

**WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

**September 20, 2023**

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

The West Allegheny Board of School Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, September 20, 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  
   George Bartha    Debbie Mirich  
   Mark Rosen

Absent -                      Joel Colinear  
   Kevin Hancock  
   Todd Kosenina  
   Tracy Kosis

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 September 13 and prior to tonight’s meeting regarding personnel, student matters and possible litigation.

**3. Public Comment**

Jaime Sanabria, North Fayette, had questions about item 15.2, Policy Section 000.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

4.1     The board secretary previously distributed copies of the minutes from the August 16, 2023, meeting to the Board. On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, 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 August 31, 2023, of \$65,631,129.71.

**6. Communications**

Dr. Lippert introduced Esther Newton and Jacob Monti, the new student representatives.

**7. Acknowledgements/Distinguished Achievement Award**

Dr. Lippert recognized the entire High School staff and students for earning the National Blue Ribbon School Award for 2023.

Mrs. Adams recognized Leah Shuck, an art teacher at the High School.

Dr. Lippert recognized Jennifer Hixenbaugh from Questeq.

**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. Pustover, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 12.1 through 12.7 on the Personnel agenda.

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

PROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTES at \$135/day  
Alexi Cain, Sydni Ellis, Gina Pokorny, Samantha Roner

SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES at \$15/hour  
Brandon Berlinger, Karen Rawlings

12.2 Approving hiring Dawn Stang as Class II-C 10-month clerk in the student services office effective September 21, 2023. Salary \$23.30/hour.

- 12.3 Approving the promotion of Marcy Gates to Class IV-A cook at the middle school effective September 21, 2023. Salary \$20.95/hour.
- 12.4 Approving the resignation of Vickie Mixer, Class IV-A cook at the middle school, effective August 22, 2023.
- 12.5 Approving hiring Jaime Hively as a Class III paraprofessional at Donaldson Elementary effective September 21, 2023. Salary \$21.20/hour.
- 12.6 Approving the promotion of Brenda Quasey to Class III paraprofessional at Donaldson Elementary effective September 21, 2023. Salary \$21.20/hour.
- 12.7 Approving the resignation of Samuel Taylor, high school assistant principal, effective on or before November 3, 2023.

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

The Property & Supply portion of the Committee report was presented by Mr. Rosen:

On a motion by Mr. Rosen, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 13.1 through 13.6 on the Property & Supply agenda.

- 13.1 Approving the purchase of up to 75 digital security cameras through FNA Solutions, a PEPPM approved vendor, at a cost not to exceed \$34,103.48.
- 13.2 Approving change order GC-001 with Hudson Group to provide labor, material and equipment to remove approximately 2700 square feet of floor tile and mastic (ACM) at phase 3 classrooms during summer 2023 construction phase. Total cost of \$30,053.00.
- 13.3 Approving change order GC-002 with Hudson Group to provide labor, material and equipment to revise caisson locations at the 2nd story overhang from caisson #45 through #60 and add grade beams from new caissons to the existing caissons to support wall construction. Total cost of \$20,979.00.
- 13.4 Approving change order GC-003 with Hudson Group to eliminate insulation and cover board demolition from roofing scope of work, place new tapered insulation under contract and provide longer fasteners as required. Eliminate metal roof from think tank and install gray TPO roof in its place. Total Credit of (\$11,459.00).
- 13.5 Approving change order EC-001 with Allegheny City Electric to provide labor, material and equipment to change wire size to #8 THHN wire and provide a 60 amp elevator switch and a 35 amp 3 pole shunt trip breaker for the new elevator installation. Total cost of \$2,919.16.
- 13.6 Approving change order EC-002 with Allegheny City Electric to provide labor, material, and equipment to install 4 additional F-12 light fixtures, associated electrical wiring and supports at the pre-engineering classroom. Total cost of \$2,780.00.

## **14. Finance**

The Finance portion of the Committee report was presented by Mr. Bartha:

On a motion by Mr. Bartha, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 14.1 through 14.3 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 August Activity Reports as presented to the Board Members.

## **15. Policy & Programs**

The Policy & Programs portion of the Committee report was presented by Mrs. Mirich:

- 15.1 On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Pustover, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve Tina Seybold to support early literacy initiatives as presented.
- 15.1 On a motion by Mrs. Mirich, seconded by Mrs. Pustover, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve section 000 of the updated policy manual. This represents the first 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

## **16. Athletics & Activities**

The Athletics & Activities portion of the Committee report was presented by Mrs. Pustover:

On a motion by Mrs. Pustover, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to approve items 16.1 through 16.4 on the Athletics & Activities agenda.

- 16.1 Approving a request from the Ski Club to attend an overnight trip to Salt Lake City, Utah, from January 11-15, 2024. Cost to the District not to exceed \$300 for substitute teachers.
- 16.2 Approving Tom Snyder as assistant producer of the fall and spring musicals as presented.

- 16.3 Approving Betty D'Amico to assist with equipment and athletic uniform maintenance as presented.
- 16.4 Approving an overnight trip request for the varsity and junior varsity softball teams to attend The Ripken Experience in Pigeon Forge, TN from March 22-26, 2024, at a cost to the district of \$1,000 for tournament entry fee and substitute teachers.

## 17. Federal Programs & Legislation

Dr. Nelson reported an update on the federal grant applications that were submitted. Mr. Bartha thanked Dr. Nelson for all her work.

Mrs. Adams reported an update on the second year with the grant for life skills.

## 18. Student Representatives

Jacob Monti and Esther Newton reported on the following activities:

### Academics

- Excited about the Blue Ribbon!!!
- Ms. Birnie has been in all senior English classes to help students understand the process for applying to schools including how to request transcripts and letters of recommendations.
- ECIHSA Registration deadline was 9/15
- During the school day yesterday, students participated in the Activity Fair in the cafeteria during lunch periods
- Academic & Activities Fair was Tuesday, 9/19
- Oct. 11th is our Annual Career & College Assessment Day, in the afternoon students will the opportunity to engage in Career Experiences
- Career & College Fair - Oct. 5th

### Arts/Activities

- Friday is the Homecoming Game–Pep Assembly Friday!
- Homecoming Dance on September 23rd (little blurb about this) The theme is western. Students in Action will be setting up on Friday for the festivities!
- Fall Musical - The Sound of Plaid(a glee version of the popular musical “Forever Plaid”)- Oct. 26th, 28th, 29th - They have been busy rehearsing.
- Cavalcade of Bands is Saturday, September 30th
- Art Club is starting back up
- Students in Action applications were due a few weeks ago. They will announce the members after homecoming.
- Varsity iLead – Students received an interest survey this week.

### Athletics

- Girls Tennis section singles
- Football Homecoming against Aliquippa - September 22nd
- Cross Country Senior Night was September 12th
- Boys Soccer won their game against New Castle on 9/12
- Girls Soccer - 5,1 1 lost to South Fayette, just won to South Fayette, hope we’ll and Montour on the way.
- Girls Volleyball- mac tournament last Saturday, senior night 10/10 dig pink is 9/17
- Cheerleading- fall pep assembly

- Golf- about 500
- gold star game oct 6th vs Ambridge
- October 1st athletic department will send out enrollment that will determine where we are in the classification

**19. Library**

Mrs. Pustover reported on the following activities:

- Fall for Your Library
- Love Your Library Month – Jack Buncher Foundation matches up to \$500 donations
- Fall Reading Challenge
- Play K
- Dementia Friends Information Session

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

**20. Parkway West CTC**

Mrs. Mirich reported that they are off to a great start. Enrollment numbers are up. The kitchen is open for lunch on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Check the website for more updates [www.parkwaywest.org](http://www.parkwaywest.org).

**21. SHASDA**

No report.

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

Mr. Rosen reported that they have reorganized. There will be an induction every 2 years.

**23. West Allegheny Foundation**

No report.

**24. Wellness and Safe Schools Committee**

Dr. Shattuck reported that the first meeting will be the first week of October.

**25. New Business**

No report.

**26. Open Forum**

Jaime Sanabria, North Fayette, asked about mascot emblems.  
Dr. Lippert and Mrs. Ruhl responded.

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Ms. Sanabria also asked about the PA Comprehensive Plan and parent involvement.  
Dr. Nelson and Dr. Lippert responded.

**27. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Rosen, seconded by Mrs. Mirich, and unanimously carried, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

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Robert Ostrander, Board President

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Alyssa Athanas, Board Secretary