block and patch concrete slab for a smooth and level floor area. Total cost of \$1,612.00.
- 13.6 Approving change order GC-017 with the Hudson Group to Revise art room casework to accommodate electrical and plumbing rough in and installation of new ground faced CMU walls 40" above finish floor to support the new wall mounted sinks within this space. Total cost of \$3,718.00.
- 13.7 Approving change order HC-001 with Lugaila Mechanical Inc. to remove, relocate and provide new stainless steel duct needed for the continued operation of the commercial dishwasher. The existing duct (scheduled to remain until June 2024) impeded completion of classroom B105. Relocation of the duct was necessary to complete the classroom for the start of the 2023-24 school year. Total cost of \$5,519.06.
- 13.8 Approving change order EC-008 with Allegheny City Electric to re-route existing circuits (necessary for existing power/lighting to 2nd floor) in order to install new partition wall beam in classroom B106. Work was completed on a time and material basis. Total cost of \$1,410.42.
- 13.9 Approving change order EC-009 with Allegheny City Electric to replace the existing site lighting circuit that was damaged during Phase 2 demolition. New circuiting was run through the building addition to re-energize the existing site lighting until the new site lighting is completed summer of 2024. Total cost of \$8,241.81.

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 Accepting December Activity Reports as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.4 Approving the Cafeteria Report as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.5 Approving a real estate tax assessment appeal with Washington Street Coraopolis, LLC, for commercial property in Findlay Township as presented and recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.6 Approving the continuation of the current real estate tax assessment appeal program as presented and 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 Mrs. Bozic, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 15.1 through 15.5 on the Policy & Programs agenda.

- 15.1 Approving the West Allegheny High School Program of Studies for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 15.2 Approving Policies 108-114 of Section 100 of the updated policy manual. This represents the second of two required readings.

Section 100 – Programs

- Policy 108 - Adoption of Textbooks
- Policy 112 - Guidance Counseling
- Policy 113 - Special Education
 - Policy 113.1 - Discipline of Students with Disabilities
 - Policy 113.2 - Behavior Support
 - Policy 113.3 - Screening and Evaluations for Students with Disabilities
 - Policy 113.4 - Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information
- Policy 114 - Gifted Education

- 15.3 Approving Policies 115-123.2 of Section 100 of the updated policy manual. This represents the first of two required readings.

Policy 115 – Career and Technical Education
Policy 116 – Tutoring
Policy 117 – Homebound Instruction
Policy 121 – Field Trips
Policy 123.1 – Concussion Management
Policy 123.2 – Sudden Cardiac Arrest

- 15.4 Approving a partnership with Vector Solutions to provide trainings to district employees aligned to requirements set forth in Act 55. The trainings will be offered at no cost to the district as they are covered through our insurance policy with Utica Insurance. Attached you will find a list of the trainings that the district may use.

- 15.5 Approving the student adjudication for Student N 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. Psomas, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 16.1 and 16.2 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Approving a request for the indoor track team to attend the TSTCA Invitational in Youngstown, Ohio on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at a cost to the district of \$519.14 for bus transportation.
- 16.2 Approving a request for the wrestling team to attend the Mid-Winter Mayhem in Indiana, PA retroactive to January 12-13, 2024, at a cost to the district of \$550 for tournament entry fee and substitute teacher.

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

Mrs. Adams gave an update on the second year of Developing Future Educators Grant.

Mrs. Adams spoke about the Lunar New Year celebration happening at McKee. Translation services will also be offered at this time to help read report cards and progress reports.

18. Student Representatives

Jacob Monti and Esther Newton reported on the following activities:

Culture

- Winter Formal with Montour HS – Jan 27
- JROTC Breakfast to celebrate community service
- Senior Bowling Trip coming up 1/30
- Mr. West A planning and prep time - the date is TBD
- Mr. Castelluci's class sponsored a Hot Chocolate Bar to raise funds for the bocce team

Academics

- 10th ELA - Field trip to the August Wilson Center & PSU Beaver (½ class will go to each place then they will switch the following day – 1/24-25)
- End of 2nd quarter was 1/12 – half way through senior year!!!
- Scheduling starting up – Students participate in Choosing Wisely on Friday (1/19) – Enter their course requests on 1/30
- NHS Induction will be held on Monday, 1/22

Arts/Activities

- Internships:
 - Education Internship - just finished first session of LEAP
 - CAD Internship posted 1/11 with Michael Baker International
- Art Show - Seniors starting to plan their installations
- Ski Trip occurred 1/12-15 (Jake to talk about), 7 Springs on 1/26

Athletics

- Friday night, Senior Night for Boys Basketball and Cheer
- Friday, 1/26 we are hosting a Coaches vs Cancer Game with Girls Varsity Basketball vs Lincoln Park, Boys Basketball vs. Char Valley. Both are section games.
- Girls Basketball Senior Night is February 5 against Moon. They had a great experience at PPG Paints Arena against Lincoln Park. Lincoln Park is currently undefeated and we were actually leading for the first half. First ever girls game to be played in that arena.
- Gymnastics Senior Night is Monday 1/29 at Manaca Turners
- Swimming/Diving Team will have their Senior Night on Wednesday 1/31 against Beaver Falls
- Wrestling will have Youth Night Tonight vs. Trinity
- Bocce has their Senior Recognition on February 7 at 2:30 vs. Moon. Their first home meet will be on January 30 vs Kappa.
- WPIAL Fall Sport Committee will meet at the end of January/February so we should see sectional alignments coming out soon for the Fall 2024 Season
- Signing Day will be held on February 7th.

19. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Winter Reading Challenge
- Tax Assistant Program – under \$75,000 income and by appointment only
- 2/5 – wine and dessert pairing – 6 PM
- Grant opportunity – need votes

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

20. Parkway West CTC

Mrs. Mirich reported on the following activities:

- Enrollment numbers are at an all-time high
- Open House – March 5th
- Fish Fry begins in February

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 they will be doing a Teacher's Cup on March 1.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

No update.

25. New Business

No new business.

26. Open Forum

Ryan Waggoner voiced his concerns with the youth basketball program and availability of gym space. They are requesting more gym availability.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Robert Ostrander, Board President

Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary