

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

February 19, 2025

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 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 |
| | Debbie Mirich | Steven Pons |
| | Steve Psomas | Seth Tomei |

Absent - Vicki Bozic

Also Present - Mr. William Andrews, Solicitor
Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent
Mr. George Safin, Director of Finance

Mr. Ostrander announced that the Board met in executive session on February 12, and prior to tonight's meeting in regards to safety and personnel.

3. Public Comment

No comment.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the January 22, 2025, meeting to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mr. Bartha, 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, 2025, of \$55,212,078.49.

6. Communications

No communications this month.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. Lippert recognized the following recipients of the Distinguished Achievement Awards:

- Ken Wilson
- Mary Kelsey
- Heidi Kennedy

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Dr. Lippert reported on the following items:

- Recognition for Renae Castelluci who won the Presidential Award for Excellence.
- Wilson – Arts Alive, Wilson Wonders, Family Literacy Night and Log House Revitalization
- McKee – Talent Show, attendance and PBIS update
- Donaldson – Multiculture Night and Variety Show
- Middle School – Mark Davis tribute

9. President's Report

Mr. Ostrander gave an update on a post pandemic study that was conducted nationwide.

10. Unfinished Business

No comments.

11. Solicitor's Report

No report.

12. Personnel

On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mr. Tomei, 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 - \$135/day
Anna Slattery

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES - \$15/hr.
Skyler Bruno
Julie Heufelder

12.2 Approving the resignation of Tessa Letso, high school English teacher, effective no later than April 1, 2025.

12.3 Approving the retirement resignation of Richard Heron, Class II-A maintenance worker, effective April 4, 2025.

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- 12.4 Approving the retirement resignation of Lisa Hufnagel, Class II-C custodian, effective April 1, 2025.
- 12.5 Approving the resignation of Rose Ourada, Class III paraprofessional, effective February 7, 2025.
- 12.6 Approving the resignation of Julie Heufelder, Class IV-B lunch aide, effective February 14, 2025.
- 12.7 Approving the resignation of Matthew R. Cicchinelli, Senior Marine Instructor of the MCJROTC program, effective May 30, 2025.
- 12.8 Approving the resignation of Elana Ragan, high school English teacher, effective at the end of the 2024-25 school year.
- 12.9 Approving Celina Farabaugh to serve as a speech/language pathologist substitute at \$47/hour not to exceed 20 hours per week for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year.
- 12.10 Approving the following student intern at a cost of \$11/hour effective through the end of the 2024-25 school year:
Custodial - Isaiah Moore
- 12.11 Approving a salary adjustment for Scott McCracken from Master's (\$112,875) to Master's +15 (\$113,875), effective January 8, 2025.
- 12.12 Approving a salary adjustment for Joshua Bears from Master's +15 (\$113,875) to Master's +30 (\$114,875), effective January 30, 2025.
- 12.13 Approving hiring Ian Gadsby as a Class I-C custodian, effective date TBD. Salary, \$26.16/hour.
- 12.14 Approving hiring Christina Kreg as a Class III paraprofessional, effective date TBD. Salary, \$21.94/hour.
- 12.15 Approving an intermittent family medical leave for Michael Kercher, high school custodian, effective January 24, 2025, not to exceed 60 days.

13. Property & Supply

On a motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 13.1 through 13.8 on the Property & Supply agenda.

- 13.1 Approving Change Order GC-062 with The Hudson Group to remove and replace brick along the front of the building in order for the ironworker to have access to existing lintels for welding repairs at a cost of \$3,716.00.
- 13.2 Approving Change Order GC-063 with The Hudson Group for structural revisions at the new window openings in the gymnasium at a cost of \$2,897.00.

- 13.3 Approving Change Order HC-012 with Lugalia Mechanical to furnish and install ddc devices, programming, interlock wiring, switches and push button overrides for the two kitchen hoods at a cost of \$9,602.18.
- 13.4 Approving Change Order EC-021 with Allegheny City Electric to provide (2) surface mounted fixtures in the phase 7 stairwell and install (4) type F12 fixtures in the loading dock at a cost of \$2,481.02.
- 13.5 Approving Change Order EC-022 with Allegheny City Electric to perform recircuiting and dimming installation, add lighting controls to the light fixtures for performances in the LGI at a cost of \$8,135.59.
- 13.6 Approving Change Order EC-023 with Allegheny City Electric to provide and install new GFCI receptacles not shown on the drawings for the science refrigerators in rooms B204, B206, B207 & C209 at a cost of \$1,391.49.
- 13.7 Approving the following bus drivers for the district. All requirements have been met.
Robert King Dominic Mecchia Dana Trosky
- 13.8 Approving Thomas and Williamson as the construction management company for the construction of the HS-MS campus secondary roadway.

14. Finance

On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mr. Tomei, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 14.1 through 14.4, 14.6 through 14.8, and 14.10 through 14.13 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 On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mr. Tomei, and on a roll call vote, it was moved to approve the following tax collector compensation for the 2025-26 school year:
Findlay Township - 3,701 lines - \$22,443.86
North Fayette Township - 7,284 lines - \$41,630.82
Oakdale Borough - 763 lines - \$4,887.02

Mr. Ostrander has abstained from voting on this item due to a conflict of interest.

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

- 14.7 Approving a donation of \$750 to the Western Allegheny Community Library for operating expenses.
- 14.8 Authorizing the administration to advertise for proposals for Food Service Management Company Services to begin July 1, 2025.
- 14.9 On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mr. Tomei, and on a roll call vote, it was moved to approve the adoption of the Resolution as attached, and as presented by Bond Counsel, authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Unit Debt Act, for the purpose of funding the design, construction and equipping of additions and alterations to the West Allegheny Middle School.
- 14.10 Approving a real estate tax settlement appeal with Westport Findlay Development, LLC for commercial property in Findlay Township as recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.11 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.
- 14.12 Approving the Parkway West General Operating and Building Rental (Administrative-Jointure) Budget for 2025-26 as follows: Parkway West General Operating Budget \$9,602,622 Parkway West Jointure Budget \$1,079,716 West Allegheny School District's Share of Budget which reflects an \$800.56 increase from 2024-25 General Operating Budget. Parkway West General Operating Budget \$673,271.77 (\$672,471.21 in 2024-25) and Parkway West Jointure Budget \$78,488.39 (\$78,852.78 in 2024-25).
- 14.13 Approving the oil and gas lease agreement.

15. Policy & Programs

On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 15.1 through 15.7 on the Policy & Programs agenda.

- 15.1 Approving Policies 701, 702, 702.1, 704, 707, 716 and 718 of Section 700 of the updated policy manual. This represents the second of two required readings.
 - Policy 701 Facilities Planning
 - Policy 702 Gifts and Donations
 - Policy 702.1 Crowdfunding
 - Policy 704 Maintenance
 - Policy 707 Use of School Facilities
 - Policy 716 Integrated Pest Management
 - Policy 718 Service Animals in School
- 15.2 Approving Policies 800, 800.1, 801, 803, 804, 805, 805.1 805.2, 806, 807, 808, 810, 810.1, 810.2, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 815.1, 818, 819, 822, 823, 824, 827, 828, 830, and 830.1 of Section 800 of the updated policy manual. This represents the first of two required readings.
 - Policy 800 – Records Management
 - Policy 801.1 – Electronic Signatures/Records
 - Policy 801 – Public Records

Policy 803 – School Calendar
Policy 804 – School Day
Policy 805 – Emergency Preparedness and Response
Policy 805.1 – Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
Policy 805.2 – School Security Personnel
Policy 806 – Child Abuse
Policy 807 – Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays
Policy 808 – Food Service Policy 810 – Transportation
Policy 810.1 – School Bus Drivers and School Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers
Policy 810.2 – Transportation – Video/Audio Recording
Policy 811 – Bonding
Policy 812 – Property Insurance
Policy 813 – Other Insurance
Policy 814 – Copyright Material
Policy 815 – Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources
Policy 815.1 – Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education
Policy 818 - Contracted Services Personnel
Policy 819 - Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response
Policy 822 - Automated External Defibrillator
Policy 823 - Opioid Antagonist
Policy 824 - Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries
Policy 827 - Conflict of Interest
Policy 828 - Fraud Policy 830 - Security of Computerized Personal Information/Breach Notification
Policy 830.1 - Data Governance - Storage/Security

- 15.3 Approving the Arts Education Collaborative consultants to support our high school visual art teachers with curriculum development at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.
- 15.4 Approving the Middle School Program of Studies for the 2025-26 school year as presented.
- 15.5 Approving an Addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement with Community College of Allegheny County expanding our partnership in the Early College in High School Academy to include a dual enrollment Health Sciences program.
- 15.6 Approving the Amerigis Addendum (formerly Maxim staffing) to include bus aide services.
- 15.7 Approving the co-operative extracurricular sponsorship agreement for Majorettes with the Montour School District as presented.

16. Athletics & Activities

On a motion by Mr. Kosenina, seconded by Mr. Psomas, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 16.1 through 16.5 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Approving spring coaches for the 2025 season as presented. All clearance requirements have been met.

- 16.2 Approving Kristen Orndoff as the cheerleading head coach for the 2025-26 school year at a salary of \$6,933.79.
- 16.3 Approving a request from Terisa Sharlow for six students to attend the PMEA Regional Chorus Festival from March 19-21, 2025 in Waynesburg, PA at a cost not to exceed \$2,005.
- 16.4 Approving a request from Jim Hamilton for three students to attend the Speech and Debate state competition in Bloomsburg, PA from March 20-22, 2025 at a cost not to exceed \$2,861.
- 16.5 Approving a request from TJ Fox for 1 student to attend PMEA Regional Band in Ambridge, PA from March 6-8, 2025 at a cost not to exceed \$478.

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

No report.

18. Student Representatives

Lindsay Worthington and Jack Campbell reported on the following student activities:

Academics

- Students entered their course requests the first week of Feb. (8th grade on 2/4 & HS on 2/5)
- Advisory
 - Next Session is March 5 - Building a quality resume

JROTC

- Night to Shine @ The Table church (formerly Crossroads) - 18 student volunteers

Culture

- Nutrition, Inc Tasting Event - February 7
 - 18 students participated - truly enjoyed the experience and being able to provide feedback on potential food items
- Equity Scholar Panel
 - BHM is underway
 - Judging will occur next week on Feb. 28
- NHS
 - Mr. West A was last week on February 13
 - Jackson Danzik and Austin Conforti were crowned Mr. West A (1st ever tie in 22 year history)
 - Carson McKinney was crowned Mr. Congeniality
 - \$6,895 was raised for 9 different charities

Arts

- Zach Lebak made it into PMEA Regional Band
- Audrey Schotting made it into PMEA Regional Orchestra
- Me along with Audrey Schotting, Evan Kreg, Carson McKinney, Carlee Lash, Joy Wichryk, and Felix McAlwine (first alternate) made it into PMEA Regional Choir
- Spring Musical - Footloose

- March 13, 14, 15 @ 7pm; March 16 @ 2pm
- Tickets are on sale now!

Athletics

- **Signing Day recognition- Feb. 5:** We recognized 20 student-athletes who will be furthering their academic & athletic careers at a university or college. Parents & family members were in attendance
- **Unified Bocce:**
 - Playoff match on 2/14
 - Received 2nd place in our section.
 - We will find out later this week if we make it to Regionals @ Geneva this week.
- **Swimming:**
 - West Allegheny Varsity Swimming – 2025 MAC Championships this past weekend.
 - Girls team placed 5th out of 13 schools
 - Boys team placed 7th out of 13 schools
 - Almost all swimmers finished the meet with personal best times and several moved up from their original rank in their events.
 - Senior Sarah Lowman qualified for an additional WPIAL event in the 100 backstroke
 - Junior Alex Aivalotis broke Moon High School's pool record in the 100 breaststroke and the meet record with a time of 56.68. This also lowers his school record for the 5th time this season.
- **Wrestling**
 - 2024-2025 SECTION CHAMPS!
 - Thomas Bencho, Lucas Carson and Cam Danna got first place!
 - Michael Johnson got 2nd,
 - AJ Snatcho got 3rd,
 - Both Logan Slovick & Blake Schepis got 5th place.
 - All seven student-athletes will move forward to the WPIAL AAA Championships this weekend.
 - Our Junior High Wrestling team did well at their district championships, with Jack Stonebreaker winning his weight class and winning the award Outstanding Wrestler

19. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Spring Challenge
- Tax services
- New library director needed

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

20. Parkway West CTC

Mrs. Mirich reported on reported on the following activities:

- National Honor Society Inductees
- Open House – March 7

21. SHASDA

Mr. Bartha reported that the next meeting is scheduled for February 20.

22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

Mr. Psomas reported that they are currently looking for 2025 nominations.

23. West Allegheny Foundation

Mrs. Mirich announced that the Teacher's Cup will be held on March 7. They are collecting baskets for a raffle.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

No report.

25. New Business

No new business.

26. Open Forum

No public comment.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Pustover, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Robert Ostrander, Board President

George M. Safin, Pro-Tem Secretary