

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MAY BOARD MINUTES
MAY 14, 2025
In Person and Zoom**

The Regular May 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 7:06 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.

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

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD – Isabel Carrozza; Emily Bolan

Mr. Tosh thanked the student representatives for their hard work this year. He congratulated Senior, Isabel Carrozza, a leaf will be put on the recognition tree in the STEM Lab at the High School with her name.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Tosh stated the end of year calendar is on the agenda tonight. There has been a change during the final week of school, Wednesday, June 11th, the day of graduation is going to be a ½ day. On the calendar, Thursday and Friday are already listed as half days. May 23rd is an Act 80 Day with an early dismissal and Monday, May 26th, Memorial Day, no classes will be held. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Senior, Addison Marcin, on winning the Pennsylvania Council on Financial Literacy's Stock Market Challenge sponsored by Fidelity Bank. Out of over 2,000 participants, Addison placed 1st in Luzerne County and 7th in the state of Pennsylvania. She had 10 weeks and started with \$100,000. She grew her portfolio up 67% in that period of time. Congratulations to Addison Marcin, and a big thank you to our High School Math Teacher, Mr. Thomas Cunningham for being the Stock Market Challenge Advisor. Title I District and School Level Meetings for all Elementary Parents will be held at State Street Elementary School on Thursday, May 22nd at 9:15 a.m. for the District Meeting and at 10:45 a.m. for the School Level Meetings. All parents and stakeholders are invited to provide input and suggestions as we revise Title I documents and policies. Children's books will be available, and light refreshments will be offered. We look forward to welcoming our parents and families to State Street Elementary School. Finally, I would like to report that Mr. Cordes, Director of Buildings and Grounds, has reported that there is white smoke bellowing from the chimney at the central office. I believe in that relation we will be selecting a new superintendent.

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.

Tom Ruskey, Director, Cancer Wellness Center of Northeast PA in Forty Fort thanked the district, teachers, and students for all the support for their organization.

MINUTES APPROVED

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Perfetto, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Regular April 9, 2025 Board Meeting.

Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Dubaskas, *Athletics*, We are appointing two coaches this month, Boys Soccer, Gerry Kashuda, and Field Hockey, Lois Krause. Both have been involved with our programs, congratulations to the candidates. He received a request for a score table at the high school for basketball, volleyball and wrestling. The score table will post scores on a screen with the ability to post advertisements for many sponsors on a digital screen. Request approx. \$13,000 for the budget.

Mr. Keating, *Contracts & Personnel, Finance*, Item #62 our 2025-2026 budget for vote this evening increases by \$6,828,032 and is only our proposed budget, from \$93,420,406 to \$100,248,438. We are doing this with no tax increase proposed. A credit to this Board and our new business manager who worked hard not only cleaning up a lot of things inherited but helping to right the ship when it comes to our finances. To introduce a budget with no tax increase that leaves reserve funds for facility improvements, capital improvements, and a fund balance above what was recommended by the Commonwealth a few years ago when we went through audit, a lot can be said about our Board, our administrative team, and everyone who has worked so hard in this. In my short time here, we talked about closing buildings, not filling positions, not being able to make improvements to our buildings and our facilities. We have come a long way. It is nice to talk about the preliminary budget, it will definitely change between now and June. We have a very solid financial plan in front of us. He thanked Rob. That puts us on the path to a good plan for the upcoming school year.

Mr. McGinley, *Education/Policy*, Numbers 1 through 52 on the agenda are updated policies over the past months. We are pretty much completed, one more second reading in June. The committee has done a lot of great work. He thanked all the committee members individually for their hard work over the past 18-24 months.

Mr. McGinley was thanked for his hard work on the Policy Committee.

Mr. Hardwick, *Special Education*, We are interviewing for two Special Education positions, a 6th Grade Learning Support and a State Street Emotional Support. Two new positions posted, Life Skills at Dana St. and Autistic Support at Third Ave. The Special Education Department will implement for a second year a summer program, Helping Hands. Students at the high school level have the opportunity to receive vocational job training throughout the summer months, to help prepare them for post-secondary and work-based experiences. There will be flyers available and dispersed at the high school.

Anthony Dicton, *Safety*, We are updating all our cameras, Dana St. will be our last building. We will be completely covered for the start of the next school year. The high school is getting new cameras and some electronic entry doors for first responders and staff to keep the building locked. At the end of the year, we collect the badges distributed to students 6th through 12th. The first week of school badges are given to students. At the beginning of the school year, we will talk about the policy at our Policy Committee meeting. This upcoming school year 25-26 will be the last year of our transportation contract. Our goal is to move forward with the contract that will include cameras on all of our buses. Our goal is to have that implemented for the 26-27 school year.

Mr. Kamus, *Buildings & Grounds*, State Street has water flowing on 2 properties. He met with Mr. Cordes, Apollo Group will get involved to help rectify. The residents were very understanding. He would like to schedule a Buildings and Grounds meeting the first week of June if possible.

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

Motion made by Mr. Kobusky, seconded by Mr. McGinley to **Table Item #63** under General Recommended Action.

Roll Call: Wilson (no), Dubaskas (no), Hardwick (no), Keating (no), McGinley (yes), Perfetto (yes), Kobusky (yes), Cussatt (no), and Kamus (abstain).

Motion Failed. (3-yes; 5-no; 1-abstain)

1. Adopted **Policy 800**, Records Management. (Second Reading)
2. Adopted **Policy 800.1**, Electronic Signatures/Records. (Second Reading)
3. Adopted **Policy 801**, Public Records. (Second Reading)
4. Adopted **Policy 802**, School Organization. (Second Reading)
5. Adopted **Policy 803**, School Calendar. (Second Reading)
6. Adopted **Policy 804**, School Day. (Second Reading)
7. Adopted **Policy 805**, Emergency Preparedness and Response. (Second Reading)
8. Adopted **Policy 805.1**, Relations With Law Enforcement Agencies. (Second Reading)
9. Adopted **Policy 805.2**, School Security Personnel. (Second Reading)
10. Adopted **Policy 806**, Child Abuse. (Second Reading)
11. Approved recommendation to retire **Policy 806A**, Student Abuse by School. (Second Reading)
12. Adopted **Policy 807**, Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays. (Second Reading)
13. Adopted **Policy 808**, Food Services. (Second Reading)
14. Adopted **Policy 810**, Transportation. (Second Reading)
15. Adopted **Policy 810.1**, School Bus Drivers and School Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers. (Second Reading)
16. Adopted **Policy 810.2**, Transportation - Video/Audio Recording. (Second Reading)
17. Adopted **Policy 810.3**, School Vehicle Drivers. (Second Reading)
18. Adopted **Policy 811**, Bonding. (Second Reading)
19. Adopted **Policy 812**, Property Insurance. (Second Reading)
20. Adopted **Policy 813**, Other Insurance. (Second Reading)
21. Adopted **Policy 814**, Copyright Material. (Second Reading)
22. Adopted **Policy 815**, Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Facilities. (Second Reading)
23. Approved recommendation to retire **Policy 815.1**, Student Laptops. (Second Reading)
24. Approved recommendation to retire **Policy 815.2**, Staff Laptops. (Second Reading)
25. Adopted **Policy 816**, District Social Media. (Second Reading)
26. Adopted **Policy 818**, Contracted Services Personnel. (Second Reading)
27. Adopted **Policy 819**, Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response. (Second Reading)
28. Approved recommendation to retire **Policy 820**, Electronic Devices. (Second Reading)
29. Adopted **Policy 822**, Automated External Defibrillator (AED)/Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). (Second Reading)
30. Adopted **Policy 823**, Opioid Antagonist. (Second Reading)
31. Adopted **Policy 824**, Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries. (Second Reading)
32. Adopted **Policy 828**, Fraud. (Second Reading)
33. Adopted **Policy 830**, Security of Computerized Personal Information/Breach Notification. (Second Reading)
34. Adopted **Policy 830.1**, Data Governance - Storage/Security. (Second Reading)
35. Adopted **Policy 901**, Public Relations Objectives. (First Reading)
36. Adopted **Policy 902**, Publications Program. (First Reading)
37. Adopted **Policy 903**, Public Comment in Board Meetings. (First Reading)
38. Adopted **Policy 904**, Public Attendance at School Events. (First Reading)

39. Adopted **Policy 905**, Citizen Advisory Committees. (First Reading)
40. Adopted **Policy 906**, Public Complaint Procedures. (First Reading)
41. Adopted **Policy 907**, School Visitors. (First Reading)
42. Adopted **Policy 908**, Relations With Parents/Guardians. (First Reading)
43. Adopted **Policy 909**, Municipal Government Relations. (First Reading)
44. Adopted **Policy 910**, Community Engagement. (First Reading)
45. Adopted **Policy 911**, News Media Relations. (First Reading)
46. Adopted **Policy 912**, Relations With Educational Institutions. (First Reading)
47. Adopted **Policy 913**, Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals. (First Reading)
48. Adopted **Policy 914**, Relations With Intermediate Unit. (First Reading)
49. Adopted **Policy 916**, Volunteers. (First Reading)
50. Adopted **Policy 917**, Parental/Family Involvement. (First Reading)
51. Adopted **Policy 918**, Title I Parent and Family Engagement. (First Reading)
52. Adopted **Policy 710**, Use of Facilities by Staff. (First Reading)
53. Approved **Real Estate Property Tax Exemption** through the Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission to the following, as presented:
 - ❖ Melinda Correa
 - ❖ Jerry J Gronchick
 - ❖ Francis S Pantucci
 - ❖ Eric Pindar
 - ❖ Jerome Pinkowski
54. Approved upon completion of the 2024/2025 school year (as per negotiated agreement) all remaining monies due for the school year in one **lump sum** in the last pay of this fiscal year to professional employees.
55. Approved **bonding** of Wyoming Valley West Board Secretary in the amount of \$300,000 during fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025.
56. Approved **refund of paid taxes** for the following property owner:
 Court Order #10764, 10766, 10768 of 2020; Pin# 34-H9NE2-18-2
 - ❖ MLH Holdings LLC – for the year 2021 \$1,142.33
 - ❖ MLH Holdings LLC – for the year 2022 \$1,142.33
 - ❖ MLH Holdings LLC – for the year 2023 \$1,142.33
 - ❖ MLH Holdings LLC – for the year 2024 \$1,170.88
 - \$4,597.87**
57. Approved **refund of paid taxes** for the following property owner:
 Court Order #10764, 10766, 10768 of 2020; Pin# 34-H9NE2-18-4
 - ❖ MLH Holdings LLC – for the year 2021 \$1,067.23
 - ❖ MLH Holdings LLC – for the year 2022 \$1,067.23
 - ❖ MLH Holdings LLC – for the year 2023 \$1,067.23
 - ❖ MLH Holdings LLC – for the year 2024 \$1,093.91
 - \$4,295.60**
58. Approved **refund of paid taxes** for the following property owner:
 Court Order #2015-12993; Pin# 18-H9-A-8
 - ❖ Wilkes-Barre General Hospital Company LLC – for the year 2024 **\$4,295.95**
59. Accepted and authorized advertisement for **bids** to be received and opened at the District office on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.
 - ❖ Interscholastic Sports Supplies (2025-2026)

60. Adjusted the **2024-2025 School Calendar**:
 - ❖ **Wednesday, June 11, 2025** - the District will follow an **Act 80 Day Schedule** with early dismissals.
61. Approved **Invoice #4182-13** from **SitelogIQ** in the amount of \$259,255 as presented.
62. Approved the **2025-2026 Proposed Final Budget** in the amount of **\$100,248,438**.
63. Approved joining the **West Side Council of Governments**, upon approval on May 15, 2025. (\$400 annual dues; \$3,800 equipment costs)
64. Approved **Proposal #01-25** from **R.N. DeMeck** for repairs to the roof at Dana Elementary School, \$14,550.

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

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Amended Items on Agenda:

Motion made by Mr. McGinley, seconded by Mr. Keating to **Table Item #11** under Staff Recommended Action.

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

Motion made by Mr. McGinley, seconded by Mr. Hardwick to **Table Item #21** under Staff Recommended Action.

