

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

**December 11, 2024**

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

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, December 11, 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 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call of Directors**

Present -	Robert Ostrander – President	Tracy Pustover – Vice President
	Vicki Bozic	Todd Kosenina
	Debbie Mirich	Steven Pons
	Steve Psomas	Seth Tomei
Absent -	George Bartha	
Also Present -	Mr. William Andrews, Solicitor	
	Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent	
	Dr. Chris Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent	
	Mr. George Safin, Director of Finance	

Mr. Ostrander announced that the Board met in executive session prior to tonight's meeting in regards to litigation.

**3. Public Comment**

No comment.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the November 20, 2024, meetings to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, 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 November 30, 2024, of \$64,073,802.89.

**6. Communications**

No communications this month.

**7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award**

Dr. Lippert recognized Lindsey Castracane as the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award.

**8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators**

Dr. Lippert reported on the following items:

- Two more teachers earned their National Board Certifications – Elan Ragan, High School English and Trevor Kerr, Middle School Math
- Concert Season
- Two new clubs being approved – Middle School and High School e-sports

**9. President's Report**

Mr. Ostrander thanked the staff and students for all their hard work.

**10. Unfinished Business**

John Zeigler started speaking. This was not the designated appropriate time for public comment. The citizen was asked to leave.

**11. Solicitor's Report**

Mr. Andrews wished everyone a happy holiday season.

On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve all items on the agenda.

**12. Personnel**

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

PROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTES - \$135/day

Melissa Adams

Jaden Beckett

Joshua Marvenko

Jacob Barthelemy

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES - \$15/hr.

Arianna Blazer

Lindsay Danzik

Alexa Misselwitz

Kari Winn

12.2 Approving the retirement resignation of Gertrude Dolcich, high school custodian, effective January 15, 2025.

12.3 Approving a retirement resignation under the Retirement Benefit for Susan Kriznik, high school guidance counselor, effective the end of the 2024-25 school year.

- 12.4 Approving a retirement resignation under the Retirement Benefit for Jeffrey Kiser, middle school guidance counselor, effective the end of the 2024-25 school year.
- 12.5 Approving a retirement resignation under the Retirement Benefit for Lisa Rukas, Donaldson Elementary grade 1 teacher, effective the end of the 2024-25 school year.
- 12.6 Approving a retirement resignation under the Retirement Benefit for Amy Mackey, Donaldson Elementary grade 1 teacher, effective the end of the 2024-25 school year.
- 12.7 Approving the retirement resignation of Barbara Calderone, middle school account handler, effective February 15, 2025.
- 12.8 Approving the amended contracts for the Commissioned Officers and the Director of Finance for the purpose of clarifying post-retirement health care coverage language as reviewed and recommended by the solicitor.
- 12.9 Approving the following student interns at a cost of \$11/hour effective through the end of the 2024-25 school year: Custodial - Gabrielle Peluso & Lily Ourada Food Service & Culinary - Ethan Rizzardo

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

- 13.1 Approving Change Order GC-055 with the Hudson Group for multiple revised drywall installations in the Phase 6 and Phase 7 project areas for the total cost of \$11,924.00.
- 13.2 Approving Change Order GC-056 with the Hudson Group for additional framing and drywall (level 5 finish) in the cardio room including demolition of existing wall pads, for the total cost of \$6,463.00.
- 13.3 Approving Change Order GC-057 with the Hudson Group for additional framing and drywall revisions at the athletic storage room due to the unforeseen condition at the former stage knee wall for the total cost of \$7,705.00.
- 13.4 Approving Change Order GC-058 with the Hudson Group for additional floor prep and leveling in the locker rooms prior to ceramic tile installation and additional ceramic tile repairs in stairwell HB-102/201 for the total cost of \$3,362.00.

### **14. Finance**

- 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 Cafeteria Reports as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.4 Approving a real estate assessment appeal with Wal-mart Real Estate Business Trust for commercial property in North Fayette Township as recommended by the solicitor.

- 14.5 Approving a real estate assessment appeal with Enchangeright Net Leased Portfolio 32 for commercial property in North Fayette Township as recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.6 Approving increasing the hourly solicitor rate with Andrews and Price to \$140/hour effective January 1, 2025 (this is an increase of \$10/hour) and the monthly retainer to \$650 (this is an increase of \$50/month).

## **15. Policy & Programs**

- 15.1 Approving Policies 330-351 of Section 300 of the updated policy manual. This represents the second of two required readings.
  - Policy 330 – Overtime
  - Policy 331 – Job Related Expenses
  - Policy 332 – Working Periods
  - Policy 333 – Professional Development
  - Policy 334 – Sick Leave
  - Policy 335 – Family and Medical Leaves
  - Policy 336 – Personal Necessity Leave
  - Policy 338 – Sabbatical Leave for Restoration of Health
  - Policy 338.1 – Leave of Absence for Professional Development (Educational Sabbatical)
  - Policy 340 - Responsibility for Student Welfare
  - Policy 342 – Jury Duty
  - Policy 351 - Drug and Substance Abuse
- 15.2 Approving Policies 304, 304.1, 601- 626.1 of Sections 300 and 600 of the updated policy manual. This represents the first of two required readings.
  - Policy 304 - Employment of District Staff
  - Policy 304.1 – Nepotism
  - Policy 601 – Fiscal Objectives
  - Policy 602 – Budget Planning
  - Policy 603 – Budget Preparation
  - Policy 604 – Budget Adoption
  - Policy 605 – Tax Levy
  - Policy 606 – Tax Collection
  - Policy 608 – Bank Accounts
  - Policy 609 – Investment of District Funds
  - Policy 610 – Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
  - Policy 611 – Purchases Budgeted
  - Policy 612 – Purchases Not Budgeted
  - Policy 618 – Student Activity Funds
  - Policy 619 – District Audit
  - Policy 622 – GASB Statement 34
  - Policy 625 – District Credit Cards
  - Policy 626 – Federal Fiscal Compliance
  - Policy 626.1 – Travel Reimbursement – Federal Programs
- 15.3 Approving the student agreement for Student R as recommended by the solicitor.

**16. Athletics & Activities**

- 16.1 Approving boys' and girls' lacrosse as a WPIAL sport beginning with the 2025 spring season as presented.
- 16.2 Approving Michael Muron as a wrestling volunteer for the 2024-25 season. All clearance requirements have been met.

**17. Federal Programs & Legislation**

No report.

**18. Student Representatives**

Lindsay Worthington, Ava Elliott and Jack Campbell reported virtually on the following student activities:

Academics

- Advisory - Dec. 17 - will be a door decorating competition with top 2 advisories getting a Dunkin breakfast during January's advisory
- HS Quarterly Awards - November 26 - 105 Students Recognized
  - Academic Growth Award was presented to students who demonstrated a 1.0+ improvement in their GPA from the end of last year to the end of the 1st quarter while also maintaining C's or higher in their Q1 coursework
  - The Academic Excellence Award was given to students who earned all A's, had perfect attendance, and did not have a single disciplinary infraction
  - Students were also recognized for the Athletic Scholar and/or Performing Arts Scholar Award if they met the Academic Excellence Criteria while also engaging in an extracurricular activity that is part of the academic eligibility system
- End of Quarter 2 is January 12 - two weeks after we return from break

JROTC

- Down time right now...looking into more community service opportunities

ARTS

- Gold Card Breakfast
- Chorus Trip to NYC share out
- Upcoming Concerts:
  1. Band - Dec. 17
  2. Chorus - Dec. 19
  3. MS band and chorus tomorrow 12/11
  4. Small Ensemble was 12/9
  5. Show Choir Events share out (raised near \$3000 for Ella's Entourage)
- Footloose cast was announced last week but a very ensemble heavy show

ATHLETICS

- Softball Sponsored Dodgeball Tournament - Nov. 27
- Winter Sports started Nov. 15
- Bowling had 2 matches so far and students playing well
- Boys Basketball is currently 2 - 3 (three-point loss last night)

1. Volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House (made breakfast)

- Girls Basketball is undefeated including the tournament they won at St. Joseph HS
- Wrestling is also undefeated
- Swimming won first meet vs Cornell; Alex Aivalotis broke school (and personal record) in the 100-meter breaststroke

CULTURE

- Senior Movie - The Grinch
- Senior Bonfire and Volleyball Events - Winner - Mrs. Brand's 7th period
- ESP - Virtual Session with an Author/Entrepreneur/Inspirational Speaker Melinda Emerson

**19. Library**

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Blood Drive
- Racoon Creek Winery at Kramer's Greenhouse donating with every drink purchased

Please visit the Library and their website for more information

[www.westernallegHENYlibrary.org](http://www.westernallegHENYlibrary.org).

**20. Parkway West CTC**

Mrs. Mirich reported that Dr. Copeland wishes everyone a happy holiday.

**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**

Mrs. Pustover gave an update on the gift card drive.

**25. New Business**

No new business.

**26. Open Forum**

No public comment.

**27. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mrs. Bozic, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

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Robert Ostrander, Board President

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George M. Safin, Pro-Tem Secretary