

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR FEBRUARY BOARD MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2025
In Person and Zoom**

The Regular February 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 7:11 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 representatives Isabel Carrozza and Emily Bolan were 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 contracts and there was also an executive session on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 to discuss personnel matters.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD – Isabel Carrozza and Emily Bolan

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Tosh said because of the National Weather Service advisory for ice and snow, we will be using a Flexible Instruction Day tomorrow. Monday is an Act 80 Day with early dismissal. Friday and Monday, February 14th and 17th is Winter Recess, no classes will be held. On tonight's agenda under General Recommended Action #28, we are proposing to use Friday, March 28th for the recently postponed Act 80 Day, January 31st, where we flipped it due to a two-hour delay. Congratulations to high school students Sarina Rowe and Damon Iracki, recently chosen as the WVIA Artist of the Week for the month of February. Wyoming Valley West Positive Behavior Program, PBIS, spearheaded by our Science teacher Mr. Hettes and History teacher Ms. Finnegan, created a new initiative for students at the high school. The program introduced a simple, yet meaningful award system where participating faculty members present a token of recognition to students who exemplify hard work, respect, and kindness. The students chosen demonstrate a strong work ethic, positive behavior both inside and outside the classroom, good attendance, and represent the school and the community in a positive light. Students selected by the faculty were treated to a pizza party with the help of our French teacher, Mrs. Aboutanos-Fellerman. This new initiative not only celebrates the students achievement, but it also fosters a sense of pride and community within the school. Mr. Hettes is sitting out there, congratulations and thank you for all you are doing. Dana Street Elementary is now a UGI Reading is Fundamental program partner. Thanks to the generosity of this program, 1st grade students were able to choose 2 brand new books to keep. With the help of Mrs. Budd, Librarian at Dana Street, and the Reading is Fundamental program representatives, our students are able to experience the magic of reading and practice their literacy skills. The Middle School Student Council is sponsoring a Wyoming Valley West Student Crewneck Sweatshirt Sale. Information regarding the sale was sent via the Remind app to the entire Middle School community. These sweatshirts do comply with the dress code and more importantly, bring a positive climate to our student body while keeping them warm. The Middle School will be holding a Football Frenzy Friday. This Friday, students are encouraged to wear Green for the Eagles and Red for the Chiefs.

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.

Ryan Hettes, a teacher at the high school, Head Coach of the Boys Volleyball Program at the High School, and Assistant Coach for the Girls Volleyball Program at High School. *Casey Shipman*, Assistant Coach for the Boys Volleyball Program at the High School. Ryan thanked the Board for consideration for

the Junior High Volleyball Program. Ryan and Casey took over the program about 3 years ago with only 8-10 kids playing on the Boys team. Last year over 40 boys tried out. We have dedicated athletes, a very strong culture, and dedicated coaches. The addition of a Junior High Program will extend this great sport to more students in the district.

James Sienkiewicz, Plymouth; this is his third time coming to address the Board about the elevator at the High School. He believes he and his family were lied to. He was told that Dave Cordes spoke to Mark Seagreaves and the elevator would be fixed for the start of this school year. Within the first 3 days of school, Mr. Tosh called and told him the elevator was cleaned and things were tightened up. On October 16th, the elevator broke twice in the same day. On October 17th at 8:00 a.m. his son's aide called, the elevator broke again and his son was stuck on the 4th floor. On October 17th he emailed the Board, except Mr. Tosh, with no response. This past Friday, the elevator broke again. Having a two-hour delay, his son was not in the building. He understands the fuse went. He stated he is not an electrician, but fuses go when something is overloaded. He was told the doors of the elevator would be fixed in the Fall of 2023 over Thanksgiving break. Nine months ago, in May, he was told that the elevator would be addressed. He was told at the last Board meeting he attended it would be fixed for the start of the school year. He feels he was lied to and states his son has nightmares of being trapped in the elevator. He is tired of the band-aids. This is a huge safety issue. When is the elevator going to be fixed, not with a band-aid? He will not let it rest.

Mr. Tosh told Mr. Sienkiewicz cameras were installed in the elevator. The elevator was recently inspected (last month) and it is a safe operating car. The weight limit on the elevator will be addressed if it is an issue. The elevator company will be contacted and the Board and Mr. Sienkiewicz will be updated with the order on the parts.

MINUTES APPROVED

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Kobusky, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Regular **January 15, 2025** Board Meeting.

Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Dubaskas, *Athletics*, Three recommended items included on the agenda tonight, to add an Assistant Volleyball Coach to help with the numbers, to join the Junior High Volleyball League, and the approval or not of the Co-op agreement to play Junior Varsity 7th and 8th Grade Baseball and allow Wyoming Seminary students to play with Wyoming Valley West students.

Mr. Keating, *Contracts & Personnel, Finance*, The business manager transferred \$1 million out of our 2024/2025 budget into our capital projects fund. He thanked Rob and complemented the Finance Committee, last year around this time we needed to make some changes with our banking. Overall cash on hand is about \$5.2 million better than last year at this time. Interest earnings are now trending around \$132,000 a month. They were less than \$50,000 last year and 18% of the growth of \$5.5 million was done by the work our business manager and committee did on banking. We hope to build off this to establish a capital reserve balance restricted for investments into the infrastructure needs of the district along with establishing the recommended fund balance as cited in the most recent report that pointed out deficiencies in the Auditor General's Report. We hope within the next month or two to come forward with an assessment of our debt service to see if there are opportunities from a refunding and borrowing standpoint and parlaying that with capital reserves to do something proper for the district.

Mr. McGinley, *Education/Policy*, A lot of policies are on the agenda tonight to be approved with a second reading. He thanked the committee for doing an excellent job. Policies have to be updated so the school district is in compliance with different laws, statutes, etc. We appreciate all the hard work.

Mr. Hardwick, *Special Education*, The Special Education Department is starting a program using Kudos coins. When Melanie, Courtney, or Marya observe a teacher or a service provider who demonstrates within the four domains of planning and preparation, classroom environment, instruction, and professional responsibilities and they are at or above the expectation, they will get a Kudos coin to collect and redeem for a gift card. The department's way of enhancing the employees and recognizing and acknowledging extra effort. The department will hold its first teacher related service provider Wellness In-Service on March 14th from 8:00 to 1:00 in the high school gymnasium. The Special Ed. Department is offering biweekly professional development opportunities to support and enhance each member's knowledge within the field. Those who attend the live session will be given one hour of Act 48 credits. Those who view online and submit one question will receive the same credit.

Anthony Diction, *Safety*, The ID cards are going very well. The first Monday back, a lot of kids forgot them. Reminds were sent out for 6th – 8th grades. Over 90% of the kids have it on a daily basis. This week at middle school, we will start giving kids consequences if they forget it. Out of 1200 students, 10 or less did not have their badge. The same reports from the high school, going very well, they wear them, and they are not losing them. When he walks around the buildings, the kids show him, they are proud to have it and the lanyards work well. Overall, it has been a big success.

Mr. Kamus, *Buildings & Grounds*, There was a committee meeting on January 29th at central office. Mr. Cordes will look at some of our roofs and start putting into the potential budget for next year for Capital, the Wellness Center, the Rectory, and Dana Street. The hand-out for Dana Street is a rough estimate. We have the DCD grant for \$300,000 that could probably take care of it.

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Keating 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:
 - ❖ David Gorgan
 - ❖ Joseph B. Reinhard
2. Adopted **Policy 601**, Fiscal Objectives. (Second Reading)
3. Adopted **Policy 602**, Budget Planning. (Second Reading)
4. Adopted **Policy 603**, Budget Preparation. (Second Reading)
5. Adopted **Policy 604**, Budget Adoption. (Second Reading)
6. Adopted **Policy 605**, Tax Levy. (Second Reading)
7. Adopted **Policy 606**, Tax Collection. (Second Reading)
8. Adopted **Policy 607**, Tuition Income. (Second Reading)
9. Adopted **Policy 608**, Bank Accounts. (Second Reading)
10. Adopted **Policy 609**, Investment of District Funds. (Second Reading)
11. Adopted **Policy 610**, Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation. (Second Reading)
12. Adopted **Policy 611**, Purchases Budgeted. (Second Reading)
13. Adopted **Policy 612**, Purchases Not Budgeted. (Second Reading)
14. Adopted **Policy 613**, Cooperative Purchasing. (Second Reading)
15. Adopted **Policy 614**, Payroll Authorization. (Second Reading)
16. Adopted **Policy 615**, Payroll Deductions. (Second Reading)
17. Adopted **Policy 616**, Payment of Bills. (Second Reading)
18. Adopted **Policy 617**, Petty Cash. (Second Reading)
19. Adopted **Policy 618**, Student Activity Funds. (Second Reading)

20. Adopted **Policy 619**, District Audit. (Second Reading)
21. Adopted **Policy 620**, Fund Balance. (Second Reading)
22. Adopted **Policy 621**, Local Taxpayer Bill of Rights. (Second Reading)
23. Adopted **Policy 622**, GASB Statement 34. (Second Reading)
24. Adopted **Policy 625**, Procurement Cards. (Second Reading)
25. Approved in accordance with Section 914-A (6) (i) Act 102 of 1970, **LIU #18 General Operating Budget** for 2025/2026.
26. Approved 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.
27. Approved joining the **Wyoming Valley Conference Jr. High Volleyball League**, effective immediately.
28. Approved the following **2024/2025 calendar changes**:
 - ❖ Friday, January 31, 2025 – **Full School Day** (cancelled Act 80 Day)
 - ❖ Friday, March 28, 2025 – **Act 80 Day** (rescheduled from January 31, 2025)

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas (no #26), Hardwick, Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Amended Item on Agenda:

Motion made by Keating, seconded by Dubaskas to amend Item #20 under Staff Recommended Action to reflect Mr. McGinley's suggestion of \$22,970.

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

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

1. Approved **excused absences** January 1, 2025 – January 31, 2025.
2. Appointed the following **new hires**:
 - ❖ **Candas Davis** – Cleaner/Middle School, \$13.50/hr. effective January 13, 2025.
 - ❖ **Modeline Michel** – Cleaner/Middle School, \$13.50/hr. effective January 13, 2025.
 - ❖ **Kathleen Kornish** – Autistic Support Aide/Chester Street, \$13.50/hr. effective February 3, 2025.
 - ❖ **Karen Adamski** – General Duty Aide, Attendance/Middle School, \$12.00/hr. effective January 27, 2025.
 - ❖ **Erlande Joseph** – Cleaner/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective January 30, 2025.
 - ❖ **Marilyn Oropeza** – Autistic Support Aide/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective February 5, 2025.
 - ❖ **Paul Reese III** – Cleaner/High School, \$13.50/hr. effective February 4, 2025.
3. Accepted the following **resignations**:
 - ❖ **Jacqueline Tapia-Fuentes** – Autistic Support Aide/High School, last day January 24, 2025.
 - ❖ **Shanelle Dates-Hines** – Autistic Support Aide/State Street, last day February 5, 2025.

- ❖ **Sarah Kriso** – General Duty Aide, Attendance/Middle School, last day January 23, 2025.
 - ❖ **Nickolas Bytheway** – Computer Aide/State Street, last day February 7, 2025.
 - ❖ **Kelly Savage** – General Duty Aide, Nurse's Office/High School, last day February 24, 2025.
4. Medical Leave, **Emp. #889391**, effective February 3, 2025; returning March 18, 2025.
 5. Child-Bearing Leave, **Emp. #715276**, effective May 5, 2025; returning TBD.
 6. Child-Rearing Leave, **Emp. #977317**, effective March 24, 2025; returning April 4, 2025.
 7. Child-Bearing Leave, **Emp. #485556**, effective April 7, 2025; returning TBD.
 8. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Erin Murray**, Art Teacher, State Street, effective the last day of the 2024/2025 school year.
 9. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Beverly Ann Thomas**, Title I Teacher, Dana Street, effective the last day of the 2024/2025 school year.
 10. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Sherri Yeninas**, 3rd Grade Teacher, State Street, effective the last day of the 2024/2025 school year.
 11. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Amy Rothschild**, Title I Teacher, State Street, effective the last day of the 2024/2025 school year.
 12. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Nancy Engleman**, Art Teacher, Dana Street, effective the last day of the 2024/2025 school year.
 13. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Rene Reilly**, 1st Grade Teacher, State Street, effective the last day of the 2024/2025 school year.
 14. Approved **long-term status** for the following substitute teachers:
 - ❖ **Maureen Salley** – effective January 23, 2025
 - ❖ **Jessica Fellerman** – effective February 5, 2025
 15. Approved the following **Co-Curricular Position** for the 2024/2025 school year:
All School Musical
 Technical Director **Dennis Lee and Brian Stiles** \$1830
 16. Appointed recommended candidate, **Megan Small**, Special Education Teacher, State Street, effective February 20, 2025, \$46,500.
 17. Appointed recommended candidate, **Jacob Romanowski**, Utility, Durkee Street, effective immediately. (transfer of position)
 18. Approved the following **2025 Spring Coaching Positions:**

2024-2025 School Year

<u>POSITION</u>		<u>SALARY</u>
<u>Boys Baseball</u>		
Varsity 10-12	Mike Petroski	\$4240
Assistant 10-12	Jim Griffin	\$2893
Assistant 7-9	Mikey Pollick	\$2893
Assistant 7-9	Eric Raitter	\$2893
<u>Boys Tennis</u>		
Varsity 9-2	Edward Groth	\$2867
<u>Boys Volleyball</u>		
Varsity 9-12	Ryan Hettes	\$2867
<u>Track Boys & Girls</u>		
<u>Winter 9-12 & Spring</u>		
Varsity (Girls)	Courtney Thomas	\$4449
Varsity (Boys)	Ashley Temarantz	\$4449

Spring Track

Assistant Girls 10-12	Kelly Savage	\$2893
Assistant Boys 10-12	George Simms	\$2893

Boys and Girls Track

Assistant 7-9 (Head)	Brian Meyer	\$2463
Assistant 7-9 (Head)	Elizabeth Kane	\$2463
Assistant 7-9	Lois Krause	\$2143
Assistant 7-9	Lindsay Meyer	\$2143

Girls Softball

Varsity 10-12	Jess Ras	\$4240
Assistant 10-12	William Smedley	\$2893
Assistant 7-9	Jerry Storz	\$2893
Assistant 7-9	Pam Oliveira	\$2893

19. Approved adding the position of **Assistant Boys Volleyball Coach**.
20. Approved **Board Secretary** salary, \$22,970.
21. Approved the following **transfer of position**:
 - ❖ **Jennifer Romashko** – from clerk/Dana Street to General Duty Aide (year-round)/Central Office, effective January 31, 2025.

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

FINANCE RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Keating, 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. McGinley had the opportunity to go to Dana Street Elementary School and was able to see the Breakfast Club. The staff does a great job and the kids really enjoy it. Older students working with younger students and bilingual students working with other bilingual students. The food service staff does a great job preparing and organizing. He thanked them for all their hard work.

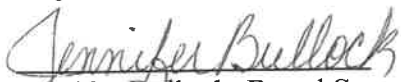
Mr. Hardwick stated the food service is managed by Aramark.

President Kamus announced the next Work Session, Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. and the Regular March Meeting, Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Adjourned: 8:02 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.