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

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

1. Approved **excused absences** April 1, 2025 – April 30, 2025.
2. Appointed the following **new hires**:
 - ❖ **Arianna Remish** – Emotional Support Aide/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective April 9, 2025.
 - ❖ **Myliesha Johnson** – Autistic Support Aide/Chester Street, \$13.50/hr. effective April 11, 2025.
3. Accepted the following **resignations**:
 - ❖ **Najwa Haya** – Autistic Support Aide/State Street, last day April 4, 2025.
 - ❖ **Alora Lee** – Autistic Support Aide/High School, last day April 11, 2025.
 - ❖ **Myliesha Johnson** – Autistic Support Aide/Chester Street, last day April 23, 2025.
 - ❖ **Gladynette Hernandez** – PCA/Middle School, last day May 13, 2025.
4. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Sehara Wessner**, School Social Worker, effective the last day of the 2024/2025 school year, June 13, 2025.
5. Medical Leave, **Emp. #573787**, effective May 12, 2025; returning June 2, 2025.
6. Medical Leave, **Emp. #651584**, effective May 30, 2025; returning TBD.
7. Medical Leave, **Emp. #192789**, effective May 6, 2025; returning May 20, 2025.
8. Child-Rearing Leave, **Emp. #972697**, effective September 4, 2025; returning October 6, 2025.

9. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Sean McCormick**, High School Business Department Chairperson, effective 2025/2026 school year. (3-year term as per contract)
10. Rescinded resignation, due retirement, **Amy Rothschild**, Title I Teacher, State Street, effective the last day of the 2024/2025 school year.
- (TABLED) 11. Appoint **David Bond**, Computer Science Teacher, 7th Grade, Middle School, effective September 2, 2025, subject to terms of MOU.
12. Granted **diplomas** to graduates of Wyoming Valley West High School, upon recommendation of Tara Carey, High School Principal, (tentative list).
13. Approved the **Co-Curricular Positions** for the **2025-2026** school year. (2024-2025 salaries listed)
- Class Advisors**
- | | |
|--|--------|
| Grade 12 (2) Megan Davis; Anna Toupin | \$1920 |
| Grade 11 (2) Suzanne Aboutanous-Fellerman; Elizabeth Kane | \$1501 |
| Grade 10 (2) Melissa Bennett; Lisa Granahan | \$1102 |
| Grade 9 (2) Elizabeth Kravitz; Ashley Temarantz | \$933 |
- Student Government Advisors**
- | | |
|---|--------|
| Grades 9-12 (2) Christina Sickler; Michael Chmiola | \$1676 |
| Grades 6-8 (2) Michael Munzing; Joanne Derwin | \$1638 |
| A-V Director -- Charles Potter | \$5116 |
| A-V Aide 9-12-- Douglas Shook | \$954 |
| A-V Aide 6-8 – Michael Munzing | \$954 |
- Publications**
- | | |
|--|--------|
| Newspaper Advisor 9-12 Desiree Munzing | \$2800 |
| Yearbook 9-12 Desiree Munzing | \$4583 |
| Interim Advisor 9-12 Karin Ulitchney | \$3058 |
| Yearbook Advisor 6-8 Pamela Oliveira | \$2006 |
| Newspaper Advisor 6-8 David Bond | \$2232 |
| Business Manager Publications Desiree Munzing | \$1558 |
- Music**
- | | |
|---|--------|
| Assistant Band Director Megan Wilski-Schneider | \$2342 |
| Director (Band Front) Chelsea Margalis | \$2342 |
| Orchestra Director 6-8 Megan Wilski-Schneider | \$1830 |
| Band Director – Elementary Emily Bly | \$1830 |
| Director Glee Club 9-12 Justin Davis | \$1956 |
| Director Orchestra 9-12 Christine Attanasio-Eyer | \$1956 |
| Director Glee Club 7-8 Nicole Orlando | \$1512 |
- All School Musical**
- | | |
|--|--------|
| Director Rachel Kislin | \$2990 |
| Technical Director Brian Stiles | \$1830 |
| Choral Director Linda Houck | \$1830 |
| Choreographer Alysha Barber | \$1830 |
| Orchestra Director Linda Houck | \$1830 |
| Wardrobe/House Manager Jessica Saxton-Preiman | \$1336 |
| Business Manager Musical Robert Cardone | \$1750 |
| Dramatic Production (per-play) Rachel Kislin | \$1909 |
14. Appointed **Dr. Charles Suppon, Jr.**, Superintendent, five-year term, effective July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2030, \$155,000 subject to completion of required documentation and execution of contract.

15. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Gerry Kashuda**, Boys Soccer Coach, effective immediately, \$3,601 (2024-2025 salary)
16. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Lois Krause**, Varsity Field Hockey Coach, effective immediately, \$4155 (2024-2025 salary)
17. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Emalee Woychio**, 1st Grade Teacher, State Street, effective September 2, 2025.
18. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Elizabeth Vito**, Music Teacher, State Street, effective September 2, 2025.
19. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Laura Gelety**, Art Teacher, State Street, effective September 2, 2025.
20. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Melissa Pealer**, Art Teacher, Middle School, effective September 2, 2025.
- (TABLED) 21. Approve MOU for **Danielle Ryncavage**, High School Security.

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick, Keating, McGinley (abstain), Perfetto (abstain), Kobusky (no #14), Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

Dr. Suppon spoke briefly. He thanked the Board.

FINANCE RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by Wilson, 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.**

Mr. Kachurak briefly explained the preliminary budget. The revenue is \$100,248,438 and expenses are \$100,126,695. A very slim surplus of \$121,743. There is no tax increase. Very conservative on revenue and thought of all the worst case scenarios. With this budget, 68% is instruction, 31% is non-instruction and out of the \$100,126,695 in expenses, 64% is salaries and benefits. Our budget includes additions to go into our capital projects, it includes unforeseen expenses if they arise regarding our buildings and grounds.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Keating welcomed the new candidates selected to fill various teaching and coaching positions. Tonight is a special night. It is a night to thank Mr. Tosh for everything he has done in his last five years as our Superintendent and to wish him nothing but the very best in his future endeavors. It is also a night to talk about the most important position and decision that the Board will make. The decision to welcome Dr. Suppon to the position of Superintendent. There are many things that go on in this district that need leadership, guidance, and professionalism. Mr. Suppon brings all the qualities and attributes to the table. He thanked all the internal candidates and those from other districts. This was not an easy decision, not a decision taken lightly. He welcomed Mr. Suppon. The entire Board and staff looks forward to working

with you. He was pleased to give his vote of confidence for him to take over as the leader of our school district.

Mr. Wilson, piggybacked what Mr. Keating said and thanked Mr. Tosh for over 27 years of dedication to the Wyoming Valley West School District. Being named Superintendent during the COVID pandemic was not an easy task. Mr. Tosh is a professional in everything he does. He is thankful to have worked with him over the last two years. A lot of professional candidates showed interest. He thanked everyone. Congratulations to Dr. Suppon, looking forward to working with you.

Mr. Tosh echoed congratulations to Mr. Suppon. He worked with him in the past. He will come here and do a terrific job. It is going to be a seamless transition, and he will continue to be available as needed. He does not know if a father and son in Luzerne County have been superintendents in the same school district. He worked for Mr. Suppon's father, and his son is coming on board. It is certainly a tribute to the Suppon family. Congratulations and best of luck.

Mr. McGinley, a lot of great candidates showed interest in our district. He appreciates the efforts from all the people who showed interest. He welcomed Mr. Suppon. We have a lot of challenges to address, like any other school district. It is very important that we all work together to overcome challenges as a school district. We look forward to very positive things over the next several years.

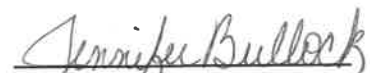
Mr. Kachurak stated an e-mail to the teachers will be forthcoming within the next couple of days regarding the status of our personnel issues with the ongoing solidification of our PSERS program.

A Special Meeting for General Purposes will be held on June 20, 2025 at 12:00 noon at the Middle School.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Adjourned: 7:51 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.