WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

May 20, 2026

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 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	Vicki Bozic
	Dr. Mildred Johnson	Tammy Adams McBain
	Steven Pons	Steve Psomas
	Seth Tomei	

Also Present -
Mr. William Andrews, Solicitor
Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent
Dr. Christopher Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Shana Nelson, Assistant to the Superintendent
Dr. Lynn Utchell, Assistant to the Superintendent
Dr. Katharine Roche, Director of Special Projects
Mr. George Safin, Director of Finance

Mr. Ostrander announced that the Board has met in executive session on May 13, and prior to tonight's meeting regarding personnel, safety, and legal matters.

3. Public Comment

No comment.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the April 22, 2026, meeting to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Ms. 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 April 30, 2026, of $49,011,318.91.

6. Communications

Nothing to report.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

Mrs. Adams McBain recognized Jen Rogers.
Dr. Utchell recognized Jim Hamilton.
Various Administrators recognized the following retirees:

Claire March
Kathy Taylor
Lea Hartzog
Mary Jo Seybert
Sandra Kephart
Mary Kelsey
Lisa Wilson
Trish Nolan
Laurie Rosso
Rik Mason
Tom Burke
Scott McCracken

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

No report.

9. President's Report

No report.

10. Unfinished Business

No comments.

11. Solicitor's Report

Mr. Andrews wished the retirees the best.

12. Personnel

On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mrs. Adams McBain, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 12.1 through 12.9 on the Personnel agenda.

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

PROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTES - $135/day
Eannace, Taylor
Riggi, Maya

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES - $15/hr.
VanSickle, Linda

12.2 Approving a salary adjustment for Tammy Chiccarello from Master's ($115,875) to Master's +15 ($116,875), effective April 17, 2026.

12.3 Approving a salary adjustment for Tracey Leonard from Bachelor's Step 4 ($64,550) to Bachelor's Step 5 ($66,100) effective the start of the 2026-27 school year.

12.4 Approving closing the Class II-C 10 Month student services clerk position. Closing effective July 1, 2026.

12.5 Approving opening of a Class II-A 12-month secretary position to support the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Assistant to the Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services effective August 11, 2026.

12.6 Approving a family medical leave of absence for Warren McGhee, Middle School custodian, beginning April 13, 2026, not to exceed 54 days.

12.7 Approving the retirement resignation of Nancy Barner, High School clerk, effective September 11, 2026.

12.8 Approving the transfer of Dr. Erin Dieker, Principal of Donaldson Elementary School, to Wilson Elementary School teacher Grade 2 effective August 17, 2026.

12.9 Approving Mr. Gary Hutsler as principal of Donaldson Elementary School effective July 1, 2026, at a salary of $130,000.

13. Property & Supply

On a motion by Mr. Pons, seconded by Mrs. Adams McBain, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 13.1 and 13.2 on the Property & Supply agenda.

13.1 Approving a service agreement with KTS Transit LLC to transport students attending out of district placements as presented retroactive to April 13, 2026.

13.2 Approving the Stopfinder app, which is integrated with the routing software system, to allow parents to accurately track their child/ren's school bus location in real time and receive alerts and notifications pertaining to transportation at a cost to the district of $4500, annually, effective June 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029. Monark Student Transportation will be paying approximately $14,500, annually to support Stopfinder.

14. Finance

On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mr. Pons, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 14.1 through 14.11 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 Activity Reports as presented to the Board Members.

14.5 Approving the assessment appeal settlement as recommended and presented by the solicitor.

14.6 Approving the appeal settlement as recommended and presented by the solicitor.

14.7 Approving the assessment appeal settlement as presented and recommended by the solicitor.

14.8 Approving the assessment appeal settlement as presented and recommended by the solicitor.

14.9 Approving the resolution as presented urging Allegheny County Council to mandate and implement a system of regular, periodic property tax reassessments due to the significant loss of District assessed value, at approximately $294,000,000, equating to over $5,000,000 in lost revenue, annually.

14.10 Approving the continuation of the current real estate tax assessment appeal program as presented and recommended by the solicitor.

14.11 Approving awarding bids for the following: General Supplies, Arts and Crafts Supplies, Light Bulbs, Janitorial Supplies, Industrial Arts Supplies and Lumber, Athletics Supplies and Equipment, and Copier Paper.

15. Policy & Programs

On a motion by Mr. Tomei, seconded by Mrs. Adams McBain, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 15.1 through 15.5 on the Policy & Programs agenda.

15.1 Approving the student adjudication for Student S as presented.

15.2 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement with Carlow University continuing partnership in the Carlow Early College in High School Academy program.

15.3 Approving the Comprehensive Services Agreement and Special Education Addendum with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

15.4 Approving the Educational Services Agreement with Intermediate Unit 1 for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

15.5 Approving the second shift/evening School Resource Officer Agreement with North Fayette Township for a one-year term beginning August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2027, as presented.

16. Athletics & Activities

On a motion by Mr. Psomas, seconded by Ms. Bozic, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve item 16.1 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

16.1 Approving a request from Josh Bears for the 8th grade to attend an overnight educational trip to Washington, DC from May 26-28, 2027, at a cost to the district not to exceed $2,150 for substitute teachers.

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

No report.

18. Student Representatives

Mr. Ostrander thanked all the student representatives.

Carly Lash and Lydia Lapin reported on the following activities:

1. Academics
   - Senior Awards were held yesterday, May 19 at 6:00; Grades 9-11 Awards Night is tomorrow night.
   - Regular AP testing wrapped up last week, make-ups and late testing are underway.
   - Keystone Testing wrapped up yesterday - May 19, only make-ups remaining
   - Finals are underway.

2. JROTC
   - Upcoming community service events
     - On May 16, 13 cadets placed American flags at local veterans' grave sites (supporting Oakdale VFW)
   - May 16 was our JROTC final exam.

3. Arts
   - The show choir was invited to participate in Norwin High School's show choir invitational last Wednesday, May 13 alongside many other school districts. We performed our Disney-themed show and got to see all of the other schools perform their shows.
   - The brass ensemble, jazz band, and percussion ensemble had their concerts last Tuesday, May 12 at 7.
   - We would like to congratulate musical member Caisey Kreg for her accomplishment of being selected as a finalist for Best Supporting Actress in the Gene Kelly Awards, which will take place this Saturday, May 23. The show is also up in the top three schools for Best Costume Design, Best Vocal Ensemble, and Best Dance Ensemble within our budget category.

4. Athletics
   - Community Service: Football program community clean up with North Fayette Police.
   - Varsity Softball played in the first round WPIAL playoff game vs Greater Latrobe on Tuesday May 12th. We won 11 -1 and moved on to play Baldwin in the second round on Thursday May 19th.
   - Varsity baseball played their first round WPIAL playoff game vs Montour on Tuesday May 12th.

- Varsity Track & Field participated in the WPIAL Championship on Thursday May 14th at Slippery Rock University.
- MS Softball team finished with a XX record.
- MS Swimming finished in 2nd place for the SWC Championships.

5. Culture
   - Prom
   - Senior Breakfast Week starts May 18
     - Monday - Made to Order Donuts
     - Tuesday - Flavored Coffees and pastries
     - Wednesday - Breakfast Sandwiches
     - Thursday - Yogurt bar
     - Friday - Breakfast of Champions
   - Senior grades are due by Friday, May 22 and this is also our Senior Picnic!
   - Senior Celebration is May 27 and Graduation is May 28!!!
     - Joi Wichryk, Sophia Swoager, and Carlee Lash are excited to sing the National Anthem at Graduation.

19. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Blood Drive
- Puzzle Exchange

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

20. Parkway West CTC

Mr. Tomei reported on the following activities:

- Summer Camp
- Senior Recognition Ceremony

Please visit their website for more information www.parkwaywest.org.

21. SHASDA

No report.

22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

No report.

23. West Allegheny Foundation

Mrs. Adams McBain reported that senior scholarships were awarded to Colton Yonker and Carly Lash.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

No report.

25. New Business

No new business.

26. Open Forum

Mary Ann Rogers, Findlay Township, Wilson PTA President, reported on her support of the Say Yes to Recess Organization.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Psomas, seconded by Mrs. Pustover, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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Robert Ostrander, Board President

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George M. Safin, Pro-Tem Secretary