

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

April 17, 2024

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, April 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 7:01 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Directors

Present -	Robert Ostrander – President	Tracy Pustover – Vice President
	George Bartha	Vicki Bozic
	Todd Kosenina	Steven Pons
	Steve Psomas	Seth Tomei

Absent - Debbie Mirich

Also Present - Mr. William Andrews, Solicitor
Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent
Dr. Chris Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Shauna Nelson, Assistant to the Superintendent
Dr. Lynn Utchell, 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 April 10, 15, and prior to tonight's meeting in regards to personnel, legal matters, and real estate. They will also reconvene after tonight's meeting.

3. Public Comment

No comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the March 20, 2024, meeting to the Board. On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mr. Pons, 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 March 31, 2024, of \$48,777,851.08.

6. Communications

Dr. Lippert shared a thank you card from the Allegheny County Library.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. Lippert recognized Carrie Crawford from Thomas & Williamson.
Dr. Shattuck and Dr. Lippert recognized Dr. Shana Nelson.

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Dr. Lippert reported on the following activities:

- Military Enlistment Day
 - Governor Seargeant Rainis and Sue Kriznik were recognized with a Distinguished Achievement Award
- Gift drive for Oakdale
- Gold Card Breakfast
- Best communities in music education
- Donaldson
 - April 19 dance
 - Video about the eclipse
- McKee – Sammy Brandberry organized a day of military guests
- Wilson – Dr. Grey participated on a RMU panel talking about early literacy
- Middle School – construction update

9. President's Report

Mr. Ostrander discussed the county reassessment update.

10. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business this month.

11. Solicitor's Report

No report.

12. Personnel

Mr. Tomei presented the Personnel portion of the Committee report:

On a motion by Mr. Tomei, seconded by Mrs. Pustover, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 12.1 through 12.16 on the Personnel agenda.

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

PROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTES - \$135/day
Connor Blazer
Madison Dean

Noah Firmstone
Alexis Hamm
Chinyu Hsu
Adam Livingston

PROFESSIONAL NURSE SUBSTITUTE - \$150/day

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES - \$15/hr.

Ian Gadsby
Vaishali Sawant
Mollie Wolfe

- 12.2 Approving the retirement resignation of Linda Hogg, high school cafeteria server, effective June 3, 2024.
- 12.3 Approving an intermittent family medical leave of absence for Michelle Baird, middle school paraprofessional, effective April 15, 2024, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.4 Approving an intermittent family medical leave for Betsy Weber, high school attendance clerk, beginning April 4, 2024, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.5 Approving hiring Avery Naleppa, Wilson kindergarten teacher, effective with the start of the 2024-25 school year. Salary, 2nd step Bachelors per WAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 12.6 Approving hiring Hailey Hamilton, Wilson kindergarten teacher, effective with the start of the 2024-25 school year. Salary, 1st step Bachelors per WAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 12.7 Approving hiring Melanie Behr, Wilson life skills teacher, effective with the start of the 2024-25 school year. Salary, 1st step Bachelors per WAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 12.8 Approving hiring Sarah Grogan, McKee grade 3 teacher, effective with the start of the 2024-25 school year. Salary, 1st step Bachelors per WAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 12.9 Approving hiring Nicole Patterson, McKee kindergarten teacher, effective with the start of the 2024-25 school year. Salary, 1st step Bachelors per WAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 12.10 Approving hiring Andrew Kavinsky, McKee grade 2 teacher, effective with the start of the 2024-25 school year. Salary, 1st step Bachelors per WAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 12.11 Approving hiring Lauren Shoup, Donaldson special education teacher, effective with the start of the 2024-25 school year. Salary, 1st step Masters per WAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

12.12 Approving summer hours for the following employees:

High School nurse – not to exceed 20 hours
Middle School nurse – not to exceed 20 hours
McKee School nurse – not to exceed 20 hours
Wilson School nurse – not to exceed 20 hours
Donaldson School nurse – not to exceed 20 hours

12.13 Approving summer hours for the following employees:

High School guidance – not to exceed 500 hours
Middle School guidance – not to exceed 150 hours

12.14 Approving summer hours for the following employees:

High School clerks – not to exceed 110 total hours
Middle School clerk – not to exceed 70 total hours
Pupil Services clerk - not to exceed 70 total hours

12.15 Approving the promotion of Warren McGhee to a Class I-C second shift custodian at the middle school effective May 1, 2024. Salary \$25.27/hour.

12.16 Approving hiring Michelle Oliver as a Class I-C custodian at McKee Elementary, effective April 29, 2024. Salary, \$25.27/hour.

13. Property & Supply

The Property & Supply portion of the Committee report was presented by Mr. Ostrander:

On a motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mr. Pons, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 13.1 through 13.10 on the Property & Supply agenda.

13.1 Approving Change Order GC-025 with the Hudson Group to provide winter condition measures for the new concrete slabs at the two-story addition. Total cost of \$4,275.00.

13.2 Approving Change Order GC-026 with the Hudson Group to install a two-hour rated wall around two existing steel columns in science classroom A206. Total cost of \$1,259.00.

13.3 Approving Change Order PC-004 with Enders Plumbing to change one sink designated as AS-1 in the art room to a stainless-steel sink as requested by the owner. Total credit of (\$920.00).

13.4 Approving Change Order HC-003 with Lugaila Mechanical Inc. for required ductwork revisions following owner requested equipment layout changes in the industrial arts room. Total cost of \$11,409.41.

13.5 Approving Change Order HC-004 with Lugaila Mechanical Inc. to add sound attenuator kit to the new dust collection system for noise reduction. Total cost of \$7,303.82.

- 13.6 Approving Change Order HC-005 with Lugaila Mechanical Inc. to revise the ductwork in the 1st floor girls restroom to gain additional ceiling height. Total cost of \$2,208.74.
- 13.7 Approving Change Order EC-011 with Allegheny City Electric to furnish and install additional life and safety devices as follows: Two new light fixtures with associated switch and one GFCI receptacle at the elevator shaft, one new speaker strobe in the IDF room within Storage Room SA-21 and one PA system speaker in Speech classroom A208. Total cost of \$7,425.24.
- 13.8 Approving Change Order EC-012 with Allegheny City Electric to add an electric disconnect and control wiring for the dust collector that was not shown on the bid documents. Total Cost \$3,326.93.
- 13.9 Approving Change Order EC-013 with Allegheny City Electric to repair an existing underground electric line that supplied power and lighting to the Phase 6 building area that was damaged during the saw cutting of the existing concrete floor slabs. Total cost \$5,398.68.
- 13.10 Approving advertising of bids for kitchen/cafeteria equipment and paving projects.

14. Finance

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

On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mr. Pons, 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 Approving the Cafeteria Report as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.4 Accepting March Activity Reports as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.5 Approving opening bids for the following: General Supplies, Arts and Crafts Supplies, Janitorial Supplies, Industrial Arts Supplies and Lumber, Athletics Supplies and Equipment, Light Bulbs, and Copier Paper.
- 14.6 Approving a real estate tax assessment appeal with STAG Industrial Holdings, LLC, for commercial property in Findlay Township as presented and recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.7 Approving a Food Service Management Contract with The Nutrition Group effective July 1, 2024, for the 2024-25 school year to operate in accordance with a food service budget including revenues of \$1,634,995.20, expenditures of \$1,551,548.51, resulting in a profit of \$83,446.69.

15. Policy & Programs

The Policy & Programs portion of the Committee report was presented by Mrs. Pustover:

On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mr. Pons, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 15.1 through 15.4 on the Policy & Programs agenda.

- 15.1 Approving the adoption of Into Reading by HMH grades K-5 literacy program at a cost not to exceed \$418,928.06.
- 15.2 Approving Reveal (McGraw Hill) as the Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 instructional math program at a cost not to exceed \$156,653.40.
- 15.3 Approving the addition of the novel Hatchet by Gary Paulsen as a supplement to the 8th grade English Language Arts curriculum.
- 15.4 Approving Policies 200-214 of Section 200 of the updated policy manual. This represents the second of two required readings.

