

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR DECEMBER BOARD MINUTES
DECEMBER 4, 2024
In Person and Zoom**

The Regular December 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 7:16 pm by President Kamus. The following Board Members answered present to roll call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick, Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus. Superintendent Tosh, Finance Manager Kachurak, Attorney Messinger, 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 items.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD – Emily Bolan

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Tosh said the Wyoming Valley West High School Esports will officially begin competition in the beginning of January. Our thirty-two Esport athletes will be competing in both Pennsylvania Interscholastic Esports Association and the nationally known High School Esports League.

The Middle School will be holding its first Title I Parent Family Engagement Night on Wednesday, December 11th at the Middle School from 6:00 to 8:00. Parents and guardians will have the opportunity to learn and engage staff regarding Skyward Parent Portal, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, and IXL and PSSA information.

State Street Merry Math Parent Workshop will be held Thursday, December 12th at 6:00 pm. In addition to the parent workshop, there will be estimation stations, basket raffles, interactive activities for the students, treats, a special visitor, and more. The ARMOR Team is sponsoring a Mitten Tree. Hats, scarves, and gloves will be provided to those that need them, courtesy of the ARMOR Team. The ARMOR Team also presented the Commission on Economic Opportunity with nonperishable food items and a monetary donation collected from the State Street community and staff to benefit the Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank. Holiday Programs at State Street will take place from Tuesday, December 10th through Friday, December 13th. Information and class lists have been sent out. State Street would like to thank two organizations, the Kingston Rotary and the Wilkes Barre Scranton Elks Community Committee, for their generosity in providing winter jackets, clothes, and other warm essentials for our students at State Street. The Kingston Rotary donation was spearheaded by Samantha Bovolick, an Autistic Support Teacher at State Street. The Elks Community donation was organized by Dorothy Peters. A sincere thank you to both of you. The State Street Spark of the Quarter were recently selected for the first marking period, about fifty students were recognized for their effort, attendance, grades, and positive behaviors. Students received a certificate, as well as a special treat, to recognize their great work. In addition to various Thanksgiving celebrations in classrooms throughout the school year, the entire State Street First Grade Team of teachers hosted a special Thanksgiving Dinner for over two hundred students before the holiday break. The students were treated to turkey, stuffing, corn, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, and drinks. Thank you to our first-grade teachers for organizing and preparing this special meal for our students.

At Dana St. the Holiday Shop for students is beginning this week. The book fair hosted by Mrs. Budd will be December 9th through December 13th with an evening sale on Tuesday the 10th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. The holiday music programs at Dana Street will be held the 16th, 18th, and 19th of December. The students at Dana Street Elementary Center sponsored their annual grocery gift card collection during the

month of November. The effort was to assist the Saint Vincent DePaul Kitchen with their Thanksgiving Holiday. Through the students' effort, Dana St. was able to raise \$420 in grocery gift cards to donate to this worthy cause.

Chester St. Title 1 is hosting a Make and Take Literacy Night event for 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades on Wednesday, December 11th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. The Chester St. Holiday Program will be Monday, December 16th and Tuesday, December 17th at 9:30 am. The 1st, 2nd, Miss Kate, and 5th grades will be performing on Monday and 3rd, 4th, Mrs. Kuzma, and Miss Sarah will be performing on Tuesday.

Amended Item on Agenda:

Motion made by Hardwick, seconded by Dubaskas to amend agenda, Item #10 under General Recommended Action, **SitelogIQ** invoice #7253-05 amount from \$134,350 to **\$10,467**.

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

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 Cussatt, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Regular **November 13, 2024** Board Meeting, and the Special Meeting for General Purposes, **November 21, 2024**.

Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Dubaskas, *Athletics*, received an email from our Baseball Booster Club about adding a storage/stand unit at our Baseball Field. A 20-foot storage unit modified with a window for a stand. He will work with Mr. Cordes and look at the area. We would have to vote on this. The Booster Club would buy it. The estimated cost is about \$5,000 for the unit. There is not a lot of room down by the baseball field. We have to look and see how it would fit.

We also received an e-mail from our Volleyball Coach with two requests. They have about 27 to 30 kids each year now. He is asking for an Assistant Coach, which is a fair request with that many kids. He is also asking about the potential of starting up the 7th, 8th, and 9th grade program for volleyball, which would require another assistant. Games are on Saturdays. He will work with Nick Gill to get some recommendations on this.

Mr. Keating, *Contracts & Personnel*, every year when we go through this formality of enacting the Tax Index per Act 1, we generally get a headline that Valley West is considering raising taxes no more than 5.8%. This is something that we have to do along with every other school district to protect our financial interest. In the past two years, this Board as a whole has been able to not raise taxes at all, while at the same time, reestablishing a fund balance to within the acceptable limits set forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As the Finance Committee Chairman, we will work diligently to make sure that our tax increase is nothing, or as minimal as possible, if necessary, to continue the progress of our school district. Mr. McGinley, *Policy*, meetings are scheduled. In January there will be more policies to be voted on. Mr. Hardwick, *Special Education*, item 7 in general recommended action is a result of a special education meeting. He asked Marya if she would put together a monthly report to provide on a monthly basis with the Department Chair Reports.

President Kamus, *Buildings & Grounds*, waiting to close out this project and the High School STEM Lab. In January, we should have a lot ready to go and potentially talk about the Dana Street roof.

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by Keating, seconded by Cussatt that the Board of School Directors act on the following General Recommended Item:

1. Approved **Resolution** that the Wyoming Valley West School District will not raise 2025-2026 taxes above its Act 1 index of 5.8%.

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

Moved by Hardwick, seconded by Wilson that the Board of School Directors act on the following General Recommended Item:

2. Approved request from David Sieminski and Ashley Temarantz, **Spartan Ski & Board Club Advisors**, to take trip with members to Jay Peak, Vermont. (January 29-31, 2025; no cost to the District)

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

Moved by Wilson, seconded by Cussatt that the Board of School Directors act on the following General Recommended Item:

3. Appointed the following Board Members to represent Wyoming Valley West on the **West Side CTC Joint Operating Committee:**
Term to Expire 2025 - Janet Cussatt
Term to Expire 2026 - Nick Wilson
Term to Expire 2027 - Rick Kamus
Alternates: (1) John Perfetto (2) Mark Kobusky

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

Moved by Keating, seconded by Wilson that the Board of School Directors act on the following General Recommended Item:

4. Appointed **2025 PSBA Pride & Promise Contact, Alternate, and Regional Representative:**
Pride & Promise Contact: Brian Dubaskas
Alternate: John Perfetto
PSBA Liaison: William Hardwick

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

Moved by Hardwick, seconded by Cussatt that the Board of School Directors act on the following General Recommended Item:

5. Appointed Mark Kobusky **Plymouth Public Library** Representative.

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

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

6. Appointed William Hardwick **Hoyt Public Library** Representative.

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

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

7. Approved **Settlement Agreement** pursuant to File 3113794.
8. Approved Agreement between **EMIT Learning** and Wyoming Valley West School District for a Behavioral Health Technician (BHT) for the 2024/2025 school year.
9. Approved **Invoice #4182-11** for **SitelogIQ** in the amount of \$145,009 as presented.
10. Approved **Invoice #7253-05** for **SitelogIQ** in the amount of ~~\$134,350~~ **\$10,467** as presented.

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

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved **excused absences** November 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024.
2. Approved addition to Substitute Teacher list: **Louis Jablowski**.
3. Appointed the following **new hires**:
 - ❖ **Jesus Cepeda** – Custodian/Dana Street, \$13.50/hr. effective November 20, 2024.
 - ❖ **Alora Lee** – Autistic Support Aide/High School, \$13.50/hr. effective November 19, 2024.
 - ❖ **Aniyah Shannon** – PCA/Middle School, \$13.50/hr. effective November 25, 2024.
 - ❖ **Amie Hummer** – Cleaner/High School, \$13.50/hr. effective November 25, 2024.
 - ❖ **Logan Hummer** – Cleaner/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective November 20, 2024.

- ❖ **Stephanie Dornblaser** – Cleaner/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective September 4, 2024.
 - ❖ **Tonyetta Cooper** – Emotional Support Aide/High School, \$13.50/hr. effective November 18, 2024.
 - ❖ **Tania Moore** – Autistic Support Aide/Third Ave., \$13.50/hr. effective November 12, 2024.
 - ❖ **Sarah Kriso** – General Duty Aide/Attendance Middle School, \$12.00/hr. effective November 12, 2024.
 - ❖ **Linda Slaski** – General Duty Aide/Learning Support Dana St., \$12.00/hr. effective December 3, 2024.
4. Accepted the following **resignations**:
 - ❖ **Zachary Cepeda** – Cleaner/Middle School, effective October 29, 2024.
 - ❖ **Luis Casas-Santiago** – Cleaner/Middle School, effective October 25, 2024.
 - ❖ **Stephanie Dornblaser** – Cleaner/State Street, effective November 19, 2024.
 - ❖ **Benjamin Polomchak** – Security Guard/High School, (part time/weekends), effective September 15, 2024.
 5. Approved the following **transfer of positions**:
 - ❖ **Elizabeth Brizzy** – from PCA/State Street to Cleaner/State Street effective August 12, 2024.
 - ❖ **Jesus Cepeda** – from Custodian/Dana Street to Cleaner/Middle School effective November 25, 2024.
 6. Approved **Professional Contract Status** (Tenure) to the following Teacher:
 - ❖ Rachel Kislin
 7. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Katelyn Pugliese**, Chester Street Autistic Support Teacher, effective January 3, 2025.
 8. Appointed the following **Teacher Mentor** for 2024/2025:

<u>New Teacher</u>	<u>Mentor</u>	<u>Building</u>
Christine Rudy	Lisa Bernardoni	State Street
 9. Appointed the following recommended candidate, **Dana Westerholm**, Assistant to the Business Manager, Central Office, Act 93, effective TBD, \$46,000.
 10. Medical Leave, **Emp. #567248**, effective January 2, 2025; returning February 3, 2025.
 11. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Patricia Karlonis**, Dana Street, Title I Teacher, effective March 21, 2025.
 12. Approved Suspension without pay, **Emp. #347122**, effective immediately, pending further administrative recommendation.
 13. Appointed **Ann Kane**, School Psychologist, \$60.00/hr. effective January 2, 2025 – June 30, 2025; pending solicitor review of contract. (Grant Funded)

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick, Keating, McGinley (abstain #13), Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

FINANCE RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Cussatt, 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, Cussatt and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

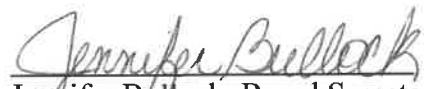
NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dubaskas said the day before Thanksgiving our Student Council with the help of the Plymouth Rotary, delivered thirty-five baskets with a turkey and all the trimmings.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Dubaskas, that the Board of School Directors adjourn this meeting. **Motion Carried.**

Adjourned: 7:43 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.