

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

**March 19, 2025**

**1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, March 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  
Dr. Chris Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent  
Dr. Shana Nelson, Assistant to the Superintendent  
Dr. Lynn Utchell, Assistant to the Superintendent  
Mr. George Safin, Director of Finance  
Mrs. Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary

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

**3. Public Comment**

No comment.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

- 4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the February 19, 2025, meeting to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mr. Psomas, 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, 2025, of \$47,936,778.97.

**6. Communications**

No communications this month.

**7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award**

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

- Dr. Kimberly Buser and Dr. Lisa Yanek
- Christopher Lucas
- Mrs. Mirich

**8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators**

Dr. Lippert reported on the following items surrounding Military Month:

- Signing day – April 8
- Spirit week
- Special breakfast
- Jeans donation
- Diaper drive

Dr. Underwood reported on the recipient of the Promising Practitioner Award, Justine Yanosik.

**9. President's Report**

Mr. Ostrander gave an update on a post pandemic study that was conducted nationwide. He thanked the staff, students and families for their work during the pandemic and beyond.

**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, and 12.18 on the Personnel agenda.

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

PROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTES - \$135/day

Hayes, Tyler

Hollein, Richard

Pratt, Zoe

Rossi, Brandon

Sabo, Sarah

Tkalcevic, Kristin

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES - \$15/hr.

Kiss, Hannah  
Landrio, Alicia  
Ourada, Rose  
Whitaker, Jena  
Webster-Gigg, Chloe

- 12.2 Approving the resignation of Kelly Timco, Wilson lunch aide, effective March 14, 2025.
- 12.3 Approving the resignation of Cathy Mathias, Middle School server, effective March 14, 2025.
- 12.4 Approving the promotion of Daniel Fedorka from Class I-C custodian to Class I-A maintenance (plumber) effective April 2, 2025. Salary, \$31.25/hour.
- 12.5 Approving the hiring of Alan Dilts to Class I-A maintenance (HVAC) effective date TBD. Salary, \$29.96/hour.
- 12.6 Approving hiring Raelyn Horne as a middle school guidance counselor effective with the start of the 2025-26 school year. Salary - first step of the Master's Scale - \$57,925.
- 12.7 Approving hiring Brianne McDonough as a Wilson Elementary life skills teacher effective with the start of the 2025-26 school year. Salary - first step of the Bachelor's Scale - \$55,925.
- 12.8 Approving hiring Samantha Harrison as a Wilson Elementary special education teacher effective with the start of the 2025-26 school year. Salary - first step of the Master's Scale - \$57,925.
- 12.9 Approving hiring Melinda Snyder as a Class IV-B 4.5-hour server at Wilson Elementary, effective March 20, 2025. Salary, \$20.15/hour.
- 12.10 Approving hiring Rachelle Gove as a Class IV-B 4.5-hour server at the middle school, effective March 20, 2025. Salary, \$20.15/hour.
- 12.11 Approving hiring Danielle Cunic as a Class IV-B 3.75-hour server at the high school, effective March 20, 2025. Salary, \$20.15/hour.
- 12.12 Approving hiring Irazema Rodriguez as a Class IV-B lunch aide at Donaldson Elementary, effective March 20, 2025. Salary, \$20.15/hour.
- 12.13 Approving hiring Bethany Rider as a Class IV-B lunch aide at Wilson Elementary, effective March 31, 2025. Salary, \$20.15/hour.
- 12.14 Approving a family medical leave for Amanda Pegher, high school guidance counselor, effective on or about April 15, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.15 Approving an intermittent family medical leave for Mary Jo Seybert, middle school English Language Arts teacher, effective February 18, 2025, not to exceed 60 days.

March 19, 2025

- 12.16 On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mr. Tomei, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve the hiring of Jim Young as high school assistant principal effective July 1, 2025, at a salary of \$123,000.
- 12.17 On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mr. Tomei, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve the hiring of Angel Washington as high school assistant principal effective July 1, 2025, at a salary of \$129,500.

Mr. Ostrander congratulated the two new administrative hires.

- 12.18 Approving hiring Vincent Kimball as a high school English teacher effective March 26, 2025. Salary - sixth step of the Master's Scale - \$62,565 (prorated).

### **13. Property & Supply**

On a motion by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mr. Psomas, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 13.1 through 13.2 on the Property & Supply agenda.

- 13.1 Approving change order GC-064 with the Hudson Group to install bulkheads and adjust drywall ceiling heights at the 2nd floor corridor near the new main staircase and within the Industrial Arts Classroom at a total cost of \$7,353.00.
- 13.2 Approving change order EC-024 with Allegheny City Electric to install new concrete bases and 2 new flag pole lights, relocate the power wiring for a future monument sign, and revise power voltage from 277v to 120v for the lights under the main stair at a total cost of \$5,300.01.

### **14. Finance**

On a motion by Mr. Barth, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 14.1 through 14.9 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 2025/2026 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget in the amount of \$2,361,050. The Allegheny County (AIU3) school districts' total contribution to the budget is \$1,984,536. The West Allegheny School District's contribution to the Program of Services Budget is estimated to be \$81,306 (an increase of \$4,923 from prior year). The districts' final withholding allocation will be based on the District Aid Ratio and Weighted Average Daily Membership (WADM). The withholding allocations will be determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education sometime after July 1, 2025.

- 14.6 Approving a real estate tax assessment appeal with Realty Income Pennsylvania Properties Trust for commercial property located in North Fayette Township as recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.7 Approving a real estate tax assessment appeal with Home Depot USA for commercial property in North Fayette as recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.8 Approving the financial audit report as of June 30, 2024 as presented by the District's independent auditor, Mark Turnley, CPA.
- 14.9 Approving the agreement with Valbridge Property Advisors to provide appraisal services to the District at a cost of \$7,000.

## **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 15.5 on the Policy & Programs agenda.

- 15.1 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement with Carlow University for a new partnership in the Early College in High School Academy program.
- 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 second 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 Policies 903, 904, 906, 907, 908, 909, 913, 914, 916, and 918 of Section 900 of the updated policy manual. This represents the first of two required readings.  
Policy 903 – Public Comment in Board Meetings  
Policy 904 – Public Attendance at School Events  
Policy 906 - Public Complaint Procedures  
Policy 907 – School Visitors  
Policy 908 – Relations with Parents/Guardians  
Policy 909 – Municipal Government Relations  
Policy 913 – Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals  
Policy 914 – Relations with Intermediate Unit  
Policy 916 - Volunteers  
Policy 918 - Title I Parent and Family Engagement
- 15.4 Approving the formation of the student-led Key Club at West Allegheny High School, sponsored by Mr. Slagel and Mr. McBurney, to begin March 20, 2025 and continue into subsequent years pending student interest.
- 15.5 Approving the formation of the student-led Aerospace Club at West Allegheny High School, sponsored by Mr. Slagel, to begin March 20, 2025 and continue into subsequent years pending student interest.

## **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 16.6 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Approving Sarah Bioni as the girls lacrosse first assistant for the 2025 spring season. Salary - \$4,269.74. All clearance requirements have been met.
- 16.2 Approving Maura Castelluci as the Girls Basketball Head Coach. Salary - \$9,305.88. All clearance requirements have been met.
- 16.3 Approving a request from TJ Fox for one student to attend PMEA State Band in Pocono Manor, PA from April 9-12, 2025, at a cost to the district not to exceed \$2,132.
- 16.4 Approving a request from Terisa Sharlow for three students to attend PMEA All State Chorus in Pocono Manor, PA from April 9-12, 2025, at a cost to the district not to exceed \$3,032.
- 16.5 Approving Max Smith as a boys lacrosse volunteer for the 2025 spring season. All clearance requirements have been met.
- 16.6 Approving Lisa Wilson as a softball volunteer for the 2025 spring season. All clearance requirements have been met.

## **17. Federal Programs & Legislation**

No report.

## 18. Student Representatives

Ava Elliott and Lindsay Worthington 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

March 19, 2025

- 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 Slovic & 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:

- Open part-time position, Library Assistant
- 2024 Annual Report released in March

Please visit the Library and their website for more information  
[www.westernalleghenylibrary.org](http://www.westernalleghenylibrary.org).

**20. Parkway West CTC**

Mrs. Mirich reported on the menu expansion for the fish fry and lunches.

**21. SHASDA**

Mr. Bartha reported on the following activities:

- Last meeting – Baldwin Whitehall discussed some programs they are utilizing, and Weiss Burkhart & Kramer discussed some of the executive orders signed by President Trump and how they pertain to schools
- Student Recognition Banquet will be held April 12

**22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame**

Mr. Psomas reported that they are currently looking for 2025 nominations. The banquet will be held on October 18 at the SNPJ.

**23. West Allegheny Foundation**

Mrs. Mirich announced that the Teacher's Cup winner was McKee. The best teacher entrance award went to Donaldson. Close to 900 people attended and roughly \$8000 was raised.



**24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee**

No report.

**25. New Business**

No new business.

**26. Open Forum**

Jena Turner, Findlay, asked for help to have the Wilson log house renovated and kept up.

**27. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mr. Bartha, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

---

Robert Ostrander, Board President

---

Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary