

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

October 17, 2018

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, October 17, 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 7:07 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Directors

Present -	Debbie Mirich – President	George Bartha
	Edward Faux	Tracy Kosis
	Chip McCarthy	Robert Ostrander
	Ronald Pasic	Tracy Pustover

Absent - Mark Rosen

Also Present - Mr. Anthony Giglio, Solicitor
Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent
Dr. Christopher Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Shana Nelson, Assistant to the Superintendent
Tammy Adams, Assistant to the Superintendent
George Safin, Business Manager
Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary
Also other staff members and parents

Mrs. Mirich announced that the Board met in executive session on October 10 in regards to personnel and legal matters and prior to tonight’s meeting in regards to personnel and real estate tax litigation.

3. Public Comment

No comment.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the September 12, 2018 and September 19, 2018 meetings to the Board. On a motion by Mr. Pasic, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve the minutes as distributed.

5. Treasurer’s Report

5.1 The treasurer’s report was read by Mr. George Safin, Business Manager, and accepted by the board indicating a balance on September 30, 2018 of \$46,502,215.97.

6. Communications

No communications this month.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

The recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award is Kim Buser, elementary and middle school mathematics coach.

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Dr. Lippert provided an update on the elementary school redistricting plan.

9. President's Report

Mrs. Mirich reported on the following items:

- Middle School Fall Festival
- 8th graders held video conference with Neil Schusterman

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.

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

On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Bartha, 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.

12.2 Approving a salary adjustment for the following teachers:

Lauren Barry, High School special education teacher, from Master's +60 (\$57,275) to Doctorate (\$58,275) effective August 15, 2018.

Lisa Panucci, Donaldson special education teacher, from Master's +15 (\$56,275) to Master's +30 (\$57,275) effective August 15, 2018.

Douglas White, High School biology teacher, from Master's +15 (\$78,275) to Master's + 30 (\$79,275) effective August 15, 2018

12.3 Approving an unpaid medical leave of absence for Linda Spotskey, Donaldson lunch aide, effective October 8, 2018 through December 10, 2018.

12.4 Approving an intermittent family leave of absence for Beth Patton, Wilson custodian, effective October 3, 2018, not to exceed 60 days.

- 12.5 Approving Sue Ann Dale as a Class III Instructional Paraprofessional at Wilson Elementary effective October 18, 2018. Salary - \$18.55/hour
- 12.6 Approving Caitlin Thomson as a Class I-C Custodian at McKee Elementary effective October 18, 2018. Salary - \$22.13/hour
- 12.7 Approving Angelo Wilson for a Class I-C vacant custodian position - final assignment to be determined effective October 18, 2018. Salary - \$22.13/hour
- 12.8 Approving Michael Kercher as a class I-C custodian at the high school effective November 1, 2018. Salary - \$22.13/hour
- 12.9 On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Bartha, and on a roll call vote, it was moved to approve the resignation of Deborah Faux, Class III instructional paraprofessional at McKee Elementary, effective October 18, 2018.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Abstention: 1 Absent: 1
Abstention: Faux

13. Property & Supply – Transportation

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

On a motion by Mr. Faux, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve item 13.1 on the Property & Supply - Transportation agenda.

- 13.1 Approving Mishele Nickles and Donna Bruzdewicz as bus drivers for the district. All requirements have been met.

14. Finance

Mr. Pasic presented the Finance portion of the Committee report:

On a motion by Mr. Pasic, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 14.1 through 14.4 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 September Activity Reports as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.4 Approving a tax settlement appeal with EBW Realty Associates, LLP for commercial property in Findlay Township as recommended by the solicitor.

15. Policy & Programs

Mrs. Pustover presented the Policy & Programs portion of the Committee report.

On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mr. Pasic, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve item 15.1 on the Policy & Programs agenda.

- 15.1 Approving the agreement between the District and North Fayette Township for the school resource officer program as presented.

16. Athletics & Activities

Mr. Ostrander presented the Athletics & Activities portion of the Committee report.

On a motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve item 16.1 through 16.3 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Approving the 2018-19 winter coaches as presented. All clearance requirements have been met.
- 16.2 Approving an overnight trip request for 8th grade students to attend an educational trip to Washington, DC from May 21-23, 2019 at no cost to the District.
- 16.3 Approving an overnight trip request for 6th grade students to attend the Earthkeepers Program at Enon Valley, PA from May 7-9 and May 8-10, 2019, at a cost to the district of \$3,040.00.

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

Mrs. Adams reported on Act 71 and Act 126.

18. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following items concerning the Library:

- Fall for Your Library event raised over \$43,000
- Construction on the roof
- 2 new upcoming programs
 - Marketing presidency - October 27, 10-11:30 AM
 - Honey spinning – October 27, 10-11:30 AM
 - Family Christmas Photos – November 10, 9:30 AM-1 PM

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:

- Parent teacher conferences
- Restaurant open – Wednesdays and Thursdays 11:30-1:30
- Diesel Technology Program

20. SHASDA

Dr. Shattuck reported on the first meeting held Thursday, September 27. They discussed Act 44 and legal updates.

21. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

No report this month.

22. West Allegheny Foundation

No report this month.

23. Student Representatives

Shannon Clontz and Tanner Prevade reported on the following activities:

- **Sports**
 - There have been many firsts this season in sports! For starters, girls' soccer received their first ever playoff berth. In addition, for the first time in twenty years, girl's tennis advanced to the playoffs, and moved on to the second round as well.
 - Girls' cross-country earned 2nd place in their MAC Championship, led by girls of all grades.
 - Girls' varsity volleyball currently holds a record of 8-3 and holds a place in the upcoming playoff season.
 - Our varsity football team is currently the 5A Section 1 Section Leader, with a record of 6-1, and will take on North Allegheny this Friday in what will be the last home game in the regular season.
 - Boys' soccer finishes their regular season with a record of 16-1 with the playoff pairings pending from WPIAL board. They will host the first round of playoffs at home this Saturday hoping to make a run to the WPIAL finals again this year.
 - Hockey is currently at a record of 1-1 after winning their first game against Sewickley Academy but then later suffering a loss to Montour. Next, they will take on Deer Lakes hoping to improve to 2-1.

- **Opioid/Heroin Presentation**
 - Last Friday, freshmen and sophomores were given the opportunity to attend an assembly that talked about the growing opioid epidemic. Students were able to hear from recovering heroin addicts to give them a first person perspective on how dangerous these drugs are. Seniors and juniors will be attending their assembly on Thursday the 18th and hear from another recovering heroin addict who has turned his life into a musical career and shares his story with today's youth.

- **Arts**
 - The members of this year's fall play are currently in dress rehearsals for Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, which opens this Saturday, October 20th at 6:00 PM, and will also run Sunday the 21st at 1:00 PM and Saturday 27th at 6:00 PM. Prior to the show on the 21st at 12:00 PM, there will be a Tea Party Fundraiser where audience members will have the opportunity to meet the members of the cast!
 - On Saturday, October 6th, the West Allegheny Marching Pride hosted their home festival, the Cavalcade of Bands. There were eight participating bands, including Robert Morris University's very own marching band. This provided the opportunity for bands from all over the area to meet and support one another during their respective performances! Different themed baskets, provided by each section of our band, were raffled off, and candy grams were sold, so that family friends could send messages to one another with a piece of candy.
- **Academics**
 - Students enrolled in classes associated with our Early College in High School Academy, in partnership with CCAC, took placement exams and completed registration for CCAC to be eligible to earn college level credit through this landmark opportunity.
 - All sophomore students, and juniors who registered, were able to take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 10. These results will be used in conjunction with the guidance counselors to help student better prepare for the SAT's and other career and college readiness lessons

24. Safety and Wellness Committee

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

- First meeting held October 3
- Poster contest
- Mental illness presentation – October 25, 6-7 pm

24. New Business

No new business.

25. Open Forum

Jamie Holmes, North Fayette, voiced her concerns regarding the elementary school redistricting plan.

Dr. Lippert responded.

Meghan McGinnis, North Fayette, voiced her concerns regarding class sizes, teacher absences, reading specialists and lunch coverage.

Dr. Lippert responded.

Heather Soose, North Fayette, voiced her concerns regarding teacher absences.

Dr. Lippert responded.

Jen O'Shea, North Fayette, voiced her concerns regarding teachers being pulled from the classrooms.

Dr. Lippert responded.

Mark Stayduhar, North Fayette, shared his thoughts on the construction/district office location, help for teachers and thanks for the opioid discussion.

Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Bartha responded.

26. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Debra A. Mirich, President

Alyssa Athanas, Secretary