

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

January 18, 2023

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, January 18, 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 7:22 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
	Kevin Hancock	Todd Kosenina
	Tracy Kosis	Debbie Mirich
	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

Mr. Ostrander announced that the policy, Item 15.1, was not presented publicly on the website. The correction was handled.

Mr. Ostrander announced that the Board met in executive session on January 11 and prior to tonight's meeting regarding personnel, legal and negotiations.

3. Public Comment

No public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

- 4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the December 7, 2022, and December 14, 2022, meetings 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 December 31, 2022 of \$56,490,516.24.

6. Communications

No communications this month.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. Lippert recognized each Board member for Board Appreciation Month.

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Dr. Lippert discussed the following activities:

- Kindergarten registration
- District app launched
- February 1 – athletic college declaration day

9. President's Report

Mr. Ostrander thanked the administrative staff for the acknowledgement.

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. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 12.1 through 12.10 on the Personnel agenda.

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

12.2 Approving a salary adjustment for Taylor Cavalovitch, grade 4 teacher at Donaldson, from bachelor's (\$54,775) to master's (\$56,775) retroactive to December 9, 2022.

12.3 Approving a salary adjustment for Robert Yost, chemistry teacher at the high school, from master's (\$61,775) to PhD/National Board Certification (\$66,775) effective December 11, 2022.

12.4 Approving the resignation of Laura Montecalvo, guidance counselor at the high school, no later than February 10, 2023.

12.5 Approving the resignation of Ryan Andrews, grade 5 long-term substitute at Wilson, effective December 16, 2022.

- 12.6 Approving John Camello as a long-term substitute grade 5 teacher at Wilson effective December 19, 2022. Salary, 1st Step Bachelor's, prorated.
- 12.7 Approving a full school term educational sabbatical for Curt Russell, health and physical education teacher at the middle school, for the 2023-24 school year.
- 12.8 Approving continuing an unpaid medical leave of absence for Scott Smith, Class I-C custodian, through March 31, 2023.
- 12.9 Approving a family medical leave of absence for Lisa Rukas, grade 1 teacher at Donaldson beginning January 19, 2023, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.10 Approving the retirement resignation of Bonnie DeBiasio, Class IV-A cook at McKee Elementary, effective January 26, 2023.

13. Property & Supply

Nothing to report this month.

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 14.5 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 Resolution 2023-1 that guarantees the Board will not exceed its PDE established Act 1 index of 4.7% when adopting its millage rate for the 2023-2024 General Fund Budget.
- 14.6 On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve Arctic Wolf as the information technology managed detection and response service provider for the District at an annual subscription cost not to exceed \$118,000 for the first year, with an annual increase of up to 8%. Subject to review and approval by our solicitor.

Mr. Bartha added a sentence to the end of the original motion.

- 14.7 On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, it was moved to authorize the incurring of nonelectoral debt by the issuance of general obligation (limited tax) bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000.00); covenanting to pay, and pledging all available taxing power of the local government unit for the payment of, the bonds; establishment of a sinking fund and appointment of a sinking fund depository; fixing the form, maximum interest rates, maturity dates and other provisions for the payment thereof; authorizing the acceptance of a proposal for the purchase of the bonds; authorizing a filing of required documents with the department of community and economic development; authorizing the acquisition of bond insurance; ratifying and directing certain actions of officers; and making certain other covenants and provisions in respect of the bonds.

15. Policy & Programs

The Policy & Programs portion of the Committee report was presented by Mr. Hancock:

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

- 15.1 Approving changes to the Technology Acceptable Use Policy #6270 as presented. This is the first of two required readings.
- 15.2 Approving Dr. Michael Quigley as a grade 9-12 social studies curriculum consultant at a rate of no more than \$600 per day, at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 for the period of January 2023 through June 2025.
- 15.3 Approving a partnership with Animal Friends Therapets for the purpose of bringing pet therapy to students at the high school and McKee Elementary, at no cost to the district.

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 through 16.3 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Approving hiring the following volleyball coaches for the 2023 season (all clearance requirements have been met):
3rd Assistant (MS Head) - Steve Nicola - \$4,625.54
4th Assistant (MS Asst.) – Karen Horwatt - \$4,205.03
- 16.2 Approving the following wrestling volunteers for the 2022-23 winter season. All clearance requirements have been met.
Jake Leninsky
Don Hall
Tom Bencho

- 16.3 Approving hiring Christine Chiodo as the head girls soccer coach for the 2023 season at a salary of \$6,933.79.
- 16.4 On a motion by Mr. Kosenina, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and on a roll call vote, it was moved to approve hiring Scott Zemba as the head boys soccer coach for the 2023 season at a salary of \$6,933.79.

Mr. Colinear opposed the vote.

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

No report this month.

18. Student Representatives

Alex Booth and Connor Frank reported on the following activities:

- Academics
 - Tuesday marked the start of the 3rd quarter. It's hard to believe that we are halfway through our Senior Year. Report Cards will be posted this Friday.
 - NHS Induction will be next Wednesday, January 25 at 5:00 pm.
- Activities
 - The Ski Club returned from Utah on Monday. They had a wonderful time, and everyone loved the experience.
- Athletics
 - Rugby full swing. We are looking forward to a big upcoming tournament.
 - Senior night for bocce occurred last night. The Show Choir opened the event with the National Anthem, and our cheerleading team was also there to cheer them on.
 - Swim/Dive Senior Night is also approaching and will be held on Tuesday, January 24.
- Culture
 - Scholar Panel will be launching a Black History Month Challenge at each of the elementary schools.
 - Listen Lucy presentation will occur for all Sophomores this Friday.
 - We are wrapping up ticket sales this week for the Snowball Dance. We need to sell 350 tickets to hold the dance, so we are hoping that we sell enough.
- Arts
 - WAHS will be hosting the WACA Honor's band next Monday and Tuesday. The band students will showcase their talents with a concert on Tuesday night at 7:00 pm in our auditorium.
 - Jack Campbell made it to Regionals for Chorus. Liam Kilbourne is the first alternate. Both students are sophomores, so this very exciting for them and our chorus program.

19. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Fine free in 2023
- Tax services – call for appointment
- January 23 – closed for in-service

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

20. Parkway West CTC

No report this month.

21. SHASDA

No report this month.

22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

No report.

23. West Allegheny Foundation

Mrs. Mirich announced the teacher grant award recipients: Amy Boesenberg, Amberleigh Werling and Mike Shaffer. \$1000 was also pledged to a larger Middle School project.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

Dr. Shattuck reported that a meeting was held on Microsoft Teams on January 17. The discussed Listen Lucy and internet safety training that the SROs will be doing in February.

25. New Business

No report.

26. Open Forum

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

- Virtual or recorded meetings
- Policy questions
- No link to School Board on the new app
- More transparency
- More detailed minutes

Mr. Ostrander and Dr. Lippert responded.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Robert Ostrander, Board President

Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary