

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

February 15, 2023

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, February 15, 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	

Absent -	Kevin Hancock
	Mark Rosen

Also Present -	Mr. William Andrews, Solicitor
	Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent
	Dr. Chris Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent
	Dr. Shana Nelson, Assistant to the Superintendent
	Mrs. Tammy Adams, 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 February 8 and prior to tonight's meeting regarding legal 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 January 18, 2023, meeting to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, 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 January 31, 2023 of \$53,366,178.74.

6. Communications

No communications this month.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. Lippert recognized Dr. Harvey Smith, the President of Pittsburgh Technical College.

Mrs. Adams recognized Susan Kriznik, High School Guidance Counselor.

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Dr. Lippert discussed the following activities:

- High School program of studies
- Early college programs
- Item 13.1 – Novum Designs
- Items 13.2 and 13.3 – Middle School construction

9. President's Report

Mr. Ostrander recognized the School Resource Officers. He also recognized the unified bocce team who won the section and made it to the playoffs.

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:

Mrs. Mirich announced that she was sad to see so many great teachers retiring. She thanked them and wishes them the best of luck.

On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 12.1 through 12.21 on the Personnel agenda.

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

PROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTES

Reilly, David \$135/day

12.2 Approving an intermittent family medical leave for Chrisanne Canovali, McKee grade 2 teacher, beginning January 12, 2023, not to exceed 60 days.

- 12.3 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive for Carla Prevade, Donaldson grade 1 teacher, effective with the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- 12.4 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive for Katherine Brookman, Donaldson grade 1 teacher, effective with the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- 12.5 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive for Tina Seybold, McKee literacy specialist, effective with the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- 12.6 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive for Kathleen Burns, Wilson librarian, effective with the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- 12.7 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive for Rebecca Claus, Donaldson kindergarten teacher, effective with the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 12.8 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive Robert DeMario, Donaldson grade 3 teacher, effective with the end for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 12.9 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive for Chrisanne Canovali, McKee grade 2 teacher, effective with the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 12.10 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive for Caroline Renee Caruso, Wilson CID teacher, effective with the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 12.11 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive for Karen Frech, Wilson grade 3 teacher, effective with the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 12.12 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive for Leda Niccolai, middle school literacy specialist, effective with the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 12.13 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive for Lisa Carter, high school special education teacher, effective with the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 12.14 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive for Jennifer Rieger, high school English/language arts teacher, effective with the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 12.15 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive for Andrew Peters, high/middle school music teacher, effective with the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 12.16 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive for Catherine Zanella, high school German teacher, effective with the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

- 12.17 Approving a retirement resignation under the Early Retirement Incentive for Kimberly Buser, K-8 mathematics coach, effective with the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 12.18 Approving a retirement resignation for Susan Tarquinio, McKee special education teacher, effective with the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- 12.19 Approving the agreement and resignation of Kris Hanczar, Class III paraprofessional at the high school, effective January 31, 2023 as recommended by the solicitor.
- 12.20 Approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the West Allegheny School District and West Allegheny Educational Support Personnel Association for a period of six (6) years beginning July 1, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2029.
- 12.21 Approving the promotion of Michelle Ruffa from Class IV-B server to Class IV-A cook at McKee Elementary effective February 16, 2023. Salary - \$20.24/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 Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 13.1 through 13.3 on the Property & Supply agenda.

- 13.1 Approving the services of Novum Designs (COSTAR approved #538188) for graphic design, signage, and beautification at all district schools within approved budgetary parameters.
- 13.2 Approving the Construction Document Scope of Work for the Additions and Alterations to the West Allegheny Middle School renovation project as presented in the construction documents drawings and specifications.
- 13.3 Authorize the advertisement for the receipt of bids for the Additions and Alterations to the West Allegheny Middle School renovation project.

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 14.12 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 January Activity Reports as presented to the Board Members.

14.5 Approving a tax assessment settlement appeal with Horizon DSG Associates, LP for commercial property in Findlay Township as presented and recommended by the solicitor.

14.6 Approving the following tax collector compensation for the 2023-24 school year:
Findlay Township - 3614 lines - \$21,977.97
North Fayette Township - 7170 lines - \$41,020.35
Oakdale Borough - 770 lines - \$4,931.85

Mr. Ostrander has abstained from voting on this item.

14.7 Approving a donation to the local volunteer fire departments in the amount of \$3,000 (\$750 per department) as the District's annual contribution.

14.8 Approving a donation of \$750 to the Western Allegheny Community Library for operating expenses.

14.9 Approving the Parkway West General Operating and Building Rental (Administrative-Jointure) Budget for 2023-24 as follows:
Parkway West General Operating Budget \$8,168,903
Parkway West Jointure Budget \$800,925

West Allegheny School District's Share of Budget which reflects a \$27,465.78 increase from 2022-23 General Operating Budget.
Parkway West General Operating Budget \$652,639.35 (\$625,173.57 in 2022-23) and
Parkway West Jointure Budget \$71,489.15 (\$71,277.83 in 2022-23).

14.10 Approving advertising for bids for the following: General Supplies, Arts and Crafts Supplies, Light Bulbs, Janitorial Supplies, Industrial Art Supplies and Lumber, Athletics Supplies and Equipment, Copier Paper, and HVAC Supplies.

14.11 Approving the awarding of the bid for Nike football uniforms to Century Sports, Inc. of McMurray, PA at a price per set of \$188.85 in accordance with their bid submittal. The total uniform purchase will not exceed \$36,000.00. The order for these uniforms will be placed in February 2023, and the cost of these uniforms will be paid out of the 2023-24 budget.

14.12 Awarding a five-year agreement to DQE Communications for the district's dark fiber services in the amount of \$2,350 per month prior to E-Rate reimbursement. The new rate represents a reduction of \$130 per month from our previous monthly rate of \$2,480.

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 items 15.1 through 15.4 on the Policy & Programs agenda.

15.1 Approving changes to the Technology Acceptable Use Policy #6270 as presented. This is the second of two required readings.

- 15.2 Approving the West Allegheny High School Program of Studies for the 2023-24 school year.
- 15.3 Approving Envisions as the Grade K-5 core instructional mathematics program with Investigations as the supplemental program at a cost not to exceed \$297,700.
- 15.4 Approving an agreement with Community College of Allegheny County for the purpose of providing educational training to parents/guardians of West Allegheny ESL students at a cost of \$2,000, funded by Parents as Allies grant.

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 and 16.2 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Approving spring coaches for the 2023 season as presented. All clearance requirements have been met.
- 16.2 Approving the following musical arts volunteer for the 2022-2023 school year. All clearance requirements have been met.
Mackenzie Dugan

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

Dr. Nelson reported on teacher participation in RAC, Reading Achievement Center. The AIU spotlighted our teachers involved, Michelle Bateman, Kristen Orndoff and Kristen Martin.

18. Student Representatives

Alex Booth and Connor Frank reported on the following activities:

- Academics
 - NHS Induction was on Wednesday, January 25. It went well!
 - Scheduling presentation for students was Friday, Feb. 10th. Students will enter course requests on Tuesday (2/22).
 - NHS students are available during all lunch periods to advise underclassmen about courses they are interested in.
- Activities
 - Senior Zoo Trip is March 23rd.
 - Mr. West A update.
- Athletics
 - Rugby's schedule is being finalized with the first match on March 26th.
 - Hockey played North Hills on Monday. They only lost by 1 goal to the number one team.
 - Basketball season ended last week.
- Culture

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- Black History Month Challenge at each of the elementary schools was a success! Students on the Scholar Panel went to the elementary school to speak to each grade. The presentation was very well received.
- Black History Radio is a new initiative occurring daily on the morning announcements. It was created by Freshman, Brayden Pressley with me serving as his co-host.
- Therapets began! The dog is adorable!
- Arts
 - Opening night of the musical is March 23rd with shows running through the weekend.

19. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Links for Library – adult night and family day – April 14 and 15
- Microsoft Office classes

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

20. Parkway West CTC

Mr. Ostrander reported that the Administration team and auto body staff are working to reconfigure and revamp the auto body program with the help from PPG, who gave a \$100,000 grant.

21. SHASDA

Mr. Bartha reported that the 2022-23 conference has been announced. It will be held on April 22 at the Hilton Garden Inn Southpointe. Student performance rewards will be presented.

22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

No report.

23. West Allegheny Foundation

No report.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

Mrs. Pustover reported that an Internet Safety Presentation for parents will be held on February 27 at 7 pm in the High School auditorium.

25. New Business

No report.

26. Open Forum

Jaime Sanabria, North Fayette, inquired about the following topics:

- Virtual or recorded meetings
- Attachments on the agenda
- More transparency

Mr. Andrews and Dr. Lippert responded. Some items are not publicly shared.

27. Adjournment

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

Robert Ostrander, Board President

Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary