

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

September 18, 2024

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, September 18, 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 7:05 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Directors

Present -	Robert Ostrander – President	
	George Bartha	Vicki Bozic
	Steve Psomas	Seth Tomei
Absent -	Todd Kosenina	Debbie Mirich
	Steven Pons	Tracy Pustover
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 September 11, and prior to tonight's meeting in regards to safety, student matters and possible litigation.

Mr. Ostrander welcomed Lindsay Worthington and Ava Elliott. They introduced themselves.

3. Public Comment

No comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the August 21, 2024, meetings to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Bozic, 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 August 31, 2024, of \$59,949,800.03.

6. Communications

No communications this month.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

The recipients of the Distinguished Achievement Award all were instrumental in helping to get the Middle School open. Mark Romain, Chris Shattuck, Trish Nolan, Julian Underwood, Renee Taddeo, Nathan Watt, and DJ Hohman were all recognized.

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Dr. Lippert reported that it was an excellent start to the school year. She announced the upcoming open houses that will take place at each of the schools.

9. President's Report

Mr. Ostrander expressed a special thank you to the Middle School staff.

10. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business this month.

11. Solicitor's Report

No report.

12. Personnel

On a motion by Mr. Tomei, seconded by Mrs. Bozic, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 12.1 through 12.8 on the Personnel agenda.

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

RETIRED WEST ALLEGHENY TEACHERS - \$150/DAY
Buser, Kim

PROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTES - \$135/day
Edson, Chloe Hari, Mala
Hoover, Holly Livingston, Adam
Richardson, Jaime Weidinger, Grace

PROFESSIONAL NURSE SUBSTITUTE - \$150/day

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES - \$15/hr.
Bollman, Mark Buffington, Mary
Clunic, Danielle Dollahon, Emma
Gatto, Sue-Ellen Rodriguez Salas, Irazema
Tylenda, Jennifer

- 12.2 Approving a family medical leave of absence for Kristina Trozzi, Donaldson special education teacher, beginning October 16, 2024, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.3 Approving extending the unpaid medical leave of absence for Harold Nation from August 17, 2024, for an additional 30 days.
- 12.4 Approving a salary adjustment for Catherine Liebrock, Donaldson grade 3 teacher, from Bachelor's Step 9 (\$64,375) to Master's Step 9 (\$66,375) effective with the start of the 2024-25 school year.
- 12.5 Approving a salary adjustment for Trevor Kerr from Bachelor's (\$56,775) to Master's (\$58,775), effective August 10, 2024.
- 12.6 Approving the following student interns at a cost of \$11/hour effective through the end of the 2024-25 school year:
Elementary Education Interns - Samantha Brandyberry, Linda Carroll, Bella De La Torre, Brayden Frost, Noelle Jumba, Alexis Keenan, Molly Lada, Ashlee Lebak, Georgia Lutz, Leoghain Marseilles, Addison Roberts, Addison Zorey
- 12.7 Approving hiring Emma Dollahon as a Class V bus aide effective September 19, 2024. Salary, \$20.15/hour.
- 12.8 Approving the resignation of Renee Gillpatrick, Class III Paraprofessional, at Donaldson Elementary effective September 27, 2024.

13. Property & Supply

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

- 13.1 Approving the Preventative Maintenance Agreement with Novum Designs for three years at a cost not to exceed \$21,600.
- 13.2 Approving change order GC-042 with the Hudson Group to provide new 1 1/2" horizontal full length bridging at the new 100' lineal skylight in Construction Phase 5. Total add \$5,697.00.
- 13.3 Approving change order GC-043 with the Hudson Group to modify the new foundations at the existing caisson in order to step the footer for the new retaining wall at the baseball field. Total add \$2,082.00.
- 13.4 Approving change order GC-044 with the Hudson Group to laminate drywall at the existing north wall and fur out the east and south wall at classroom C-104, build a new 6" metal stud wall between HB-202 and A200 for structural improvement, and laminate drywall at the east wall of room A200. Total add \$10,728.00.
- 13.5 Approving change order GC-045 with the Hudson Group to laminate drywall at corridor HB-102 and HB-103 and install porcelain tile wainscot at corridors HB-102 and HB-103 to match the adjacent corridors. Total add \$22,464.91.

- 13.6 Approving change order HC-007 with Lugaila Mechanical to replace the return air duct and fire damper in locker room. The existing damper scheduled to remain was inoperable. Total add \$3,777.10.
- 13.7 Approving change order EC-015 with Allegheny City Electric for costs associated with prevailing wage labor rates for the building security vendor as required for the project. Prevailing wage rates were not included in their original proposal. Total add \$46,721.30.

14. Finance

On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mr. Psomas, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 14.1 through 14.5 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 Approving a real estate tax assessment appeal with TCI of Pennsylvania, Inc., for commercial property in North Fayette Township as recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.5 The board approves entering into an agreement with US OMNI and TSACG Compliance Services, Inc. for third party administrator services for the District 403(b), and any other related district sponsored retirement plans, effective January 1, 2025. Cost of these services is \$2 per participant account per month, to be paid by the plan participant.

15. Policy & Programs

On a motion by Mrs. Bozic, seconded by Mr. Bartha, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 15.1 and 15.2 on the Policy & Programs agenda.

- 15.1 Approving Policies 301, 302, 305, 307, 308 & 309 of Section 300 of the updated policy manual. This represents the second of two required readings.
 - 301 Creating a New Position
 - 302 Employment of Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent
 - 305 Employment of Substitutes
 - 307 Student Teachers/Interns
 - 308 Employment Contract/Board Resolution
 - 309 Assignment and Transfer
- 15.2 Approving Policies 122 and 123 of Section 100 of the updated policy manual. This represents the first of two required readings.
 - Policy 122 Extracurricular Activities
 - Policy 123 Interscholastic Activities

16. Athletics & Activities

On a motion by Mr. Psomas, seconded by Mrs. Bozik, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 16.1 through 16.5 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Approving Austin Schoppe as the athletic web designer, web site manager, and media specialist for the 2024-25 school year at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.
- 16.2 Approving an overnight trip request for 8th grade students to attend an educational trip to Washington, DC from May 21-23, 2025, at a cost to the District not to exceed \$2,150.00 for substitute coverage.
- 16.3 Approving a request from Melissa Taranto for the Varsity Cross Country Team to attend the PIAA Foundation Invitational in Hershey, PA from September 20-21, 2024. Cost to the District is \$300.00 for the registration fee.
- 16.4 Approving a request from TJ Fox for the marching band to attend an overnight trip to Norfolk, VA to perform in the Parade of Nations from April 24-27, 2025. Cost to the District is \$150 for nurses and substitutes.
- 16.5 Approving a request from the Ski Club to attend an overnight trip to Salt Lake City, Utah, from February 13-17, 2025. Cost to the District not to exceed \$450 for substitute teachers.

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

Dr. Utchell gave an update on grant money being used to form a unified robotics team.

18. Student Representatives

Jack Campbell was welcomed. He introduced himself.

Lindsay Worthington, Ava Elliott and Jack Campbell reported on the following student activities:

Academics

- Update on the beginning of the year
- Open House - September 17 - We had a fantastic turnout with approximately 100 people in attendance. Families were able to follow their child's schedule to learn more about their child's classes and teachers. They also were able to learn about the clubs offered at WAHS. Homecoming tickets were also available for purchase.
- College & Career Assessment Day and Advisory Period - October 9
 - 9th/10th – PSAT
 - 11th & 12th will have options including the PSAT/NSMQT (national merit qualifying test - for scholarship opportunities), ASVAB or career activities.
 - In the afternoon, students will participate in the third Advisory Period where they will engage in a reflection activity on the morning and learn about opportunities available at WAHS.

- **ACCELERATE**
 - The Interactive Presentations aligned to our six Career and College Pathways are about to begin. The first one is scheduled for next week –
 - Sept. 26-Healthcare Career Expo Event led by industry professionals from St. Clair Health system.
 - Immersive Experiences
 - RMU Academic Immersive Day - October 7 – Students taking an RMU aligned course can sign up for an immersive experience at RMU on this day to learn about one of the available career areas.
 - Internships - This month students had the opportunity to apply and interview for three different paid internships.
 1. Elementary Education Internship
 2. Sports Medicine Internship
 3. Sports Broadcasting Internship
 - Mentorship
 1. CNX Mentorship Academy – seniors interested in entering the workforce immediately after graduation are being provided an opportunity to participate in CNX’s mentorship academy this year. Students will learn from industry professionals, be provided an opportunity to tour different industry places like the Airport, Mascaro Construction, or UPMC Hospitals to see careers in action. They will also be provided a mentor and coaching along with networking opportunities.

JROTC

- Pittsburgh Pirates game – color guard
- Helped at open house
- Pittsburgh Popcorn fundraiser
- RMU partnership – color guard at their games

Athletics

- Gold Star football game – September 20
- Updates on the following sports: cross country, girls’ basketball, varsity football, cheer, JV and Middle School football, golf, tennis, boys and girls’ soccer, and volleyball
- Student athlete of the week – Brayden Pressley

Culture

- Advisory Period description/feedback
 - September 4 - student perspective
 - Next Advisory is scheduled for September 25
- Senior Ambassadors - September 20
- Pep Rally - September 20 (will announce homecoming court)
- Spirit Week - September 23-27
 - Beach Hair Don’t Care
 - Tacky Tourist
 - Wear Pink & Dress Like a Flamingo
 - Shark Bait
 - Best Hawaiian Print Shirt or Skirt
- Equity Scholar Panel - September 27
- Homecoming - September 28

Activities/Clubs

- NHS Sponsored Powder Puff Game - November 14

Arts

- For the sixth consecutive year the Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA) has recognized West Allegheny for its commitment to visual arts education with the endorsement of Outstanding Visual Arts Community 2024.
- Marching Band Cavalcade - October 5
- Fall Musical - Little Shop of Horrors - November 7, 9, 10
- County Choir student participants announced. (19 kids)
- Chorus Trip to NY Nov. 23rd & 24th (51 people)
- Show Choir first Outing in Findlay Township on Veterans Day November 8
- Show Choir Service Project (Ella's Entourage)

19. Library

No report

20. Parkway West CTC

No report

21. SHASDA

No report.

22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

Mr. Psomas reported that they are looking for people to purchase tickets for the banquet.

23. West Allegheny Foundation

No report.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

Dr. Shattuck reported that the first meeting will be October 1 or 2.

25. New Business

No new business.

26. Open Forum

No comments.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mrs. Bozic, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Robert Ostrander, Board President

Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary