

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

October 18, 2023

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, October 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 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Directors

Present - Robert Ostrander – President Tracy Pustover – Vice President
 Todd Kosenina Tracy Kosis
 Debbie Mirich

Absent - George Bartha
 Joel Colinear
 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

Mr. Ostrander announced that the Board met in executive session on October 10 and prior to tonight’s meeting regarding personnel and legal matters.

3. Public Comment

Jaime Sanabria, North Fayette, asked the Board to vote no on item 15.2, Policy Section 000.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the September 20, 2023, meeting to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mr. Rosen, 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 September 30, 2023, of \$73,907,513.09.

6. Communications

Nothing to report.

7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award

Mrs. Adams recognized Sue Kriznik.

Dr. Lippert and Mrs. Adams recognized Leah Vestal.

Dr. Lippert and Mrs. Wagner recognized Renae Castelluci.

8. Reports of Superintendent and Administrators

Dr. Lippert discussed the following activities:

- High School earning the National Blue-Ribbon School Award
- Open Houses

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 12.7, 12.9 and 12.10 on the Personnel agenda.

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

PROFESSIONAL TEACHER SUBSTITUTES at \$135/day
Duch, Rebecca

PROFESSIONAL NURSE SUBSTITUTES at \$150/day
Brannagan, Paige
Martin, Jessica

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES at \$15/hour
Escalante, Wendy
Ramirez, Claudia

King, Janet
Kiss, Jennifer
Gatto, Sue-Ellen
Thorn, Mandi
Trosky, Dayna
Stang, Viktoria
Cook, Audra
Russo, Megan
Pollinger, Nadia

- 12.2 Approving a salary adjustment for Todd Rasbach, middle school social studies teacher, from Bachelor's step 17 (\$107,875) to Master's Equivalency step 17 (\$109,875) effective July 1, 2023.
- 12.3 Approving a salary adjustment for Victoria DiCenzo, Wilson grade 5 teacher, from Bachelor's step 5 (\$54,975) to Master's step 5 (\$56,975) effective August 11, 2023.
- 12.4 Approving an intermittent family medical leave of absence for Amberleigh Werling, Donaldson grade 1 teacher, effective September 12, 2023, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.5 Approving an intermittent family medical leave of absence for Jean Borgo, Donaldson clerk, effective September 18, 2023, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.6 Approving an intermittent family medical leave of absence for Michele Nolte, Wilson secretary, effective September 18, 2023, not to exceed 60 days.
- 12.7 Approving Jamie Schmidt as a Class IV-B lunch aide at Donaldson Elementary effective October 19, 2023. Salary - \$19.47/hour.
- 12.8 On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve hiring Gary Hutsler as the high school assistant principal effective on or before December 18, 2023. Salary - \$95,000.
- Mr. Hutsler thanked the Board for the opportunity.
- 12.9 Approving the statement of charges for Major Robert Paugh as attached.
- 12.10 Approving a family medical leave for Nicole Schumacher, McKee grade 4 teacher, effective October 30, 2023, not to exceed 60 days.

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. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 13.1 through 13.7 on the Property & Supply agenda.

- 13.1 Approving Change Order GC-004 with Hudson Group to provide labor, materials and equipment to remove irregular finishes from the exterior walls of classrooms C100 thru C104. Install 1-5/8" studs, drywall and finish to provide uniform appearance. Total Cost - \$18,545.00

- 13.2 Approving Change Order GC-005 with Hudson Group to provide emergency generator power package in lieu of battery back up on the new elevator in building area C. Total Cost - \$2,647.00
- 13.3 Approving Change Order GC-006 with Hudson Group to provide labor, materials and equipment to install additional corner guards and lockers in the corridors adjacent to toilet rooms RA-20, 21 and 22 and Work Room A201 to accommodate revised floor plan as detailed in Construction Bulletin No. 6. Total Cost - \$1,195.00
- 13.4 Approving Change Order GC-007 with Hudson Group to provide labor, material and equipment to remove approximately 5600 square feet of floor tile and mastic (ACM) at phase 4 and 6 classrooms. Total cost - \$62,848.00
- 13.5 Approving Change Order EC-003 with Allegheny City Electric to provide labor material and equipment to add two (2) key switches in stairwell HC-103 & HC-202 per AE response to electrical RFI#EC-021. Total Cost - \$1,955.93
- 13.6 Approving Change Order EC-004 with Allegheny City Electric to furnish new Siemens main electrical switchgear items MDP, SDPL1 and SDPL2 for the project with a guaranteed ship date of no later than 7/1/2024. Total Cost - \$100,165.00
- 13.7 Approving the following bus drivers for the district. All requirements have been met.

Chris Shattuck
Dave McBain
Sam Taylor
Amie Ondrasik
Linda Parrish
Nicholas Bruce
Kournie Luster

14. Finance

The Finance portion of the Committee report was presented by Mrs. Kosis:

On a motion by Mrs. Kosis, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 14.1 through 14.6 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 September Activity Reports as presented to the Board Members.
- 14.4 Approving authorizing the finance team to consider the issuance of its General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2024 (the "2024 Bonds") for the purpose of financing district capital improvements and does hereby (i) authorize the School District's Administration to work with PNC Capital Markets LLC, as Investment Banker, and

Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, as Bond Counsel, with respect to the proposed issuance of the 2024 Bonds and (ii) authorize Dinsmore & Shohl LLP to take such actions as may be required to prepare the proceeding for the approving of the 2024 Bonds as required by the Local Government Unit Debt Act (including, specifically, the publishing of required notices).

- 14.5 Approving a real estate tax assessment appeal with Kunj ABC Holdings, LLC, for commercial property in North Fayette Township as presented and recommended by the solicitor.
- 14.6 Approving a real estate tax assessment appeal with CGM Industrial Partners, LLC, for commercial property in Oakdale Borough as presented and recommended by the solicitor.

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, 15.2, 15.3, and 15.4 on the Policy & Programs agenda.

- 15.1 Approving an agreement with Amplify to purchase the DIBELS Data System 8th Edition to support student literacy grades K-8 at an initial cost not to exceed \$2,000.
- 15.2 On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve section 000 of the updated policy manual. This represents the second of two required readings.
 - Section 000 – Local Board Procedures
 - Policy 000, Board Policy/Procedure/Administrative Regulations
 - Policy 001, Name and Classification
 - Policy 002, Authority and Powers
 - Policy 003, Functions
 - Policy 004, Membership
 - Policy 005, Organization
 - Policy 006, Meetings
 - Policy 006.1, Attendance at Meetings via Electronic Communications
 - Policy 007, Policy Manual Access
- 15.3 Approving a partnership with Dance Ink, to offer after school performing arts classes, at the three elementary schools, at no cost to the district.
- 15.4 Approving the District Level Comprehensive Plan as presented along with plan submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

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 16.4 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Approving David Sykut as a fall and spring musical arts volunteer for the 2023-24 school year. All clearance requirements have been met.
- 16.2 Approving the 2023-24 winter coaches as presented. All clearance requirements have been met.
- 16.3 Approving an overnight trip request for 8th grade students to attend an educational trip to Washington, DC from May 22-24, 2024, at a cost to the District not to exceed \$2,150.00 for substitute coverage.
- 16.4 Approving a request from TJ Fox for the marching band and show choir to attend an overnight trip to Walt Disney World, Lake Buena Vista, FL, to perform in the 2024 Disney Performing Arts at Walt Disney World from March 19-24, 2024. Cost to the District is \$810 for substitute teachers.

17. Federal Programs & Legislation

Mrs. Adams reported an update on a policy change allowing students with disabilities to stay enrolled until age 22.

18. Student Representatives

Jacob Monti and Esther Newton reported on the following activities:

Culture

- Eradicate Hate Event – gave us \$1000! - Returning in the winter
- Homecoming
- Pep Assembly highlights- teams were involved; more student involvement made it fun. Limbo contest – Mr. McBurney won!
- West A Cafe

Academics

- JROTC-
 - Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game
 - helping RMU's ROTC program color guard
 - pancake fundraiser this Saturday to raise money for field trip
 - wreaths across America in the cemetery in Washington in December
 - November 11th veterans day ceremony at RMU
 - marine corp birthday guest will be Delvin Robinson state senators or Greg Rothem
- College Fair - Oct. 5th
- Act-So Meeting - Oct. 3rd
- Career & College Assessment Day - Oct. 11th
- End of 1st nine-weeks; quarter of the way through senior year! 😊 - Oct. 27th

Arts/Activities

- Ambassador Meetings
- Equity Scholar Meeting this Friday
- Outstanding Visual Arts Community Award
 - Schools and districts receiving this endorsement demonstrated the importance of their visual arts programs during the 2022-2023 school year with:

- Rigorous and Inclusive Programs,
- Highly Accessible Programs &
- Highly Visible Programs
- We have sustained this endorsement for five years!
- Stand together training is approaching
- Point Park conference for students in action
- Fall Musical - The Sound of Plaid (a glee version of the popular musical “Forever Plaid”)- Oct. 26th, 28th, 29th - They have been busy rehearsing.
- Student in Action - first meeting was today; members have been selected; field trip to Point Park on Friday
- Stand Together - Oct. 25 & Nov. 6 Trainings
- Art Club - Meeting today - Origami

Athletics

- Oct 3 Volleyball Senior Night
- Dig Pink - over \$5000 yesterday!
- Total Raised Breast Cancer Awareness – Over \$50K
- Oct 6 Football Gold Star Game against Ambridge
- Soccer- Senior night was 10/10
- Girls soccer made playoffs
- Football made playoffs
- Volleyball
- Powder puff nov. 1
- Girls basketball in the inaugural Pittsburgh holiday hoops classic ppg paints arena dec. 27

19. Library

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- CPR and First Aid Certification Class – October 28, 10-2
- Veteran’s Benefits Drop in Session – November 2, 10-12
- Honeybees and Why We Need Them – November 11
- Book Bus

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

20. Parkway West CTC

Mrs. Mirich reported on the following activities:

- Student of the Month – Brendan May – welding
- Career Day – December 4, 8-2
- Kitchen is open
- Thanksgiving dinner - \$100 for 4-6 people

Check the website for more updates www.parkwaywest.org.

21. SHASDA

No report.

22. West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame

No report.

23. West Allegheny Foundation

No report.

24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee

Dr. Shattuck reported that the next meeting will be held next Wednesday, October 25 at 3:45.

25. New Business

No report.

26. Open Forum

Jaime Sanabria, North Fayette, asked about virtual attendance by the audience.
Mr. Ostrander responded.

27. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Kosis, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Robert Ostrander, Board President

Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary