

**WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

**August 16, 2023**

**1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, August 16, 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  
   George Bartha    Todd Kosenina  
   Tracy Kosis    Mark Rosen

Absent -                    Joel Colinear  
   Kevin Hancock  
   Debbie Mirich

Also Present -            Mr. William Andrews, Solicitor  
   Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent  
   Dr. Chris Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent  
   Dr. Shana Nelson, 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 August 9 and prior to tonight’s meeting regarding legal matters and personnel. They will be meeting again following tonight’s meeting.

**3. Public Comment**

No public comments.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

4.1    The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the July 19, 2023, meeting to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Rosen, 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 July 31, 2023 of \$38,445,471.84.

**6. Communications**

No communications this month.

**7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award**

Nothing to report this month.

**8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators**

Dr. Lippert discussed the following activities:

- Welcome back
- Kindergarten orientation
- Book Bus ribbon cutting
- New family orientation
- Day of Caring
- Walk your schedule
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation

**9. President's Report**

Mr. Ostrander welcomed back staff. He also thanked everyone for the Day of Caring.

**10. Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business this month.

**11. Solicitor's Report**

No report.

**12. Personnel**

Mr. Ostrander announced that an additional item was added within the last 24 hours. He asked to add item 12.10.

On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to add item 12.10 to the Personnel 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 12.11 on the Personnel agenda.

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

12.2 Approving a family medical leave of absence for Samantha Petrick, high school mathematics teacher, effective the start of the 2023-24 school year, not to exceed 60 days.

- 12.3 Approving an intermittent family medical leave of absence for Michele Maggi, district office benefits specialist, retroactive to July 17, 2023, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.4 Approving the resignation of Jill Dudeck, Class III paraprofessional at Wilson Elementary, effective July 25, 2023.
- 12.5 Approving hiring Taiylor Baumgardner as a music teacher at McKee Elementary effective on or before November 9, 2023. Salary, Step 1 Bachelor's, \$49,975, prorated.
- 12.6 Approving promoting Amanda DeFazio to Class II-B clerk at Wilson Elementary effective August 17, 2023, at \$25.92/hour.
- 12.7 Approving hiring Tim Wagner as a Class I-C custodian at the middle school effective August 17, 2023, at \$25.27/hour.
- 12.8 Approving hiring Maura Castelluci as a grade 2 teacher at Donaldson Elementary effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year. Salary, Step 1 Bachelor's, \$49,975.
- 12.9 Approving the resignation of Thomas Lancaster, Class I-C custodian at McKee Elementary, effective August 11, 2023.
- 12.10 Accepting the resignation of Benjamin Maund, middle school health and physical education long term substitute, effectively August 15, 2023.
- 12.11 Approving hiring Alex Nicholson as a special education teacher to be temporarily assigned to a health and physical education position at the middle school for the 2023-24 school year. Salary, Step 1 Bachelor's, \$49,975.

### **13. Property & Supply**

The Property & Supply 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 13.1 and 13.3 on the Property & Supply agenda.

- 13.1 Approving the list of bus drivers for the district for the 2023-24 school year. All necessary requirements have been met.
- 13.2 Change Order PC-001 to Enders Plumbing to provide labor, material and equipment to install solid interceptors at 3 art room sinks and 3 washing machine drains and to relocate the elevator sump pump discharge per third party and Allegheny County Health Department code review. Total cost of \$10,338.62.
- 13.3 Change Order PC-002 to Enders Plumbing to provide labor, material and equipment to change all above ceiling storm piping from cast iron to PVC piping throughout the building. All PVC piping to be insulated on all horizontal and vertical runs above the ceiling. Total cost credit of (\$6,567.00)

## **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 14.9 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 July Activity Reports as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.5 Approving a contract with Questeq as the District's E-rate consultant for the 2024-25 school year at a cost of 5% of the pre-discounted costs of any E-rate eligible costs incurred by the District.
- 14.6 Approving a real estate tax assessment appeal with CRV Robinson, LLC, for commercial property in North Fayette Township as recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.7 Approving a real estate tax assessment appeal with Dayton Hudson Corporation for commercial property in North Fayette Township as recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.8 Approving a real estate tax assessment appeal with Sams Real Estate Business Trust for commercial property in North Fayette Township as recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.9 Approving a real estate tax assessment appeal with Vijay, Inc. for commercial property in Findlay Township as recommended by the solicitor.

## **15. Policy & Programs**

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

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

- 15.1 Approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the District, Western Allegheny Community Library, and Monark Student Transportation for the second Book Bus for a term of five years from August 17, 2023 to June 30, 2028.
- 15.2 Approving the student adjudication for Student M as presented.
- 15.3 Approving the student Code of Conduct.

- 15.4 Approving Mnozil Brass Band to provide master classes and a performance for middle and high school band and chorus students and a public concert on February 26, 27, or 28, at a cost of \$22,250, which will be offset by ticket sales.

## **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. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 16.1 through 16.6 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Recommend hiring Eva Piotrova as the assistant strength and conditioning coach at the one star, head coach level for the 2023-24 school year at a cost not to exceed the amount of \$24,329.12.
- 16.2 Approving the resignation of Jill Dudeck, middle school assistant cross-country coach, effective immediately.
- 16.3 Approving the additional 2023 fall coach additions as presented. All clearance requirements have been met.
- 16.4 Approving hiring Taiylor Baumgardner for elementary vocal at McKee Elementary at the teacher hourly rate of \$27.75, not to exceed 9 hours.
- 16.5 Approving amending Item 16.2 from the July 19th agenda, Taiylor Baumgardner marching band 6th assistant, from \$1,395.88 to \$2,791.76.
- 16.6 Approving the resignation of Larry Gubash, marching band assistant, effective immediately.

## **17. Federal Programs & Legislation**

Dr. Nelson reported an update for the Spring 22-23 Tugboat Grant.  
Mr. Bartha thanked Dr. Nelson for all her work.

## **18. Student Representatives**

No report this summer.

## **19. Library**

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Fall for Your Library
- Book Bus
- Looking for volunteers

Please visit the Library and their website for more information  
[www.westernallegHENYlibrary.org](http://www.westernallegHENYlibrary.org).

**20. Parkway West CTC**

Mr. Ostrander reported that they are getting ready for the new school year.

**21. SHASDA**

No report.

**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**

Jaime Sanabria, North Fayette, asked about the amended item.

Ms. Sanabria also asked about the rumors (asbestos and moving students to the High School) surrounding the Middle School construction project.

Mr. Ostrander and Dr. Lippert responded.

Ms. Sanabria asked about the absence of Mr. Hancock and Mr. Colinear.

Mr. Andrews responded.

**27. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

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Robert Ostrander, Board President

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Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary