

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR JANUARY BOARD MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2025
In Person and Zoom**

The Regular January Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Wyoming Valley West School District was held at the Middle School and on Zoom on the above date. Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President Kamus. The following Board Members answered present to roll call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick, Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, and Kamus. Mrs. Cussatt was absent. Superintendent Tosh, Finance Manager Kachurak, Attorney Wendolowski, and Board Secretary Bullock were present. Student representative Emily Bolan was also present.

Moment of Silence was followed by a salute to the flag.

President Kamus announced that an executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and a contract.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD – Emily Bolan

SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

Mr. Tosh thanked Mr. Cordes, Buildings and Grounds Director, the air handlers are off tonight, the volume is much better. The district will be starting a new safety initiative beginning next Tuesday, January 21st on the high school and middle school levels to start. School issued ID badges and lanyards will be distributed to students and they must wear them to school and on district transportation. These ID badges are essential for identification, building access, and will be used to receive breakfast and lunch. Mr. Dicton will explain additional details when he gives his safety report tonight. On the district website, frequently asked questions will give you more information. I want to personally thank Mr. Dicton for all his hard work with the ID badges. They may not seem like it would be something that is complicated, but as we got into it, it got a little bit more complicated. As time went on, we were able to overcome a couple minor issues so these badges, from the safety and security standpoint, are going to be a real positive. Monday, January 20th, school will not be in session in honor of Martin Luther King Junior Holiday.

STATEMENTS FROM INTERESTED CITIZENS

Citizens addressing the Board are asked to state their name and town of residence in accordance with Board Policy #903 (copy available). Statements are limited to three minutes.

(none)

MINUTES APPROVED

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Wilson, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of **Reorganization Meeting**, December 4, 2024 and the Regular **December 4, 2024** Board Meeting.

Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Keating, *Contracts & Personnel, Finance*, reviewed the preliminary report from S&P Global, a credit rating agency that assigns our bond credit rating to the school. Our rating has increased from a BBB+ to an A- and some preliminary sightings in this report site that the district materially improved operating reserves following management's action to implement cost cutting measures coupled with one-time federal aid and favorable state aid, have allowed for sizable surplus results. The report states when we had negative results for our district, accomplishments were generated over a relatively short period of time, through things such as reducing staff to attrition when we had to. We have been actively bringing our staff

back to compliment for the needs of the district, restructuring debt, as well as bringing special education functions in-house, that were once out. In a three-year period, we swung this district from negative audited fund balances and reports from an independent agency like the Auditor General, that had concerns about our practices and abilities to manage, to the point we were potentially going to be referred for receivership with the state. Now we have another agency, increasing our rating, recognizing how much we have grown and improved financially. Since the beginning of the year, the goal of the Finance Committee is to take a real hard look at the districts unfunded debt service that we have been talking about for years that was inherited, as well as this cash reserve that we are sitting on now, and to assign that cash balance to a true capital development program. We are fortunate to use our ESSERS monies to do improvements like the HVAC, the lighting, and different outfitting to buildings and now to look at building a campus and dumping buildings that are well past their useful life. It is imperative what we have accomplished and what we have been able to put in this fund balance, we spend wisely and look at not only the capital side. The AG recommended carrying an \$8 to \$9 million fund reserve for a district our size. To be able to have that money in the bank, as well as to accomplish our capital missions, we are now in that spot. We have a great opportunity to do good things for the school district. I am proud to be part of it with all of you. We have gotten to this point in such a short period of time. He thanked Rob for doing a really nice job at explaining the information and getting us out of the hole we have been in.

Mr. McGinley, *Education/Policy*, many policies are scheduled for the first reading this evening. The committee has worked hard. He thanked Mr. Tosh, Mr. Novrocki, Mr. Dicton, and Ms. Troy for all their hard work. The district needs to be updating and editing our policies and they have done a great job. Mr. Hardwick, *ESSERS/Special Education*, ESSERS is winding down and will now be reported on an as needed basis. *Special Education*, Marya is putting together a wellness In-Service for March 14th and she will share more information.

Anthony Dicton, *Safety*, there were a lot of hurdles getting the students pictures, getting the cards printed, getting the machines for the cafeteria to scan the ID's, and getting the printers. Now when we receive new students or they lose their badge, we can print them on site at the middle school and the high school. We are ready to move forward. The goal is next week in both buildings grades 6 through 12. Mr. Bond and Mrs. Carey brought their teams together in their buildings. Every student will receive an ID and a breakaway lanyard. The ID's will be used to purchase lunch and breakfast. Every student in the district gets breakfast and lunch at no cost, they will scan their ID's with readers that the cafeteria has purchased. He thanked Mr. Waskevich and Mrs. Turel. It will now be a touchless process for students. The ID's are for safety, but also to account for their lunch and breakfast. Like the Chromebooks students bring to and from school, ID's will be part of their school issued gear. Students in grades K through 5 have a tag on their school issued backpacks to get through the building throughout the day. Information will be posted on the website, on our Facebook, and throughout Remind. It is a great step forward for the district. Mr. Kamus, *Buildings & Grounds*, a brief meeting will be scheduled, possibly next week.

Amended Item on Agenda:

Motion made by Dubaskas, seconded by McGinley to **Table Item #25** under General Recommended Action.

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick, Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, and Kobusky voting yes; Kamus voting no; Mrs. Cussatt was absent. (7 yes; 1 no; 1 absent) **Motion Carried.**

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Dubaskas that the Board of School Directors act on the following General Recommended Items:

1. Approved **Real Estate Property Tax Exemption** through the Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission to the following, as presented:
 - ❖ Walter Check
 - ❖ Leo Hornbaker
2. Adopted **Policy 601**, Fiscal Objectives. (First Reading)
3. Adopted **Policy 602**, Budget Planning. (First Reading)
4. Adopted **Policy 603**, Budget Preparation. (First Reading)
5. Adopted **Policy 604**, Budget Adoption. (First Reading)
6. Adopted **Policy 605**, Tax Levy. (First Reading)
7. Adopted **Policy 606**, Tax Collection. (First Reading)
8. Adopted **Policy 607**, Tuition Income. (First Reading)
9. Adopted **Policy 608**, Bank Accounts. (First Reading)
10. Adopted **Policy 609**, Investment of District Funds. (First Reading)
11. Adopted **Policy 610**, Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation. (First Reading)
12. Adopted **Policy 611**, Purchases Budgeted. (First Reading)
13. Adopted **Policy 612**, Purchases Not Budgeted. (First Reading)
14. Adopted **Policy 613**, Cooperative Purchasing. (First Reading)
15. Adopted **Policy 614**, Payroll Authorization. (First Reading)
16. Adopted **Policy 615**, Payroll Deductions. (First Reading)
17. Adopted **Policy 616**, Payment of Bills. (First Reading)
18. Adopted **Policy 617**, Petty Cash. (First Reading)
19. Adopted **Policy 618**, Student Activity Funds. (First Reading)
20. Adopted **Policy 619**, District Audit. (First Reading)
21. Adopted **Policy 620**, Fund Balance. (First Reading)
22. Adopted **Policy 621**, Local Taxpayer Bill of Rights. (First Reading)
23. Adopted **Policy 622**, GASB Statement 34. (First Reading)
24. Adopted **Policy 625**, Procurement Cards. (First Reading)
25. **TABLED** Approve PIAA **Cooperative Agreement** between Wyoming Seminary and Wyoming Valley West School District in the sport of Junior High Baseball, for the next two-year cycle starting this spring season.
26. Approved Agreement for contracted Speech Pathologist between **Speech Innovations, LLC** and Wyoming Valley West School District, effective January 9, 2025.
27. Approved Agreement for contracted School Psychologist between **Apple Tree Educational Associates, LLC** and Wyoming Valley West School District, effective January 1, 2025.
28. Approved **Invoice #4182-12** for **SiteLogIQ** in the amount of \$154,986 as presented.
29. Approved **Invoice #7253-06** for **SiteLogIQ** in the amount of \$7,535 as presented.
30. Approved Agreement between **Government Consulting Strategies LLC** and Wyoming Valley West School District, to develop cost savings initiatives, effective February 1, 2025 – January 31, 2028.

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick, Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, and Kamus voting yes. Mrs. Cussatt was absent. **Motion Carried.**

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Dubaskas, that the Board of School Directors act on the following Staff Recommended Items:

1. Approved **excused absences** December 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.
2. Appointed the following **new hires**:
 - ❖ **Nevaeh Dupras** – Cleaner/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective September 5, 2024.
 - ❖ **Sadie Fuller** – Emotional Support Aide/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective December 16, 2024.
 - ❖ **Yesteila Loyo** – PCA/Middle School, \$13.50/hr. effective December 9, 2024.
 - ❖ **Morgan Collura** – Cleaner/Middle School, \$13.50/hr. effective January 6, 2025.
 - ❖ **Serenity Mims** – Cleaner/High School, \$13.50/hr. effective January 6, 2025.
 - ❖ **Jessica Swartwood** – Cleaner/High School, \$13.50/hr. effective January 6, 2025.
 - ❖ **Gladynette Hernandez** – Aide/Learning Support/Middle School, \$12.00/hr. effective January 7, 2025.
 - ❖ **Logan Hammer Darling** – Cleaner/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective November 20, 2024. (name correction)
3. Accepted the following **resignations**:
 - ❖ **Amara Rodriguez** – Autistic Support Aide/High School, last day December 20, 2024.
 - ❖ **Aniyah Shannon** – PCA/Middle School, last day December 13, 2024.
 - ❖ **Randy Paredes-Gomez** – Cleaner/High School, last day December 19, 2024.
 - ❖ **Jessica Lewis** – Cleaner/High School, last day December 31, 2024.
4. Approved stipend of \$1,280 for **GIEP** writing and implementation to the following *High School Teacher* for 2024/2025:
Thomas Cunningham
5. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Karen Sebolka**, 2nd Grade Teacher, Chester Street, effective the last day of the 2024/2025 school year.
6. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Janice McKennas**, Business Teacher, High School, effective the last day of the 2024/2025 school year.
7. Child-Bearing Leave, **Emp. #134295**, effective January 2, 2025; returning January 22, 2025.
8. Child-Bearing Leave, **Emp. #379443**, effective March 24, 2025; returning May 7, 2025.
9. Medical Leave, **Emp. #614617**, effective January 13, 2025; returning April 30, 2025.
10. Medical Leave, **Emp. #577529**, effective January 13, 2025; returning TBD.
11. Medical Leave, **Emp. #645251**, effective January 23, 2025; returning February 18, 2025.
12. Medical Leave, **Emp. #153552**, effective January 8, 2025; returning TBD.
13. Medical Leave, **Emp. #612947**, effective December 9, 2024; returning January 2, 2025.
14. Medical Leave, **Emp. #337697**, effective April 14, 2025; returning June 3, 2025.
15. Child-Bearing Leave, **Emp. #675875**, effective March 31, 2025; returning TBD.
16. Medical Leave, **Emp. #346156**, effective January 7, 2025; returning TBD.
17. Appointed recommended candidate, **Beth Cirilo**, Secretary/Purchasing Coordinator, Central Office, effective TBD, \$25,000.
18. Approved Resolution authorizing suspension without pay, **Emp. #418582**, effective immediately.
19. Medical Leave, **Emp. #256334**, effective January 8, 2025; returning TBD.
20. Approved **Professional Contract Status** (Tenure) to the following teacher:
 - ❖ **Chloe Ruckle**
21. Appointed recommended candidate, **Jill Webb**, Special Education Teacher, State Street, effective TBD, \$51,000.
22. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Thomas Griffith**, English Teacher, High School, effective the last day of the 2024/2025 school year.

23. Approved Resignation Agreement between the Wyoming Valley West Education Association, **Emp. #347122**, and the Wyoming Valley West School District, effective immediately.
24. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Deborah Troy**, Personnel and Federal Programs Director, effective July 8, 2025.
25. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **David McDermott**, Utility, Durkee Street, effective April 16, 2025.

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick, Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, and Kamus voting yes. Mrs. Cussatt was absent. **Motion Carried.**

FINANCE RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Perfetto, that the Board of School Directors approve the following:

1. Accepted and approved the following as presented: **Bills for Payment, Finance Manager's Reports and Treasurer's Report.**

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick, Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, and Kamus voting yes. Mrs. Cussatt was absent. **Motion Carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

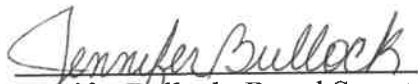
President Kamus announced the next Work Session, Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Wilson, that the Board of School Directors adjourn this meeting.

Motion Carried.

Adjourned: 7:32 p.m.



Jennifer Bullock, Board Secretary

A tape of this meeting will be maintained at the District Office until the minutes are accepted at the next scheduled Board Meeting.