

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

April 19, 2023

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, April 19, 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 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Directors

Present -	Robert Ostrander – President	Tracy Pustover – Vice President
	George Bartha	Joel Colinear
	Todd Kosenina	Tracy Kosis
	Debbie Mirich	Mark Rosen

Absent - Kevin Hancock

Also Present - Mr. Anthony Giglio, Solicitor
Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent
Dr. Chris Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. George Safin, Business Manager
Mrs. Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary

Mr. Ostrander announced that the Board met in executive session on April 12 and prior to tonight’s meeting regarding legal matters and personnel.

3. Public Comment

No public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the March 15, 2023, meeting to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, 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, 2023 of \$44,231,965.54.

6. Communications

Dr. Lippert reported on the thank you cards that she received from staff members and families for wind chimes sent for recent deaths. She also read an email from a parent regarding our new professional signature line.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. Lippert recognized Lisa Shultz and Michelle Psaros from Wilson Elementary.

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Dr. Lippert discussed the following activities:

- Middle School renovation project
- Teacher Pipeline project
- Purple Out on Friday, April 20

9. President's Report

Mr. Ostrander thanked Dr. Shattuck and Mr. Rosen for their quick response assisting a guest with a medical condition during the Annual Gold Card Luncheon.

10. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business this month.

11. Solicitor's Report

No report.

12. Personnel

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

On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 12.1 through 12.15 on the Personnel agenda.

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

PROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTES

Holl, Shawn \$135/day
Castelluci, Maura \$135/day

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES

Haley, Adam \$15/hour
Kuhns, Bailey \$15/hour
Wilson, Andrew \$15/hour
Armstrong, Charlotte \$15/hour

12.2 Approving John Camello as a long-term substitute middle school health and physical education teacher for Curt Russell for the 2023-24 school year. Salary, Bachelor's Step 1, \$49,975.

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- 12.3 Approving continuing an unpaid medical leave of absence for Scott Smith, Class I-C custodian, through April 30, 2023.
- 12.4 Approving a family medical leave of absence for Heidi Kennedy, McKee Elementary emotional support teacher, beginning May 3, 2023, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.5 Approving Julie Heufelder as a Class IV-B lunch aide at Donaldson Elementary effective April 20, 2023. Salary - \$18.81/hour.
- 12.6 Approving hiring Adam Haley as a Class I-C custodian/utility, effective May 15, 2023. Salary, \$24.42/hour.
- 12.7 Approving hiring Nicole Eagan, McKee grade 4 teacher, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year. Salary, Bachelor's Step 11, \$63,975.
- 12.8 Approving hiring Journie Crutchman, McKee grade 4 teacher, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year. Salary, Bachelor's Step 1, \$49,975.
- 12.9 Approving hiring Catherine Liebrock, Wilson grade 1 teacher, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year pending receipt of favorable clearances. Salary, Bachelor's Step 8, \$59,475.
- 12.10 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
- 12.11 Approving summer hours for the following employees:
 - High School guidance – not to exceed 500 hours
 - Middle School guidance – not to exceed 150 hours
- 12.12 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
- 12.13 Approving amending Item 12.15 from July 22, 2022, adjusting Jennifer Craig as a full-year, long-term substitute at the high school to a long-term substitute from the start of the 2022-23 school year until March 31, 2023.
- 12.14 Approving the resignation of Scott Smith, Class I-C custodian at Wilson Elementary, effective May 1, 2023.
- 12.15 Approving hiring Thomas Lancaster as a Class I-C custodian (location to be determined), effective May 8, 2023, pending receipt of favorable clearances. Salary, \$24.42/hour.

13. Property & Supply

No report.

14. Finance

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

On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, 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 Park Lane Properties, LP for commercial property in North Fayette Township as presented and recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.7 Approving a Food Service Management Contract with The Nutrition Group effective July 1, 2023 for the 2023-24 school year to operate in accordance with a food service budget including revenues of \$1,421,364.66, expenditures of \$1,406,362.24, resulting in a profit of \$15,002.42.

15. Policy & Programs

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

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

- 15.1 Approving the Middle School Program of Studies for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.

16. Athletics & Activities

No report.

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

No report

18. Student Representatives

Connor reported on the following activities:

- Academics
 - Classes are currently preparing for AP and Keystone Exams that begin May 1st
 - Counselors are working with underclassmen to help them setup their schedules for next year
- Activities
 - Prom is scheduled for May 6th and the Hyatt. Students are getting very excited. We will have a prom meeting at the end of next week to make sure everyone is aware of the expectations, parking, and the promenade procedures.
- Athletics
 - Tennis is at the Semi Finals today for Section Doubles
 - Rugby plays St. Ignatius on Friday (6:00 and 7:30)
 - Softball, baseball, and track are in the middle to end of their seasons. We hope to have qualifiers later this season.
- Culture
 - Rene Tairyova published her book, “The Cat that was Vegan” and it is for sale on Amazon.
 - Most of the current high school beautification is complete.
 - Senior Weeks begin following Prom
 - May 8-12 School Spirit Week
 - May 15-19 Senior Hall of Fame Week
 - May 22-26 Senior Breakfast Week
 - Other special days include
 - May 18 Senior Game & Movie Night
 - May 23 Senior Award Night
 - May 30 Senior Sunrise
- Arts
 - Our dance class will be hosting their Dance Showcase on Thursday evening. They will perform an abridged version on Friday for students. This will launch the 50th Annual Art Show that will begin the following week, April 26-28.
 - The 65 members of the cast and crew of WA's 32nd musical, Grease, presented four high-energy performances from March 23-26. With 928 attending on Friday night, 907 on Saturday, and 880 on Sunday afternoon, Grease set new WA attendance records with the three largest audiences for single shows among all 32 musicals. Even the opening night attendance of 719 ranks seventh to place ALL four performances of Grease in our top ten! With a total attendance of 3,434 for four shows, Grease ranks third among all WA musicals behind only six performances each of The Wiz in 2002 with 3,689 attending and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in 2000 with 3,588 attending. The students and production staff thank the administration, school board, and the entire WA community for setting these records and the enthusiastic support.

- It is exciting to share the news that Chloe Kehm, a 2017 WA graduate, has joined the cast with a one-year contract to perform in the ensemble for the national tour of Moulin Rouge! The Musical. Her first rehearsal was on Saturday, April 1, in New York City, where she took the picture of her newly issued music binder. She is scheduled to make her debut on April 27 in Atlanta. In 2017, Chloe won the Gene Kelly Award for Best Actress for her performance in WA's Thoroughly Modern Millie. One of the top tier musicals currently touring, Moulin Rouge! will open Pittsburgh's 2023-24 Broadway Series from September 27 - October 8 for what should be a wonderful homecoming for Chloe!

19. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Spring reading challenge
- Spring Book Sale – April 27-29 with a teacher preview on April 26
- Hiring a new Youth Services Director
- Experience passes are available to check out
- Book Bus

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

20. Parkway West CTC

No report.

21. SHASDA

Mr. Bartha explained what SHASDA is, South Hills Area School District Association. He described the Showcase Event and Student Conference events that take place annually. Mr. Bartha reported on the last meeting where Dr. Mary Esther Van Shura spoke about the changing political landscape and how it affects schools.

22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

No report.

23. West Allegheny Foundation

No report.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

No report.

25. New Business

No report.

26. Open Forum

Terra Marshall, North Fayette, inquired about the process when nobody is running for the school board vacancy.

Mr. Giglio answered and explained the process.

Ms. Marshall also inquired about the regions and getting more interest around potential candidates.

Mr. Ostrander responded.

Steve Pons, Findlay, applauded the district for the book bus program.

Mr. Ostrander, Dr. Lippert and Mr. Bartha responded.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Robert Ostrander, Board President

Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary