

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

December 13, 2023

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, in the District Office Board Room located at Wilson Elementary School. The President, Mr. Robert Ostrander, presided. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 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	Seth Tomei

Absent - Steve Psomas

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

Mr. Ostrander announced that the Board met in executive session on December 6 and prior to tonight’s meeting regarding personnel, legal and student matters.

3. Public Comment

No comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the November 15, 2023, meeting to the Board. On a motion by Mr. Bartha, 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 November 30, 2023, of \$70,748,638.94.

6. Communications

Nothing to report.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. Shattuck recognized the following individuals who helped with a medical emergency during a football game on November 10:

Dave McBain, Bryan and Shannen Cornell, Amy and Gary Krek, and Lieutenant Mike Hamm

Dr. Lippert recognized Chris Shattuck for the same incident.

Ms. Adams recognized Heidi Kennedy, a Special Education teacher at McKee.

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Dr. Lippert reminded everyone that there is a ½ day on December 22, followed by the winter break, and everyone returns Tuesday, January 2.

9. President's Report

Mr. Ostrander wished the entire staff a happy holiday.

10. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business this month.

11. Solicitor's Report

Mr. Andrews wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

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 12.6 on the Personnel agenda.

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

PROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTES - \$135/day

Sharon Abner

Kayleigh Koss

Megan Stutzman

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES - \$15/hr.

Makynlee Martin

Dara Rodney

Austin Wischmann

- 12.2 Accepting the resignation of Amanda Rutkauskas, Class III paraprofessional/long-term teacher substitute at McKee, effective December 2, 2023.
- 12.3 Accepting the retirement resignation of Vimala Hari, Class III paraprofessional at Donaldson, effective February 1, 2024.
- 12.4 Approving a family medical leave of absence for Colleen Hollihan, world language teacher at the High School, beginning January 26, 2024, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.5 Approving hiring Linda Gagu as a Class II-B clerk at McKee Elementary effective January 30, 2024. Salary \$23.30/hour.
- 12.6 Approving the following student interns at \$11/hour.

Hannah Kiss
Emma Truini
Esther Newton
Isabella Gutierrez
Nevina Waldorf
Macie Wingert
Samantha Brandyberry
Abigail Redlinger
Leoghain Marseilles
Brayden Frost

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 13.3 on the Property & Supply agenda.

- 13.1 Approving Change Order GC-012 with Hudson Group for work associated with window and casework revisions at the exterior wall in room C102 due to an unforeseen column interference. Total cost of \$1,208.00.
- 13.2 Approving Change Order GC-013 to Hudson Group to install LVT in lieu of carpeting in SC-21 (Workroom/Storage) and to install additional LVT flooring in SC-20 Closet. All carpeting not installed in SC-21 will be turned over to the owner as additional attic stock. Total cost of \$1,469.00.
- 13.3 Approving Change Order EC-007 to Allegheny City Electric to furnish and install a 3 pole 300 amp electrically held 600-volt contactor and circuit wiring to Panel IA for control of the emergency stop buttons in the Industrial Arts Room. Total Cost of \$7,109.89.

14. Finance

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

On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mrs. Bozic, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 14.1 through 14.7 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 November Activity Reports as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.4 Approving Cafeteria Reports as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.5 Approving Resolution 2023-4 that guarantees the Board will not exceed its PDE established Act 1 index of 5.3% when adopting its millage rate for the 2024-2025 General Fund Budget.
- 14.6 Authorizing the AIU to purchase lit fiber wide area network and Internet access services from Crown Castle Fiber and agrees to pay for services in accordance with the terms of the Service Order at an estimated annual cost of \$9,336.
- 14.7 Approving the beverage contract with ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverage, LLC effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028 as presented.

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 15.4 on the Policy & Programs agenda.

- 15.1 Approving Policies 100-106 of Section 100 of the updated policy manual. This represents the second of two required readings.

Section 100 – Programs

Policy 100, Comprehensive Planning

Policy 102, Academic Standards

Policy 103, Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students

Policy 103.1, Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities

Policy 104, Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff

Policy 105, Curriculum

Policy 105.1, Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians/Students

Policy 105.2, Exemption From Instruction

Policy 106, Guides for Planned Instruction

- 15.2 Approving Policies 108-114 of Section 100 of the updated policy manual. This represents the first 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 the revised 2023-24 school calendar as presented.

- 15.4 Approving the 2024-25 school calendar 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 Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve item 16.1 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Approving an overnight trip request for the Varsity Wrestling Team to attend the King of the Mountain Tournament in Mill Hall, PA from December 14-16, 2023. Cost to the District is \$650 for tournament entry fee and substitute teacher.

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

No report.

18. Student Representatives

Jacob Monti and Esther Newton reported on the following activities:

Culture

- Gold Card Breakfast - Dec. 1
- Senior events - before Thanksgiving
- Before Winter Break - Movie next Friday - Elf
- ESP (guest speaker - Israel - last month; planning trip to PTC for spring - classroom & pathfinders college tour)
- Cultural Fair Immersive Experience Day (working name)
- West A Pride Celebrations: Nov-11/30; Dec-12/22
- Eradicate Hate in January

Academics

- Keystone make ups - Algebra yesterday and today
- Education Internship Finalists Announced
- When we return from break we have 9 days left in the semester
- NHS Induction in January (applications were due in December)

Arts/Activities

- SIA - Target shopping for Angel Tree
- ST - Mental Health Candy Canes
- NHS - Wilson Event- read to the elementary kids
- Concert Season! - 12/19 Band Concert & 12/21 Chorus Concert
- Collaborating with Montour to host a winter formal

Athletics

- Winter sports started!
- First basketball game was 12/5
- Softball Breakfast with Santa
- christmas swimming and diving invitational 12/27-28
- girls basketball game at ppg paints arena 27th
- during the 28th & 29th varsity wrestling returned to second most powerade class is second rank tournament in nation
- Bocce

Nathaniel Ellick spoke about the JROTC events.

- JROTC
 - Gold Card breakfast
 - December 2 and 9 – Heroes Helping Heroes – gift wrapping at the Mall at Robinson
 - wreaths across America
 - Christmas party

19. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Winter Reading Challenge began
- 2/5 – wine and dessert pairing – 6 PM
- Storywalk at Donaldson Park
- Check out activity/museum passes

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

20. Parkway West CTC

Mrs. Mirich reported that lunch and dinner dates vary. Also, their staff wished everyone a happy holiday.

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

Dr. Shattuck thanked the community on behalf of the Family Support Committee for their generous donations.

25. New Business

No new business.

26. Open Forum

No public comments.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mr. Pons, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Robert Ostrander, Board President

Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary