

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR SEPTEMBER BOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024
In Person and Zoom**

The Regular September 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 7:09 pm by Vice President Hardwick. The following Board Members answered present to roll call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick, Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, and Cussatt. President Kamus was absent. 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.

Vice President Hardwick announced that an executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss contracts and personnel items.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD – Isabel Carrozza and Emily Bolan

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Tosh said next week we have Meet the Teachers Night in the District. The High School 6:00 to 8:00 Tuesday, the Middle School 6:00 to 8:00 Wednesday, and the Elementary Schools 6:00 to 8:00 Thursday. Our annual Title I Parent Family Engagement meeting will be held during Meet the Teacher Night at the Middle School on Wednesday, State, Dana, Chester, and Third Elementaries on Thursday the 19th. All parents and families are welcome to attend these Title I meetings where information will be shared about the Title I Schoolwide Program. Friday, September 20th early dismissals, High School 10:30, Middle School 11:20, and Elementary at 12:00. One final announcement that I would like to read. We had a backpack that was missing here at the Middle School this past week. One of the parents sent me a nice e-mail and I want to take the opportunity to read it. I will not read the parents name, but the parent did say, I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for Officer Sosnoski for his assistance in helping my son at the Middle School this past Thursday. Officer Sosnoski went above and beyond to ensure that my son felt safe and supported as he searched for the backpack on school grounds. His professionalism, kindness, and dedication to the students of the community are greatly appreciated and do not go unnoticed. It is comforting to know that our local police department is staffed with professionals such as Officer Sosnoski, who genuinely care about the well-being of our children. From my perspective, his service contributes to sustaining a successful community-oriented police program. Again, I want to express my sincere thanks to Officer Sosnoski for his exceptional work. I sincerely appreciate the Kingston Police Department's commitment to keeping our schools and communities safe.

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)

Andrew Zwally and Barry Lyons, SitelogIQ, gave a brief update on the progress at the Middle School.

MINUTES APPROVED

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Keating, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Regular **August 14, 2024** Board Meeting, Special Meeting for General Purposes, **August 23, 2024**, and Special Meeting to approve Change Order to Track Replacement at High School, **September 6, 2024**. Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Dubaskas, Athletics/Technology, last Friday the change order for the track was approved. The change order is required for much needed asphalt to be added. The longer we give them to put the asphalt down, the better it will be for the track. All our fall sports have started. At the football game on Friday, other than the score, the game went off pretty well. Thank you to Kingston for their support. They do a great job there. *Technology*, we got a call from Dr. John Duesler, who has local contacts and relatives. He is the President of the PA Drone Association and a registered pilot. His company has a curriculum for instruction on how to become a drone pilot. We are getting together with *Technology*, the Superintendent, and with our Stem Room at the High School, to hopefully get a formal program for the drone class.

Mr. Keating, Contracts & Personnel/Finance, our auditors are coming in tomorrow to begin auditing the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2024. He commended Rob for getting all of the statements and the management prepared, and the financials ready for the auditors. He thanked Lou for helping Rob out. Everything is ready to be turned over and reconciled, a big positive for us. He echoed what Mr. Tosh said, having worked in Kingston for a long time, he cannot say enough good about Officer Sosnoski, what he does, as well as the team of Kingston Police Officers, for this community and our school. Standing at the games as a citizen, rather than their administrator and watching what they do with the football games, really commendable under Chief Kotchik's leadership for all they do for this school.

Mr. McGinley, Education/Policy, there is a meeting tomorrow at 1:00 at the Middle School for the Comprehensive Plan for the District. Mr. Novrocki, the chair, has members from all different levels of the school be a part.

Mr. Hardwick, Special Education/ESSERS, the Special Education Committee did not meet. Marya had her hands full the first week getting school started. ESSER III is in process. The grant includes a 20% loss learning value of almost \$3 million. About \$2.9 million is being used at this point. The other 80% of ESSER III, about \$11,900,000 is for new heating, ventilation and air conditioning at Dana Elementary, Third Ave. Elementary, and the Middle School.

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION*Amended Item to Agenda:

Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Dubaskas to change Item #6 under General Recommended Action from \$25.00/desk to \$50.00/desk. Motion Carried. (Voice Vote; 8 ayes - 1 absent)

Moved by Keating, seconded by Cussatt 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:
 - ❖ Robert Neyhard
 - ❖ David Wehrer
2. Approved **Invoice #4182-08** for **SitelogIQ** in the amount of \$2,345,582 as presented.
3. Approved **Invoice #7253-02** for **SitelogIQ** in the amount of \$513,178 as presented.
4. Approved the **Articles of Agreement** between the Wyoming Valley West School District and the **West Side Career and Technology Center** July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029.
5. Approved Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and **Beacon Light** to be utilized only if we have student(s) placed at the facility, during the 2024/2025 school year, as presented.

6. Approved sale of used desks to **Cheder Menachem**, ~~\$25.00/desk~~ \$50.00/desk.

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

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved **excused absences** August 1, 2024 – August 31, 2024.
2. Appointed the following **Student Representatives** to the School Board for the 2024/2025 school year:
 - ❖ **Senior Liaison** – Isabel Carrozza
 - ❖ **Junior Liaison** – Emily Bolan
 - ❖ **Alternate** – Simona Debru
3. Approved the following **transfer of positions**:
 - ❖ **Amara Rodriguez** – from Cleaner/High School to Autistic Support Aide/High School, \$13.50/hr. effective September 4, 2024.
 - ❖ **Mark Hufford** – from Cleaner/State Street to Utility/State Street, \$14.00/hr. effective September 5, 2024.
 - ❖ **John Butcher** – from Cleaner/Middle School to Custodian/Middle School, \$14.00/hr. effective September 9, 2024.
4. Appointed the following **Elementary Teacher Mentors** for 2024/2025:

<u>New Teacher</u>	<u>Mentor</u>	<u>Building</u>
Carissa Cohen	Lisa Senchak	State Street
Kelsey Coslett	Samantha Bovolick	State Street (rescind)
Kelsey Coslett	Jeff Hanadel	State Street
Maya Noble	Sam Cohen	State Street
Dax Sowul	Melanie Cupano	Chester St./Third Ave.
Avery Zdancewicz	Megan Girvan	State Street
5. Appointed the following **High School Teacher Mentors** for 2024/2025:

<u>New Teacher</u>	<u>Mentor</u>
Jonathan Evancho	David Sieminski
Robert Gulich	Lisa Boyer-Hogan
Matthew Mahalak	Karin Ulitchney
Sean McCormick	Melissa Bennett
Mollie Murphy	Katherine McRoy
Robert Stelma	Allison Button
6. Appointed the following **new hires**:
 - ❖ **Melinda Gillow** – Nurse Assistant/Floater, \$152.50/day effective September 16, 2024.
 - ❖ **Shajada Johnson** – Autistic Support Aide/High School, \$13.50/hr. effective September 4, 2024.
 - ❖ **Nicole Shorts** – Nurse Assistant/Floater, \$152.50/day effective September 4, 2024.
 - ❖ **Debbie Shultz** – Autistic Support Aide/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective September 4, 2024.
 - ❖ **Russell Haines** – Life Skills Aide/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective September 4, 2024.

7. Accepted the following **resignations**:
 - ❖ **Karen Adamski** – Emotional Support Aide/High School, effective September 4, 2024. (declined position)
 - ❖ **Tameka Porter** – Cleaner/State Street last day September 3, 2024. Autistic Support Aide/High School, effective September 4, 2024. (declined position)
 - ❖ **Tammy Visnefski** – Autistic Support Aide/High School, effective August 16, 2024.
 - ❖ **Elizabeth Brizzy** – PCA/State Street, effective August 12, 2024.
 - ❖ **Denise Lukehart** – Cleaner/State Street, last day August 26, 2024.
 - ❖ **Paige Billings** – Computer Aide/State Street, effective September 3, 2024.
 - ❖ **Nicole Shorts** – Nurse Assistant/Floater, last day September 6, 2024.
8. Appointed the following **Teacher Mentors** for 2024/2025:

<u>New</u>	<u>Mentor</u>
Nicole Coyne (Nurse)	Eileen Kobylski
Sehara Wessner (Social Worker)	Kim Morris
9. Granted **diploma** for high school student having completed necessary requirements for graduation and upon the recommendation of Tara Carey, High School Principal: **Joseph Alvarez**.
10. Medical Leave, **Emp. #611165**, effective September 5, 2024; returning TBD.
11. Adjusted retirement date for **Betty Hillcoat**, Cleaner/Dana Elementary, effective January 2, 2025.
12. Rescinded resignation, **Juan Martinez**, High School Spanish Teacher, effective August 30, 2024.
13. Approved the following **Co-Curricular Position** for the **2024/2025 school year**:

Director Glee Club 7-8	Nicole Orlando	\$1512
------------------------	----------------	--------
14. Approved **Professional Contract Status** (Tenure) to the following Teachers:
 - ❖ Kathleen Butwin
 - ❖ Sarah Gifoli
 - ❖ Melanie Kobela
 - ❖ Sabrina Seitz
 - ❖ Laura Thompson
15. Appointed the following recommended candidate, **Kylene Sautner**, High School Special Education Teacher, Emotional Support, effective TBD, \$54,000.
16. Medical Leave, **Emp. #416488**, effective October 29, 2024; returning TBD.

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

FINANCE RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by Cussatt, seconded by Dubaskas, 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 Cussatt voting yes.
Motion Carried. President Kamus was absent.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. McGinley said he is glad with the start of the school year, it seems like it really got off to a good start. He is looking forward to seeing the Middle School become the building it should be. Our cleaning staff and our maintenance staff, at this building particularly, and throughout the district, have done a tremendous job. We would not be in the position we are in right now without their help. He congratulated them and thanked them for all their hard work. They really did a great job.

Mr. Kobusky said the trees behind the high school were taken down last week. That should be a help for our staff with the leaves in the fall. Plymouth Borough is appreciative of the trees being down, they put a new generator in that area. In the last few weeks, our personnel, our cleaning people, did an amazing job. They put a lot of hours in, and Dave Cordes was with them. They did a fantastic job, and they are still going constantly.

Mr. Perfetto commended the cleaning staff. He has been in and out of the building several times and they have done a fantastic job getting it ready for the school year. There is a little more to go but they are going to get there.

Mr. Wilson said the letter that Mr. Tosh read about Officer Sosnoski was very reassuring. Officer Sosnoski is a professional in his career and he congratulated him. He is always getting kudos along with the rest of our SRO's. He hopes everyone has a safe and good school year.

Mrs. Cussatt thanked everyone for starting the school year off right. Continue on a good note.

Mr. Keating said it was enlightening last week to read the article in the Citizen's Voice about all the positive things going on at Wyoming Valley West. This Board, Administration, the District as a whole, has worked really hard to start pointing things in the right direction. A few years ago, we sat here with an audited fund balance of negative \$1.1 million. At the end of the last school year that fund balance was positive \$17.9. The new stadium, the new turf, the new track going down in Plymouth, all of these capital projects, the roofs, and a lot more to come. That speaks volume of what we have done together and did not raise taxes last year. He is proud to be part of the Board and everything that is going on to move the school along, and to give back to the kids and the taxpayers.

Mr. Tosh said we are concluding the first full week of school and a district the size of Wyoming Valley West, with over 5,000 students, getting a district up and running each year is a challenge. He thanked everyone in this district who is responsible for getting it up and running.

Mr. Hardwick thanked Isabel and Emily for coming up and giving their reports and looks forward to hearing from them for the rest of the school year.


Vice President Hardwick announced the next scheduled meetings, October Work Session/Regular October Meeting, Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Adjourned: 7:42 pm


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.