

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

March 15, 2023

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, in the District Office Board Room located at Wilson Elementary School. The Vice President, Mrs. Tracy Pustover, presided. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Directors

Present -	Tracy Pustover – Vice President	
	George Bartha	Joel Colinear
	Todd Kosenina	Tracy Kosis
	Debbie Mirich	
Absent -	Robert Ostrander	
	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	

Mrs. Pustover announced that the Board met in executive session on March 8 and prior to tonight's meeting regarding legal matters, student matters 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 February 15, 2023, meeting to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, 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 February 28, 2023 of \$47,815,758.72.

6. Communications

No communications this month.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. Lippert recognized Melissa Taranto, Anna Merhaut, Carolyn Stultz, Renae Castelluci and Megan Napoleone for their responses to a student who suffered a medical condition after jumping in to the pool.

Lieutenant Mike Hamm presented Melissa Taranto with an award on behalf of North Fayette Police Department.

Dr. Lippert also recognized Melissa Wagner and Trish Nolan, who were named MVP Principals by the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Mrs. Adams recognized Macey Partyka and Anthony Castelluci on their work with a PA Education grant.

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Dr. Lippert discussed the following activities:

- Campus beautification
- Musical
- End of 3rd quarter
- Early dismissals

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. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 12.1 through 12.13 on the Personnel agenda.

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

PROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTES

Richardson, Jamie \$135/day

Stoker, Edward \$135/day

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES

Swartz, Crista \$15/hour

- 12.2 Approving removing the Class II-B benefits clerk position from the WAESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement effective June 30, 2023.
- 12.3 Approving the opening of a Benefits Specialist position as a confidential secretary effective July 1, 2023.
- 12.4 Approving Michele Maggi as the benefits specialist effective July 1, 2023. Salary - \$58,276.
- 12.5 Approving the resignation of Lindsey Pekala, Wilson Elementary paraprofessional, effective February 27, 2023.
- 12.6 Approving the resignation of Brian Lander, McKee Elementary custodian, effective March 10, 2023.
- 12.7 Approving the resignation of Christa Lancaster, grade 5 teacher at Wilson Elementary, effective March 28, 2023.
- 12.8 Approving a family medical leave of absence for Amanda Pegher, high school guidance counselor, beginning March 16, 2023, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.9 Approving an intermittent family medical leave of absence for Lisa Hufnagel, Wilson Elementary custodian, beginning February 9, 2023, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.10 Approving an unpaid medical leave of absence for Melissa McCready, McKee Elementary lunch aide, beginning May 8, 2023 through the remainder of the 2022-23 school year.
- 12.11 Approving hiring Alan Puglia as a high school guidance counselor, pending receipt of favorable background clearances, effective April 17, 2023. Salary, Step 5 Master's, \$55,775, prorated.
- 12.12 Approving hiring Shelley Murphy, Donaldson grade 1 teacher, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year. Salary, Master's Step 3, \$53,975.
- 12.13 Approving hiring Christine LaGrosse, Wilson kindergarten teacher, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year. Salary, Bachelor's Step 3, \$51,975.

13. Property & Supply

The Property & Supply 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 13.1 and 13.2 on the Property & Supply agenda.

- 13.1 Approving Sean Williams as a bus driver for the District. All requirements have been met.
- 13.2 Approving a contract with Johnny's Landscaping to perform lawn care and landscape services from March 15 to November 15, 2023 with an optional 2-year service extension through November 2025 per the terms of the West Allegheny Lawn Care and Landscape Services RFP.

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 14.8 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 February Activity Reports as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.5 Approving the proposed 2023/2024 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget in the amount of \$2,235,963.00. The Allegheny County (AIU3) school districts' total contribution to the budget is \$1,899,026.00. The West Allegheny School District contribution to the Program of Services Budget is estimated to be \$75,139.00 (\$6,419 increase over 2022-23) and will be determined by PDE according to District Aid Ratio and Weighted Average Daily Membership (WADM).
- 14.6 Approving the audit report as of June 30, 2022 as presented by the District's independent auditor, Mark Turnley, CPA.
- 14.7 Approving the purchase of 1,350 Chromebooks, Google licensing, asset tagging, and enrollment services from Dell Education, a Costars approved vendor COSTARS #C000001020025, at a cost not to exceed \$354,375.00.
- 14.8 Approving the purchase of 270 iPads and protective cases from Apple Education, a PEPPM approved vendor, at a cost not to exceed \$88,830.

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 a Memorandum of Agreement with Pittsburgh Technical College supporting the addition of a Robotics and Autonomous Engineering Technology program increasing the offerings to ten (10) PTC Early College in High School Academy programs.
- 15.2 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement with Robert Morris University supporting the addition of Bachelor of Science in Special Education program increasing the offerings to seven (7) RMU Early College in High School Academy programs.

- 15.3 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement with Rosedale Technical College for three (3) new programs including Automotive Technology, Collision Repair Technology, and Diesel Technology beginning in the 2023-24 school year as part of the Early College in High School Academy.
- 15.4 Approving the student adjudication for Student L as presented.

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 Todd Rasbach and Josh Ghaly as Track and Field volunteers for the 2023 spring season. All clearance requirements have been met.
- 16.2 Approving a 5-year Sports Medicine Contract with UPMC from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2028. Rates are listed below:
- 2023 - 2024 \$40,063.00
2024 – 2025 \$40,063.00
2025 – 2026 \$41,265.00
2026 – 2027 \$42,503.00
2027 – 2028 \$43,778.00
- 16.3 Approving Nicole White as a musical volunteer for the 2023 spring production. All clearance requirements have been met.

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

Dr. Nelson reported on Act 55.

18. Student Representatives

Alex Booth reported on the following activities:

- Academics
 - Earlier this month, students had the opportunity to take the ACT and SAT during the school day. We had about 150 students engage in school day testing.
 - AP Mock Exams have also been occurring to help prepare students for AP Exams that will begin May 1st.
- Activities
 - Band and chorus are making their final preparations for their trip to Kentucky in April.
 - Mr. Groba organized 2 trips for students to see The Blue Man group and Beetlejuice, the musical at the Benedum this past month.

- Athletics
 - Our boys wrestling had a strong performance at States in Hershey last weekend. Nico Taddy placed 7th in the 145-weight class, Shawn Taylor placed 2nd in the 160-weight class, and Ty Watters, wrestling in the 152 weight class, was the *defending* state champion!
 - We have 9 swimmers/divers representing West A at the state championships. We wish them the best of luck.
 - Cheerleading celebrated the end of their season with their annual banquet.
 - We have started a Lacrosse Club team... and everyone on the team is excited. We are looking forward to seeing this program grow.
 - Baseball is currently fundraising with discount cards. See any team member to get your card.
 - Spring track & field is up and running with their first scrimmage on Thursday against Ambridge.
 - The JV Hockey team is still in the playoffs. Go team!
 - The Rugby team will be heading to Ohio this weekend to participate in the North Coast tournament.
- Culture
 - Freshmen went to CCAC for a college tour last Friday, and our Sophomores will be visiting Penn State Beaver this Friday. This helps our students meet their CEW requirements that are needed for Graduation.
 - The annual Senior Zoo Trip is also quickly approaching. We are hoping for warmer weather.
 - On Wednesday, March 1st, the iLead staff and students presented an assembly around overcoming challenges and perseverance to our 9th graders.
- Arts
 - The Opening Night for the Musical is on March 23. We will be having teasers for 7th-12th grades tomorrow.
 - Ashlee Lebac has been selected as the School Specialty/Sax April 2023 Featured Artist for her “Mother’s Lily” Piece. With this achievement, Ashlee and Ashlee’s teacher will both receive a School Specialty Merchandise Certificate for \$250 to be used at SchoolSpecialty.
 - Rene Taiyrova’s artwork was chosen for the front cover of the Davis Monthly Planner. Rene and her art teacher, Mrs. Shuck will each receive a \$100 Blick Art Materials gift card, and 10 copies of the Planner.
 - 9th graders Amanda Gates and Vincenzo Bardelli participated in PMEA Junior Band at the beginning of month.

19. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Fine Free for 2023
- Links for Library – adult night and family day – April 14 and 15
- Spanish and Sensory story time added
- Used Book Sale

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

20. Parkway West CTC

Mrs. Pustover reported on the Friday Fish Fry.

21. SHASDA

Mr. Bartha reported on the Annual Recognition event that will take place on March 30.

22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

No report.

23. West Allegheny Foundation

No report.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

No report.

25. New Business

No report.

26. Open Forum

No comments.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Tracy Pustover, Board Vice President

Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary