

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

March 21, 2018

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, in the District Office Board Room located at Wilson Elementary School. The President, Mrs. Debbie Mirich, presided. The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Directors

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Present - | Debbie Mirich – President | Mark Rosen – Vice President |
| | Edward Faux | Tracy Kosis |
| | Robert Ostrander | Tracy Pustover |
| | Mike Quinn | |

| | | |
|----------|---------------|--------------|
| Absent - | George Bartha | Ronald Pasic |
|----------|---------------|--------------|

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Also Present - | Mr. William Andrews, Solicitor |
| | Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent |
| | Dr. Christopher Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent |
| | Dr. Chris Assetta, Assistant to the Superintendent |
| | Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary |
| | Also other staff members and parents |

Mrs. Mirich announced that the Board met in executive session on March 14th as well as prior to tonight's meeting in regards to legal and personnel.

3. Public Comment

No comment.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the February 21, 2018, meeting to the Board. On a motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mr. Faux, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve the minutes as distributed.

5. Treasurer's Report

No report this month. There will be two in April.

6. Communications

No communications to report this month.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

The recipients of the Distinguished Achievement Awards are:

1. Linda Hogg, Donaldson Elementary cook
2. Dr. Frank Hernandez, Megan Huchko, Valerie Meehan, Jess Henry, Sharon Lepre and Renee Treonze – Middle School staff
3. Bob Mayo, Middle School teacher

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Dr. Lippert presented the D. Richard Wynn Distinguished School Board award to the Board.

Dr. Lippert reported on the following items:

- School safety information night
- No make-up days necessary so far for snow days this school year

9. President's Report

Mrs. Mirich reported on the following items:

- Teacher's Cup on March 2nd
 - McKee won and Donaldson won Spirit Award
- Spring Musical – The Drowsy Chaperone – April 6, 7, 8, 13 and 14
 - Band sponsoring dinner before the April 7th performance
- STEM K'Nex competition – Donaldson had 3 teams participate
 - Team consisting of Andrea Halun-Ramirez, Ava Kosta, Kyla Fayad, and Roman Police scored an Honorable Mention
 - Leah Vestal was the coach
- Mike Shaffer was nominated for the Pittsburgh Champion Educator Award by his students. He was one of the 10 finalists.
- Read Across America Week – daily activities and at the Robinson Mall on Saturday March 3rd
- WAMS Spelling Bee champion Francis Wichryk will be representing West Allegheny at the Western Pennsylvania Spelling Bee.

10. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business this month.

11. Solicitor's Report

No report this month.

12. Personnel

Mrs. Mirich announced that the Board would abbreviate a portion of the agenda.

The Personnel portion of the Committee report was presented by Mrs. Kosis:

March 21, 2018

- 12.1 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Quinn, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve the list of professional and support substitutes as presented.
- 12.2 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Faux, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve a salary adjustment for the following teacher:
Erin Rakoci, Health & Physical Education teacher at the Middle School, from Master's (\$57,175) to Master's +15 (\$57,675) effective October 30, 2017.
- 12.3 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Quinn, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve a family medical leave of absence for Kenneth Scott, custodian at Donaldson Elementary, beginning February 28, 2018, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.4 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Quinn, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve a parental leave of absence for Karen Machusko, speech and language teacher at McKee Elementary beginning April 5, 2018 through May 11, 2018.
- 12.5 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Quinn, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve the retirement resignation of Kathryn Battelle, Class IV-A account handler at Donaldson Elementary, beginning April 1, 2018.
- 12.6 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Quinn, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve hiring Taylor Cavalovitch as a grade 4 mathematics teacher at Donaldson Elementary, effective the start of the 2018-2019 school year. Salary - 2nd step of the bachelor's salary scale - \$49,275.
- 12.7 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Quinn, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve hiring Angela Devereaux as a health and physical education teacher at the high school, effective the start of the 2018-2019 school year. Salary - 4th step of the bachelor's salary scale - \$50,275.
- 12.8 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Quinn, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve hiring Rachel Ochsenhirt as a high school chemistry/biology teacher effective with the start of the 2018-19 school year. Salary - 5th step of the bachelor's scale - \$50,775.
- 12.9 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Quinn, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve hiring Samantha Potocek as a high school mathematics teacher effective with the start of the 2018-19 school year. Salary - 1st step of the bachelor's scale - \$48,775.
- 12.10 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Quinn, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve hiring Ashley Tomaceski as a 1/2 time music teacher at Donaldson Elementary effective with the start of the 2018-19 school year. Salary - 1st step of the bachelor's salary scale, prorated - \$24,387.50.
- 12.11 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Quinn, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve Hiring Michelle Psaros as the school nurse at Wilson Elementary effective with the start of the 2018-19 school year. Salary - 1st step of the bachelor's scale - \$48,775.

March 21, 2018

- 12.12 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve the hiring of Shana Nelson as Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning effective July 1, 2018, at a salary of \$122,500.
- 12.13 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Faux, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve the hiring of Tammy Adams as the Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services effective July 1, 2018, at a salary of \$127,000.
- 12.14 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Quinn, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve a family medical leave of absence for Barbara Martincic, secretary at the Middle School, beginning April 2, 2018, not to exceed 60 days.

13. Property & Supply – Transportation

The Property & Supply - Transportation portion of the Committee report was presented by Mr. Faux:

On a motion by Mr. Faux, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 13.1 through 13.4 on the Property & Supply - Transportation agenda.

- 13.1 Approving Change Order GC-010 with Yarborough Development Inc. to fur out walls at elevator lobby 214 and to laminate gypsum wallboard over existing block walls near concession stand 211, at door frames in corridors 202 and 208 and along north wall in corridor 202 (between electrical room and new elevator) in the total amount of \$2,210.00.
- 13.2 Approving an amendment to our current Cenergistic Contract (original item 13.1 - 6/18/14) from March 2018 through contract expiration in October 2019 reducing our monthly payment from \$11,700 to \$8,200 as presented.
- 13.3 Approving Joseph Byers as a bus driver for the district. All requirements have been met.
- 13.4 Approving change order GC-01 to Alex E. Paris Inc. to furnish and install a quantity of four 3” PE pipe 90 degree fittings to facilitate the slip line piping installation at \$375.00 each per unit price #5 for a total cost of \$1,500.00.

14. Finance

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

On a motion by Mr. Rosen, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 14.1 through 14.11 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 February 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 Cafeteria Reports as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.5 Approving opening 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 audit report as of June 30, 2017 as presented by the district's independent auditor, Mark Turnley, CPA.
- 14.7 Approving a contract with The Wilson Group to provide Document Workflow Solution services to the district for a period of 97 months (June 1, 2018 through June 30, 2026) at a monthly rate of \$12,398 as presented.
- 14.8 Approving the awarding of the bid for Under Armour football uniforms to Natale Sporting Goods of McKeesport, PA at a price per set of \$167.50 in accordance with their bid submittal. The total uniform purchase will not exceed \$30,150.00. The order for these uniforms will be placed in March 2018, and the cost of these uniforms will be paid out of the 2018-19 budget.
- 14.9 Approving a tax assessment appeal with Deurr Packaging Company Inc. for commercial property in North Fayette Township as presented and recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.10 Approving a tax assessment appeal with McLaren, LP for commercial property in Findlay Township as presented and recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.11 Approving a tax assessment appeal with Curahealth Property LLC for commercial property in North Fayette Township 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. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 15.1 and 15.2 on the Policy & Programs agenda.

- 15.1 Approving the Educational Services Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2018-19 school year as presented.
- 15.2 Approving the Arts Education Collaborative consultants to assist the fine arts department in Phase I of curriculum modification work on April 2, 2018, for a fee of \$685.25.

16. Athletics & Activities

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

On a motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve item 16.1 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Approving a request from Chris Lucas for the Technology Student Club to attend the state conference competition at Seven Springs from April 18-21, 2018 at a cost to the district of \$1,088.99.

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

Dr. Assetta reported on the Title I Parent Involvement Session, Bingo for Books.

18. Library

Mrs. Pustover announced the following items concerning the Library:

- Photo session with live animals fundraiser – March 24th – 10-1
- Dine and Donate – Blaze Pizza – March 22nd – 4:30-8 pm
- Book Bus – North Fayette Community Center – 6-7:30 pm every Thursday evening until May 31st
- Book Bus summer schedule on website
 - 6/14 – Maronda Farms – Findlay
 - 6/21 – Walden Woods – North Fayette
 - 6/28 – ROCK – Oakdale
- Tech Talk – Little Prim for Little Learners

Use your library and as always, please visit the Library and their website for more information www.westernallegHENYlibrary.org.

19. Parkway West CTC

Mr. Ostrander reported on the following items concerning Parkway West CTC:

- Annual Spring Open House – March 6th – well attended
- Last Fish Fry Friday – March 23rd
- Senior Recognition at West Allegheny – June 4th at 7 pm
- 9th Annual Summer Camp – June 27th and 28th – 8 am – 3 pm
- Air Force Cyber Camp – Cyber Security – July 23-27 – free to attend

20. SHASDA

Dr. Shattuck reported that Chris Lucas took a group of students to the student forum meeting on March 1st.

21. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

Mr. Rosen reported on the following items:

- Inductees announced
 - Paul Debor
 - Dorin Dickerson
 - Dr. David Quinn
 - Jim Yanek
 - 1996 & 1997 WPIAL Championship girls' track team
- Induction banquet – 5/19, 6 pm dinner at the SNPJ
- Students designing plaques

22. West Allegheny Foundation

Mr. Quinn reported on the following items:

- Teacher's Cup – March 2nd
 - Congratulations to McKee and Donaldson
 - Over \$5000 raised
- Money donated goes to innovative teacher grants and student scholarships
- Steak Fry – May 5th 6-10 pm, at the Oakdale Community Center - \$20/ticket

23. Student Representatives

Mackenzie Danzik and Conner Bartley reported on the following activities:

- Friends of Rachel club led a Random Acts of Kindness activity on February 23rd. The students wrote letters to the students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The letters encouraged students to stay strong following the tragic events at their school.
- Speech and Debate Team competed at the State Championship competition at Bloomsburg University. Abhilasha Raghuwanshi and Rachel Schade placed 36th in New Broadcasting, and Riley Tucker placed 31st in Improptu. Sydney Campbell finished 8th in the state in Dramatic Interpretation, while Casey Bachowski finished 4th in the state competing in Humorous Interpretation. Finally, Lucia Bruschi competed in Informative Speaking where she became the 2018 State Champion. Lucia is the first known state champion in West Allegheny Speech and Debate history.
- Jordan Frasier represented West Allegheny at the PA Classic Gymnastic Championship and earned 1st place in the All-Around and the State Champion Title. She earned the state title by her 1st place finish in the floor event, 2nd place in bars, 4th in beam, and 7th in vault.
- Mr. Prevade's Holocaust and Genocide Studies class heard from guest speaker and author Anna Bikont. She is a Polish journalist who wrote "The Crime and the Silence", which shares accounts of Jewish people and the impact on the small town of Jedwabne.
- Indian Pride winners for perseverance were Shay Horton, Gino Giancola, Julia Karvelis, Brianna Ortiz, and Madison Twardy.
- Students at the high school met with Sgt. Hayes and Mr. McKiernan to review emergency procedures and share measures within the school.
- The 2017-2018 Scholastic Art Awards were released at the beginning of the year. A Gold Key went to Tatum Amos. Students receiving honorable mentions were Carolyn Macek, Sophia Antos, Akira Littles, Melina Lynn, Miala Palaima, Keri Quasey, Elizabeth Vollmer, Lexi Fleet, and Sami Swoager. The students' work was submitted in the Northeastern Region of the state.
- Freshmen, Rain Greene, performed the National Anthem before the Pittsburgh Penguins game on March 5th in front of 18,600 fans.
- Stand Together held their first two of three giveaways aimed at speaking to their peers about reducing stigma around mental health. Students interacted with others during lunch periods and discussed ways to help others.
- Art students created bowls to donate to the Empty Bowls event that took place on March 18th at the Rodef Shalom in Pittsburgh. The event includes a light lunch of soup and bread that was donated from local restaurants and the choice

March 21, 2018

of a handmade bowl to take home. All proceeds went to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

- West Allegheny Marching Pride traveled to Orlando, Florida last week to perform during parades at Disney World.

24. Safe and Supportive Schools Committee

Dr. Shattuck and Mrs. Pustover reported on the following items:

- Focus group meeting held on March 7th
- Rachel's Challenge and Stand Together
- Partnered with Rachel's Challenge to bring Darrell Scott to West Allegheny to present to Administrators from around the area – March 22nd at 10 am, 2 pm and 5 pm

24. New Business

No new business.

25. Open Forum

No comments.

26. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Debra A. Mirich, President

Alyssa Athanas, Secretary