Policy 200 - Enrollment of Students

Policy 201 - Admission of Students

Policy 202 - Eligibility of Non-resident Students

Policy 203 - Immunizations and Communicable Diseases

Policy 203.1 - HIV Infection

Policy 204 - Attendance

Policy 205 - Postgraduate Students

Policy 206 - Assignment Within District

Policy 207 - Confidential Communications of Students

Policy 208 - Withdrawal from School

Policy 209 - Health Examinations/Screenings

Policy 209.2 - Diabetes Management

Policy 210 - Medications

Policy 210.1 - Possession/Administration of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

Policy 212 - Reporting Student Progress

Policy 214 - Class Rank

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 item 16.1 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Retroactively approving hiring the following volleyball coaches for the 2024 season (all clearance requirements have been met):
 - 3rd Assistant (MS Head) - Steve Nicola - \$4,683.36
 - 4th Assistant (MS Asst.) – Karen Horwatt - \$4,257.59

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

Dr. Nelson reported on a School Board Leadership Collective meeting hosted by AASA. We will be applying for a \$2500 grant to expand the internship program.

18. Student Representatives

Jake Monti, Esther Newton and Nathaniel Elek reported on the following activities:

Culture

- HEI 5K - April 27
- ESP Field Trip to Pitt - April 11
- Celebrate Diversity Day - April 15
- Prom is May 4 at the Hyatt
- Spirit Week

Academics

- ACCELERATE Events since last board meeting:
 - Orientations for our new interns - Technical Theater, Marketing & Communications, Sports Medicine
 - Medical Lab Scientist Career Exploration Interactive Presentation
 - Nuts & Bolts: Engineering & Manufacturing Interactive Presentation
 - Barber School of Pgh Interactive Presentation
 - RMU Immersive Experience
 - Chemical Industry Interactive Presentation
- *The Collective* literary arts magazine
- Parkway West CTC student of the month (Nathan Galon – February and Morgan DeLaney – March)
- Senior Cap & Gown Distribution - May 10
- Senior Exit Survey due April 21
- Potential Distinguished Graduate Speaker were notified on April 10
- AP and Keystone testing are quickly approaching.

ROTC

- Military Enlistment Celebration was Monday (4/15) - Military Enlistment Day (9 students) - high school military families also attended
- Bingo
- Findlay Township Cleanup - Saturday 20
- Incentive Flight through the Air National Guard
- Pens Game color guard on March 28

Arts/Activities

- April 10 was the end of year conference at Heinz History Center - Stand Together
- Art Show - April 24-26 - Y2K 6:00-8:30
- AP Art students painting mural for VFW
- Musical was this past weekend...it was a hit!
- Band Concert April 23 @ 7pm
- Chorus Concerts April 25 @ 7 pm
- 4 students have their Art recognized at the High School Student Exhibition - Standard Ceramic Annual Student Show

Athletics

- Track had section meet at Canon Mac on April 10
- middle school sports are getting games in cause of weather middle track and field and softball was held here 4/15
- swimming hosted and had a meet
- baseball had 4 games this week
- baseball have 5 games this week
- softball has 6 games this week, senior definition day this Saturday
- tennis is having their matches this week and won all their matches last Saturday senior recognition April 8th
- baseball senior recognition May 7th at the Washington wild things park
- cheer has open gyms this week Saturday and Sunday are tryouts

Esther shared that she will be attending Penn State in the fall with a full scholarship.
Jake shared that he is now going to Duquesne in the fall.

19. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Book Sale – April 25-27
- Donaldson Park – stroll around and read a book
- New Brighton Underground Railroad Legacy Program presentation - May 2 at 6:30 pm

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

20. Parkway West CTC

No report.

21. SHASDA

Mr. Bartha reported on the Student Forum that will be held on April 27.

22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

Mr. Psomas reported on the recent meeting. The next banquet is October 5th at the SNPJ. They are looking for nominees.

23. West Allegheny Foundation

No report.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

Mrs. Pustover recognized Dr. Lippert for helping with the Oakdale flood donations.

25. New Business

No report.

26. Open Forum

No comments.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mr. Bartha, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Robert Ostrander, Board President

Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary