

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR JUNE BOARD MINUTES**  
**JUNE 12, 2024**  
**In Person and Zoom**

The Regular June 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 7:14 pm by President Kamus. The following Board Members answered present to roll call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick (Zoom), Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus. Superintendent Tosh, Finance Manager Kachurak, Attorney Fellerman, and Board Secretary Bullock were 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.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Tosh said congratulations to the Class of 2024, best of luck. We had a great ceremony last Thursday night. I would like to thank all the Board members who were able to be in attendance, it was a beautiful night on the new turf despite an early shower. Congratulations and best of luck to the class of 2024. I would also like to thank, now that we have concluded the school year, three of our school resource officers, at the Middle School, Officer John Sosnoski of Kingston, who does a terrific job. At the High School, Detective Jeff Lewis, who does an outstanding job, and at State Street Elementary School, Matt Stitzer, who does a terrific job. Pat Curly Security Agency, we also want to thank them for keeping our students safe. They all do a great job. I would like to thank, Mr. Anthony Diction, our Safety Coordinator, for all his hard work during the course of the school year. I would also like to announce that we are currently looking into as a District, we are in negotiations to purchase clear backpacks for our elementary students for the 2024-2025 school year. I will have further information on that at the next School Board meeting. We obviously have state-of-the-art metal detectors at the High School and the Middle School, so adding another layer of security on the elementary level. I would like to thank Janet Cassatt, one of our School Board members, she has been very proactive with the clear backpacks. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank all of those who make education possible in a district, now that we have concluded another year. A district of this size, obviously, has a lot of moving parts and a lot of people that work very hard over the course of 182 days to make education work. If I forget any specific group of people, I do apologize, but I think it is important to acknowledge each and everyone. I would like to thank the Board of Education for their support and their vision throughout the year. All of our administrators who put in an awful lot of time and dedication, the faculty who does a terrific job, the staff, the coaches, our extracurricular employees, our central office employees, our custodians, our cafeteria staff, our bus drivers, all the employees who make the process of education work. I would also like to thank the district parents who are active in taking part in their child's education. Educational research is very clear that parents who are part of their child's education have a much better chance of having academically successful children. If I did miss anyone with that, I do apologize. Finally, on a personal note, I would be very remiss if I did not thank to my left, Mrs. Jennifer Bullock, the Superintendent Secretary, who I drive crazy on a day-to-day basis. She does a phenomenal job keeping my schedule, keeping me on schedule, for everything at this point in my life that I forget day in and day out, and for Board meetings with the agenda, she does a great job, Thank you Mrs. Bullock.

Motion made by McGinley, seconded by Cussatt to:  
Table **Item #15** under Staff Recommended Action.

**Roll Call:** Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick (Zoom), 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.

*Laura Keller, Plymouth*, Director, Plymouth Public Library, spoke about the need for increased funding from Wyoming Valley West School District to the library. The library received the same amount of funding from Wyoming Valley West since 2013. With increased funding, the library will continue to make much needed updates to the collection of books and materials, invest in mobile hotspots patrons can borrow and take home, purchase supplies for after school programs, and invest in staff that can best serve patrons in this ever changing world.

*Miss Salley, Forty Fort*, spoke about the experience of having wonderful technology in the classroom as a long-term substitute teacher this year. It is such a tremendous thing as a substitute teacher to have the same resources as the teachers, access to the internet and an e-mail. Mr. Yanchick, Mr. Waskevich, and Miss Mascioli were very helpful in giving her the training the teachers received.

### MINUTES APPROVED

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Wilson, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Regular **May 8, 2024** Board Meeting and the Special Meeting for General Purposes **May 23, 2024**. Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Mr. Dubaskas, Athletics/Technology*, attended the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame Banquet this weekend and Valley West had three great additions to the Hall of Fame. Eddie Zawatski, current teacher and swimming coach, swimming not only at Valley West but also at Purdue University. Amanda Faust, who was on our State Championship Field Hockey Team and Frank Bauer, for football. Back when he played football, Frank was the senior award winner. Congratulations to all 3 for great accomplishments.

Mr. Dubaskas discussed the request of a travel league to use the baseball field, one day a week, two hours, eight weeks for \$1,000. He commended Mr. Waskevich, Technology Director, and his team for doing an outstanding job at the end of the school year.

*Mr. Keating, Contracts and Finance*, commended Mr. Kachurak for the progress on the 2024-2025 budget. The Finance Committee was able to negotiate and raise the interest rate with Fidelity Bank to 4.84. He asked Rob to check that the interest rate was adjusted and retroactive to June 1<sup>st</sup>. He thanked Rob for all the progress that he has made for us so far and for the comfort level that we have going into this final vote on the budget.

*Mr. McGinley, Education/Policy*, said we are looking forward to the 2024-2025 school year.

*Mr. Hardwick, Special Education/ESSERS*, Kim Walck said our last update with our budget and our narrative revision was approved by PDE. The additional materials requested for the STEM tutoring lab have been granted. We are up to \$510,000 for the STEM tutoring lab versus our original start. We have all our approvals in place, we are just hoping to get the work done and then be able to do our final submission.

*Mr. Kamus, Buildings and Grounds*-Andrew Zwally, SitelogIQ, gave a brief update on the building projects.

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Dubaskas 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 J Verosky
2. Awarded **bids** which were received and opened on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. for the following, as presented:
  - ❖ **Interscholastic Sports Supplies**
  - ❖ **Paper and General Supplies**
3. Approved Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and **Lackawanna College** for Dual Enrollment from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, as presented.
4. Approved established **Tuition Rates** for the **2023/2024** school year based on 2022/2023 fiscal year operations approved by the Department of Education as follows:
  - Elementary* \$9,395.93                      *Secondary* \$10,211.70
5. Reviewed and approved the **Health and Safety Plan**, as presented. (every six months)
6. Approved **Invoice No. 4182-04** for the Guaranteed Energy Savings Project, from SitelogIQ for **\$1,446,298** as presented.
7. Approved the addition of a **Varsity Girls Wrestling Team**.
8. Approved the Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and the **Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18** for programs and services during the 2024-2025 school year.
9. Approved contract renewal with **Microsoft** for licensing under the IU13 EES Consortium.
10. Approved lease with **HPE Financial Services** to purchase Server and Storage hardware, software, warranty, and professional services for \$250,218.85.
11. Approved Partnership Agreement with Wyoming Valley West School District and **Big Brothers Big Sisters** for the 2024/2025 school year, as presented.
12. Approved the Intergovernmental Agreement with **Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit (NEIU #19)** to provide Special Education Services for the 2024/2025 school year, as presented.
13. Awarded the Cost Reimbursable Contract Food Service Management Company Contract to **Aramark Educational Services, LLC**, upon approval of contract from PDE.
14. Approved the agreement with **Carrier** for repairs of the High School Chiller in the amount of \$69,600 for compressor overhaul.
15. Approved the agreement with **Carrier** for replacement and upgrade of the High School Chiller control panel in the amount of \$42,600.
16. Approved the closure of the Capital Projects bank account ending in 4449 at **First Keystone Community Bank** and transfer the monies to Capital Projects **Fidelity Bank** account ending in 8612.

17. Approved and accepted **Amendment #2 to the Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement** from SitelogIQ Energy Services, Inc. to include electrical service upgrades, lighting improvements, and other associated work at the High School and Middle School, not to exceed \$1,400,000.

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

### STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved **excused absences** May 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024.
2. