

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR JANUARY BOARD MINUTES  
JANUARY 10, 2024  
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 7:09 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, Attorney Messinger and Board Secretary Bullock were present. Student representatives Lilian Mahoney and Simona Debru 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 personnel items.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD** - Lilian Mahoney and Simona Debru

**SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Tosh said this Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> Martin Luther King Holiday, schools will be closed. The Dana St. Elementary Center Title I Inaugural Literacy Program has been re-scheduled from last night, due to inclement weather, to next Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. This is the first ever Title I Literacy Night to be held at Dana from 6:00-8:00 in the evening and I highly recommend this opportunity for Dana St. parents and guardians and students to come out and learn some activities and games to do at home with your children and improve different areas of reading. Come out and enjoy the fun activities with your children and their teachers, hot chocolate, cookies, play Bingo and you can take some books home for free. That is next Tuesday night from 6:00-8:00 Literacy Night at Dana Elementary.

**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)*

Motion made by McGinley seconded by Cussatt to Amend the Agenda to Table #11 under Staff Recommended Action.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Dubaskas, Athletics, said the documents have all been signed for the replacement of the field turf. Hopefully, they will be coming up with an estimate soon on when they will be able to start that work. Mr. Keating, Finance and Contracts, said we are actively working on resolving the vacancy in the Business Manager's Office. We are still seeking applicants for the job, we have not closed the window. By taking a quick peek at the year ending bank statement, the changes that were made in our banking with the RFP awarded will result in an additional \$85,000 a month in interest earnings based on the cash balance that is in the year ending general fund bank statement.

Mr. McGinley, Education/Policy, said he spent time with Mr. Tosh and his staff team going over some policies. There was a lot of good information reviewed and analyzed.

Mr. Hardwick, ESSERS, gave a brief overview. ESSERS I was about \$1,512,000 and ESSERS II was about \$7,393,000. Both are now closed and the financial expenditure reports have been filed. ESSERS III is active and will close on August 30, 2024. Projects and billings need to be started prior to that closing date.

Mr. Hardwick, Special Education, said he spoke with Marya and they will try to schedule a Board education segment with Attorney Chris Bambach for an overview of our special education system in the district in February.

Mr. Kamus, Buildings and Grounds, said they are measuring for ducts and looking at laying them out in the hallways at Middle School.

Mr. Grevera confirmed the pumps at Third Ave. are working well.

### MINUTES APPROVED

Moved by Keating, seconded by Cussatt, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting **December 13, 2023** and the Regular **December 13, 2023** Board Meeting. Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

### GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by Keating, seconded by Hardwick, that the Board of School Directors appoint Nick Wilson to the West Side CTC Joint Operating Committee, Term to expire 2026. (Item #49)

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

Moved by Hardwick, seconded by McGinley, that the Board of School Directors appoint Mark Kobusky as an alternate to the West Side CTC Joint Operating Committee. (Item #49)

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

Moved by Keating, seconded by Cussatt, that the Board of School Directors appoint Tim McGinley, the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 Representative for a three-year term ending June 30, 2027. (Item #51)

**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:

1. Approved **Real Estate Property Tax Exemption** through the Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission to the following, as presented:
  - ❖ Joseph Kubicki
  - ❖ Armin Schmalz
2. Adopted **Policy 100**, Comprehensive Planning. (Second Reading)
3. Adopted **Policy 101**, Mission Statement. (Second Reading)
4. Adopted **Policy 102**, Academic Standards. (Second Reading)
5. Adopted **Policy 103**, Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students. (Second Reading)

6. Adopted **Policy 103.1**, Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities. (Second Reading)
7. Adopted **Policy 104**, Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff. (Second Reading)
8. Adopted **Policy 105**, Curriculum. (Second Reading)
9. Adopted **Policy 105.1**, Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students. (Second Reading)
10. Adopted **Policy 105.2**, Exemption From Instruction. (Second Reading)
11. Adopted **Policy 106**, Guides for Planned Instruction. (Second Reading)
12. Adopted **Policy 107**, Adoption of Planned Instruction. (Second Reading)
13. Adopted **Policy 108**, Adoption of Textbooks. (Second Reading)
14. Adopted **Policy 109**, Resource Materials. (Second Reading)
15. Adopted **Policy 110**, Instructional Supplies. (Second Reading)
16. Adopted **Policy 111**, Lesson Plans. (Second Reading)
17. Adopted **Policy 112**, Guidance Counseling. (Second Reading)
18. Adopted **Policy 113**, Special Education. (Second Reading)
19. Adopted **Policy 113.1**, Discipline of Students With Disabilities. (Second Reading)
20. Adopted **Policy 113.2**, Behavior Support. (Second Reading)
21. Adopted **Policy 113.3**, Screening and Evaluations for Students With Disabilities. (Second Reading)
22. Adopted **Policy 113.4**, Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information. (Second Reading)
23. Adopted **Policy 114**, Gifted Education. (Second Reading)
24. Adopted **Policy 115**, Career and Technical Education. (Second Reading)
25. Adopted **Policy 116**, Tutoring. (Second Reading)
26. Adopted **Policy 117**, Homebound Instruction. (Second Reading)
27. Adopted **Policy 118**, Independent Instruction. (Second Reading)
28. Adopted **Policy 119**, Current Events. (Second Reading)
29. Adopted **Policy 121**, Field Trips. (Second Reading)
30. Adopted **Policy 123.1**, Concussion Management. (Second Reading)
31. Adopted **Policy 123.2**, Sudden Cardiac Arrest. (Second Reading)
32. Adopted **Policy 124**, Alternative Instruction. (Second Reading)
33. Adopted **Policy 127**, Assessment System. (Second Reading)
34. Adopted **Policy 130**, Homework. (Second Reading)
35. Adopted **Policy 137**, Home Education Programs. (Second Reading)
36. Adopted **Policy 137.1**, Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students. (Second Reading)
37. Adopted **Policy 137.2**, Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students. (Second Reading)
38. Adopted **Policy 137.3**, Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students. (Second Reading)
39. Adopted **Policy 138**, Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners. (Second Reading)
40. Adopted **Policy 140**, Charter Schools. (Second Reading)
41. Adopted **Policy 140.1**, Extracurricular Participation by Charter/Cyber Charter Students. (Second Reading)
42. Adopted **Policy 142**, Migrant Students. (Second Reading)
43. Adopted **Policy 143**, Standards for Persistently Dangerous Schools. (Second Reading)

44. Adopted **Policy 144**, Standards for Victims of Violent Crimes. (Second Reading)
45. Adopted **Policy 146**, Student Services. (Second Reading)
46. Adopted **Policy 146.1**, Trauma-Informed Approach. (Second Reading)
47. Adopted **Policy 150**, Title I - Comparability of Services. (Second Reading)
48. Reviewed and approved the **Health and Safety Plan** for the 2023/2024 school year, as presented. (every six months)
49. Appointed the following Board Members to represent Wyoming Valley West on the **West Side CTC Joint Operating Committee**:
  - Term to Expire 2024 - *Rick Kamus*
  - Term to Expire 2025 - *Janet Cussatt*
  - Term to Expire 2026 - (*Nick Wilson*)
  - Alternates: (1) *John Perfetto* (2) (*Mark Kobusky*)
50. Appointed **2024 PSBA Pride & Promise Contact, Alternate and Regional Representative**:
  - Pride & Promise Contact: *Brian Dubaskas*
  - Alternate: *John Perfetto*
  - PSBA Liaison: *William Hardwick*
51. Appointed (*Tim McGinley*) **Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18** Representative for a three-year term ending June 30, 2027.
52. Appointed *Mark Kobusky*, **Plymouth Public Library** Representative.
53. Appointed *William Hardwick*, **Hoyt Public Library** Representative.
54. Approved Work Session and Regular Monthly School Board **Meeting dates for 2024**.

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

### STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

- A. RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO THE BOARD FOR ACTION:
  1. Approved **excused absences** December 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023.
  2. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Deborah Castner**, Elementary Teacher, Chester Street, effective last day of the 2023/2024 school year.
  3. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Denise O'Hara**, Social Studies Teacher, High School, effective last day of the 2023/2024 school year.
  4. Approved stipend of \$1,258 for implementing **GIEP requirements** for the following *Middle School Teachers* for the 2023/2024 school year:
    - Robert Aten
    - Erika Drako
  5. Appointed the following **new hires**:
    - ❖ **Anthony Deitrick** – Cleaner/Middle School, \$13.00/hr. effective December 13, 2023.
    - ❖ **Mary Lou Daley-Button** – General Duty Aide/Rectory, \$11.50/hr. effective December 12, 2023.
    - ❖ **Kim Resetar** – Computer Aide Chester St./Third Ave., \$11.50/hr. effective December 19, 2023.
    - ❖ **Jennifer Romashko** – Clerk/Dana St., \$12.00/hr. effective January 2, 2024.

- ❖ **Jessica Sepulveda** – Emotional Support Aide/State St., \$13.00/hr. effective January 2, 2024.
  - ❖ **Kiara Kane** – Autistic Support Aide/State St., \$13.00/hr. effective January 9, 2024.
  - ❖ **DaVae Lewis** – Computer Aide Chester St./State St., \$11.50/hr. effective January 8, 2024.
  - ❖ **Susan Dunaj** – Nurse Assistant/Floater, \$150/day, effective January 8, 2024.
  - ❖ **Thelma Chernowsky** – PCA/State St., \$13.00/hr. effective January 8, 2024.
  - ❖ **Idrissa Lampley** – Cleaner/State St., \$13.00/hr. effective January 8, 2024.
  - ❖ **Lisa Bartlow** – Autistic Support Aide/State St., \$13.00/hr. effective December 8, 2023.
  - ❖ **Wanda McAllister** – Emotional Support Aide/High School, \$13.00/hr. effective September 5, 2023.
  - ❖ **Steven Bale** – Life Skills Aide/State St., \$13.00/hr. effective January 8, 2024.
6. Accepted the following **resignations**:
- ❖ **Elena Rivera** –PCA/State St., last day January 10, 2024.
  - ❖ **Vanessa Cintron** – Life Skills Aide/Middle School, last day January 5, 2024.
  - ❖ **Sharon Lewis** – Emotional Support Aide/State St., last day December 18, 2023.
  - ❖ **Mary Lou Daley-Button** – General Duty Aide/Rectory, last day December 21, 2023.
7. Child Rearing Leave, **Emp. #688416**, effective January 17, 2024; returning June 3, 2024.
8. Sabbatical Leave, **Emp. 675163**, effective February 20, 2024; returning the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
9. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Linda Bond**, Cleaner/High School, last day, January 19, 2024.
10. Medical Leave, **Emp. #982317**, effective January 31, 2024; approx. return the end of February, 2024.
- (TABLED) 11. Appoint recommended candidate, **Justin Ambrozia**, High School Assistant Principal, \$70,000 effective January 11, 2024.
12. Accepted resignation, **Michael Pozzessere**, High School Assistant Principal, last day January 19, 2024.

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

### FINANCE RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Wilson congratulated senior Olivia Yelen who was recently named The Citizens' Voice Field Hockey Player of the Year.

President Kamus announced the next meeting, Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Motion Carried.**

**Adjourned: 7:28 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.