WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

August 19, 2026

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, in the District Office Board Room located at Wilson Elementary School. The Vice-President, Mrs. Tracy Pustover, presided. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Directors

Present -	Tracy Pustover – Vice President	Tammy Adams McBain
	George Bartha	Vicki Bozic
	Dr. Mildred Johnson	Steven Pons
	Steve Psomas	Seth Tomei
Absent -	Robert Ostrander – President	
Also Present -	Mr. William Andrews, Solicitor	
	Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent	
	Dr. Christopher Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent	
	Dr. Shana Nelson, Assistant to the Superintendent	
	Dr. Lynn Utchell, Assistant to the Superintendent	
	Mr. George Safin, Director of Finance	
	Mrs. Karen Ruhl, Communications and Community Relations Coordinator	
	Dr. Vladimir St. Surin, Athletic Director	
	Mr. Nathan Watt, Director of Technology	
	Mrs. Chelsie D'Amico, Director of Human Resources/Board Secretary	

Mrs. Pustover announced that the Board met in executive session on August 12, 2026, and prior to tonight's meeting on August 19, 2026, regarding legal and personnel matters.

3. Public Comment

No comment.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed a copy of the minutes from the July 22, 2026, meeting to the Board. On a motion by Mr. Psomas, seconded by Ms. Bozic, 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, Director of Finance, and accepted by the board indicating a balance on July 31, 2026, of $45,839,759.63.

6. Communications

No report.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

No awards.

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Dr. Lippert shared information on the following upcoming events:
• 8/25 – First day of School for Students
- Week of Caring – Kick of Friday at Community Fall Pep Rally on August 21, 2026
    - This replaces the Day of Caring initiative.
    - Community is asked to bring two non-perishables to the pep rally on Friday in place of a monetary admission fee.
    - Parents and students can continue to donate items through the first week of school at their school building.

9. President's Report

Mrs. Pustover welcomed back all staff, students, and families, and is looking forward to another great year full of learning and growth.

10. Unfinished Business

No comment.

11. Solicitor's Report

No report.

12. Personnel

On a motion by Mr. Psomas, seconded by Mrs. Adams McBain, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 12.1 through 12.17 on the Personnel agenda.

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

12.2 Accepting the resignation of Lauren Giles, high school cook, effective August 6, 2026

12.3 Approving hiring Brianna Block as a Class IV-A cook at the middle school, effective with the start of the 2026-27 school year. Salary, $23.34/hour.

12.4 Accepting the resignation of Jessica Musleh, high school server, effective August 6, 2026.

12.5 Approving hiring Marlana Brown as a Class IV-B 3.75-hour server at the high school, effective with the start of the 2026-27 school year. Salary, $21.69/hour.

12.6 Approving promoting Farren Mazary to a Class III paraprofessional effective with the start of the 2026-27 school year, at a salary of $23.61/hour.

12.7 Approving hiring Jacob Davis as a Class IV-B lunch aide at McKee Elementary, effective with the start of the 2026-27 school year. Salary, $21.69/hour.

12.8 Approving the retirement resignation of Kathy Krull, paraprofessional, effective the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

12.9 Approving hiring Connor Stout as a Class III paraprofessional effective with the start of the 2026-27 school year. Salary, $23.61/hour.

12.10 Approving hiring Ryan Wickersham as a Class I-C custodian at the middle school, effective August 25, 2026. Salary, $28.16/hour.

12.11 Approving hiring Ashley Sherman as a Class IV-B 3.75-hour server at the high school, effective with the start of the 2026-27 school year. Salary, $21.69/hour.

12.12 Approving a salary adjustment for Megan Napoleone, McKee first grade teacher, from Master's Step 8 +15 ($73,750) to Master's Step 8 + 30 ($74,750) effective August 17, 2026.

12.13 Approving a family medical leave for Amanda Pegher, high school guidance counselor, effective on or about August 17, 2026, not to exceed 60 days.

12.14 Approving a family medical leave for Marissa Savisky, teacher at McKee Elementary, effective on or about August 17, 2026, not to exceed 60 days.

12.15 Approving a family medical leave for Lauren Shoup, teacher at Wilson, effective on or about August 17, 2026, not to exceed 60 days.

12.16 Approving a child rearing leave for Marissa Savisky, teacher at McKee Elementary, effective upon exhaustion of the family medical leave through December 18, 2026.

12.17 Approving the resignation of Jim Young, high school assistant principal, effective on or before October 9, 2026.

12.18 On a motion by Mr. Psomas, seconded by Mr. Tomei, and on a roll call vote, it was moved to approve the reclassification of Dr. Shana Nelson from Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning to an Assistant Superintendent of Schools, on a five-year contract effective July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2032 as presented.

Ayes: Bartha, Johnson, Pons, Psomas, Pustover, Tomei
Nayes: Adams McBain
Abstain: Bozic

Absent: Ostrander
The motion passes 6-1 and 1 abstained.

13. Property & Supply

On a motion by Mr. Pons, seconded by Mr. Bartha, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve item 13.1 through 13.3 on the Property & Supply agenda.

13.1 Approving the submission of a PA Public School Facility Improvement Grant application to the Department of Community and Economic Development requesting $1,680,666.82 for the secondary campus roadway project.

13.2 Approving the submission of a Public School Facility Improvement Grant application to the Department of Community and Economic Development requesting $3,749,579.97 for the high school roof and HVAC unit.

13.3 Approving Sally Trautman as a bus driver for the district. All requirements have been met.

14. Finance

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 the lists presented to Board Members.

14.2 Approving the Construction Fund and Construction Treasurer's Reports as presented to the Board Members.

14.3 Accepting Activity Reports as presented to the Board Members.

14.4 Approving the Cafeteria Report as presented to the Board Members.

14.5 Approving the purchase of 25 Alienware Classroom Desktops for the High School Programming and Immersive Media courses from Dell Education, a PEPPM-approved vendor, PEPPM #C000001024003, at a cost not to exceed $71,412.25.

14.6 Approving a contract with Questeq as the District's E-Rate consultant for the 2027-28 funding year at a cost of 6% of the pre-discounted costs of any E-Rate eligible costs incurred by the District. The contract also establishes minimum fees of $1,200 for Category 1 applications below $20,000 and $1,680 for Category 2 applications below $28,000.

14.7 Approving the purchase of new virtualization servers and network storage from Questeq, a Costars approved vendor, at a cost not to exceed $161,209.

15. Policy & Programs

On a motion by Mrs. Adams McBain, seconded by Mr. Pons, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 15.1 through 15.3 on the Policy & Programs agenda.

15.1 Approving Kelly Grace, professional dog trainer, to provide ongoing obedience and advanced level training for the District's therapy dogs beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

15.2 Approving Policy 719 Therapy Dogs. This represents the first of two required readings.

15.3 Approving the adoption of Lift by National Geographic Learning as the ESL curriculum for students in grades 9-12.

16. Athletics & Activities

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

16.1 Approving a request from Melissa Taranto for the Cross Country Team to attend the PIAA Foundation Invitational in Hershey, PA from September 25-26, 2026. Cost to the District $914.00 for the registration fee and nursing services.

16.2 Amending the football coach positions previously approved in July 2026.

Football 5th Assistant: Volunteer Asst. to Football 5th Asst. - Tim Levcik - $5000
Volunteer Assistant: Football 5th Asst. to Volunteer Asst. - Ryan Levinger

16.3 Approving hiring the following football and wrestling athletic personnel, all clearance requirements have been met.

MS Football Volunteer Zach Marshall*
Boys Basketball Volunteer Jake Samosky*
Wrestling 3rd Assistant Mike Johnson $3,845.91

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

No Report.

18. Student Representatives

No Report.

19. Library

Fall for the Library is September 19, 2026, from 6PM – 9PM at Celebrations.
For more information on tickets and sponsorships, please contact McKenzie Partyka at the Library.

The Library seeks applications for a Library Assistant to work approximately 15 hours per week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and select Saturdays. For more information, please contact McKenzie Partyka at the Library.

20. Parkway West CTC

No report.

21. SHASDA

No report.

22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame Banquet will be on October 17, 2026.
Doors open at 5 PM at the SNPJ.
Tickets are available on the website or through Dr. St. Surin in the Athletic Office.

23. West Allegheny Foundation

No report.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

No report.

25. New Business

No new business.

26. Open Forum

Jena Turner, Findlay Township, Wilson Parent, shared concerns about the Wilson playground and asked follow-up questions related to on-going safety concerns, inspection documentation and findings, and frequency of inspections. Mrs. Turner requested the playground be formally inspected by a Certified Playground Inspector to protect the District, and for the safety of the students. A list of cost-effective solutions will be shared with Dr. Lippert and the team to review for consideration.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Pons, seconded by Mrs. Adams McBain, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

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Robert Ostrander, Board President

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Chelsie D'Amico,
Director of Human Resources/Board Secretary