

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

February 21, 2024

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, February 21, 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 6:58 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Directors

Present -	Robert Ostrander – President	Tracy Pustover – Vice President
	Vicki Bozic	George Bartha
	Todd Kosenina	Debbie Mirich
	Steven Pons	Steve Psomas
	Seth Tomei	

Also Present -

- Mr. William Andrews, Solicitor
- Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent
- Dr. Chris Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent
- Dr. Shauna Nelson, Assistant to the Superintendent
- Ms. 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 January 29, February 14, February 19, and prior to tonight's meeting in regard to personnel and legal matters.

3. Public Comment

Meryl Hatton, North Fayette Township, asked about the hiring process and policy. She also asked about social media and who is on the Athletic committee.

Various Board members, Mr. Andrews and Dr. Lippert all responded.

Denise Geramita, North Fayette Township, asked about PSBA interview guidelines. She also asked about the level of degree required to be an Athletic Director and if a vote will be decided tonight on the Athletic Director position.

Mr. Andrews, Mr. Ostrander and Dr. Lippert all responded.

Frank Wertz, North Fayette Township, asked about the resume and application process.

Dr. Lippert responded.

Nicole Tramell, Findlay Township, voiced her support of the recommendation for the Athletic Director hiring, item 12.9.

Jaime Sanabria, North Fayette Township, shared that she is hopeful that the decision is a good one. She asked for more clarity around the process and procedures.

Kellen Campbell, Findlay Township, voiced his concerns regarding the hiring process. He doesn't understand why a certain candidate would not have gotten an interview.

Mr. Bartha responded. Mr. Ostrander and Dr. Lippert also responded.

Cindy Campbell, Findlay Township, asked to see a written policy for the hiring process.

Mr. Andrews responded.

Dawn Stone, Findlay Township, voiced that the community wants answers. They want transparency.

Mr. Ostrander responded.

4. Approval of Minutes

- 4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the January 17, 2024, meetings to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mrs. 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, Business Manager, and accepted by the board indicating a balance on January 31, 2024, of \$63,550,191.83.

6. Communications

No communications this month.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. Lippert recognized Barb Lecker and Kristin Persing for saving a choking preschool child.

She also acknowledged Dana Hannah and Officer Janectic for their quick response to the gas leak situation at the Middle School.

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

No report.

9. President's Report

No report.

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:

On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Pustover, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 12.1 through 12.8 on the Personnel agenda.

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

PROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTES - \$135/day

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES - \$15/hr.

Gabriel, Beth Ann

Weisal, Donald

Knapp, Madeline - LEAP Substitute, Teacher Hourly Rate \$27.75/hr.

12.2 Approving the retirement resignation of John Lacek, Class I-C custodian, effective February 9, 2024.

12.3 Approving the retirement resignation of Kevin Stripp, Class I-A HVAC maintenance, effective March 4, 2024.

12.4 Approving hiring Rebecca Duch, High School ELA teacher, effective with the start of the 2024-25 school year. Salary, 2nd step Masters per WAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

12.5 Approving a salary adjustment for Joshua Bears from Master's +15 (\$110,875) to Master's +30 (\$111,875) effective January 3, 2024.

12.6 Approving a family medical leave for Rachel Ermine, high school chemistry teacher, effective January 22, 2024, not to exceed 60 days.

12.7 Approving a family medical leave for Amanda Spada, high school ELA teacher, effective March 4, 2024, not to exceed 60 days.

12.8 Approving an intermittent family medical leave for Jaime Hively, Donaldson paraprofessional, effective January 23, 2024, not to exceed 60 days.

12.9 On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Pustover, on a roll call vote, it was moved to approve hiring Dr. Vladimir St. Surin, Athletic Director, effective March 18, 2024, at a salary of \$114,500.

Mrs. Bozic has abstained from voting on this item.

Dr. St. Surin thanked the Board and addressed the audience.

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. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 13.1 through 13.3 on the Property & Supply agenda.

- 13.1 Approving change order GC-018 with Hudson Construction to sawcut concrete and remove overburden at band room exterior wall to create required clearances for new addition foundation for a total cost of \$9,212.33.
- 13.2 Approving change order GC-019 with Hudson Construction to provide labor materials and equipment for additional drywall work at the Industrial Arts Lab, storage room SB-10, MS lobby steel columns, restroom RB-12, band and chorus room and classrooms C204 and C205 at a total cost of \$7,343.00.
- 13.3 Approving change order HC-002 with Lugaila Mechanical to provide labor, material, and equipment to install an inline exhaust fan, associated ductwork and controls necessary for the laser engraver in the Industrial Arts classroom at a total cost of \$3,452.89.

14. Finance

The Finance portion of the Committee report was presented by Mr. Bartha:

On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mr. Tomei, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 14.1 through 14.9 and 14.11 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 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 Parkway West General Operating and Building Rental (Administrative-Jointure) Budget for 2024-25 as follows:
Parkway West General Operating Budget \$8,865,766
Parkway West Jointure Budget \$800,017

West Allegheny School District's Share of Budget which reflects a \$19,831.86 increase from 2023-24 General Operating Budget.
Parkway West General Operating Budget \$672,471.21 (\$652,639.35 in 2023-24) and
Parkway West Jointure Budget \$78,852.78 (\$77,489.15 in 2023-24).
- 14.6 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.

- 14.7 Approving Resolution 2024-1 making a declaration of official intent for capital expenditures to be reimbursed from subsequent tax-exempt borrowings.
- 14.8 Awarding the bid for eSports Equipment to Howard Technology Solutions at a cost not to exceed \$46,427.50 in accordance with their bid submittal. The project will be paid out of the 2023-24 budget.
- 14.9 Approving a real estate tax assessment appeal with NP Pittsburgh Industrial 2 LLC for commercial property in Findlay Township as presented and recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.10 On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and on a roll call vote, it was moved to approve the following tax collector compensation for the 2024-25 school year:
Findlay Township - 3632 lines - \$22,074.36
North Fayette Township - 7168 lines - \$41,009.64
Oakdale Borough - 766 lines - \$4,906.23

Mr. Ostrander has abstained from voting on this item due to a conflict of interest.
- 14.11 Approving a donation to the local volunteer fire departments in the amount of \$3,000 (\$750 per department) as the District's annual contribution.
- 14.12 Approving a donation of \$750 to the Western Allegheny Community Library for operating expenses.
- 14.13 Approving the amended agreement with Questeq for an increase of \$37,500 through June 30, 2026, as a result of salary adjustments.

15. Policy & Programs

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

- 15.1 On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve Policies 115-123.2 of Section 100 of the updated policy manual. This represents the second of two required readings.

Policy 115 – Career and Technical Education
Policy 116 – Tutoring
Policy 117 – Homebound Instruction
Policy 121 – Field Trips
Policy 123.1 – Concussion Management
Policy 123.2 – Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- 15.2 On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve Policies 124-150 of Section 100 of the updated policy manual. This represents the first of two required readings.

Section 100 – Programs

Policy 124 – Alternative Instruction
Policy 125 – Adult Education
Policy 127 – Assessment System
Policy 130 – Homework
Policy 137 – Home Education Programs
Policy 137.1 – Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students
Policy 137.2 - Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Course by Home Education Students
Policy 137.3 – Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students
Policy 138 – Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners
Policy 140 – Charter Schools
Policy 140.1 – Extracurricular Participation by Charter/Cyber Charter Students
Policy 146 – Student Services
Policy 150 – Title I – Comparability of Services

- 15.3 On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mr. Pons, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with Pittsburgh Technical College continuing partnership in the PTC Early College in High School Academy programs.
- 15.4 On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mr. Pons, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with Robert Morris University continuing partnership in the RMU Early College in High School Academy programs.

16. Athletics & Activities

The Athletics & Activities portion of the Committee report was presented by Mr. Kosenina:

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

- 16.1 Approving spring coaches for the 2024 season as presented. All clearance requirements have been met.
- 16.2 Approving boys and girls lacrosse as a spring club sport with the following coaches:
Head Coach - Alan Puglia - \$2,000
Assistant Coach - Amanda Pegher - \$1,500
Assistant Coach - Mark Slagel - \$1,000
- 16.3 Approving a request from TJ Fox for one speech and debate student to attend the State Championships in Bloomsburg, PA on March 15th and March 16th. Estimated cost to the district is not to exceed \$2,000.

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

Dr. Nelson gave an update on a grant funded by the Grable Foundation.

18. Student Representatives

Jacob Monti, Esther Newton and Nathaniel Elek reported on the following activities:
Culture

February 21, 2024

- Mr. West A (2/8/24 & 2/9/24) - Jason Mathews won, Justin Manns was Mr. Congeniality
- Winter Formal share out (2/27/24)
- Spring Musical - Bye, Bye Birdie April 11-14
- Senior Bowling Trip - 1/31
- Senior Zoo Trip - 3/14
- Senior Ambassador update - Pillar, Gateway Clipper, Game Night
- Prom - Selling Tickets - April 2-5 - Star Wars Theme
- Polar Plunge this Friday

Academics

- Homework Free Weekend this past weekend (2/16-2/19)
- Ceramics Field Trip update
- Underclassmen enter courses for next year on 1/30 & 1/31 - Counselors and admin are building the schedule
- 129 Juniors attended National Pgh College Fair 2/7/24
- Most seniors are receiving their acceptance letters to college and making their final decisions on where they are going
- Business Career Expo - 2/21/24 - RMU Rockwell School of Business
- Industrial Manufacturing Technician Internship through Catalyst Connections - 2/27/24
- Energy & Conservation Career Expo- 3/15 - National Energy Foundation
- ECIHSA-PTC Student/Parent Information Session on Dual Enrollment
- SAT School Day Registration deadline - March 1st
- FAFSA Completion Workshop - Feb. 28th

ROTC

- Night to Shine (crossroads)- Feb. 9th
- Leadership Conference @ Valley Forge - 2 Students - Feb. 29-Mar. 2
- 2nd Annual Bingo @ Activity Center - Date TBD
- Colorguard @ Pens game - March 28 & April 11

Arts/Activities

- Eradicate Hate - late February Field Trip - share out what has occurred since last trip
- ESP Black History Month Challenge
- Art Show Theme - 2000s - April 24th - 26th - 1st day will be a Remake Learning experience where participants can tell their story through Art
- PGH Glass Center - Mosaics update

Athletics

- Bocce Play-offs started today - share score; Senior Night was 2/7
- Signing Day - 2/7/24 - 16 Students committed a college/university as student athletes
- Swim & Dive Senior Night
- Basketball Senior Night
- Spring Sports starting Monday March 4th
- WPIAL DIVING at North Allegheny
- wrestling sectionals this Saturday
- grace fits man made it to indoor track state finals at Penn State
- swimming finals February 29
- wrestling finals March 7th 8th and 9th
- fall schedules come out next Tuesday

19. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- \$10,000 grant
- Tourism grant
- Added items to borrow – knee walker, karaoke machine, etc.
- Spring Book Sale
- Amy McDonald, Director, was named Ambassador of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce

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

20. Parkway West CTC

Mrs. Mirich reported on the following activities:

- Skills USA District Competition 1st place winners - Morgan Delaney and Zoey Gazda will be competing in Hershey on April 3
- Career Exploration
- Open House – March 5th
- Fish Fry begins in February

Please visit their website for more information www.ptcollege.edu.

21. SHASDA

Dr. Shattuck reported on the meeting that took place on February 1. Artificial Intelligence and ChatGPT were discussed.

22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

No report.

23. West Allegheny Foundation

Mrs. Mirich announced that the Teacher's Cup is on March 1. It will cost \$5 at the door, and they will be doing 50/50 and basket raffles.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

No update.

25. New Business

No new business.

26. Open Forum

Cindy Campbell, Findlay Township, thanked Mr. McBain and welcomed Dr. St. Surin. She also asked the Board to let the community know the policy for hiring. Mrs. Campbell asked everyone in the room to work on building relationships.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Bozic, seconded by Mr. Bartha, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Robert Ostrander, Board President

Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary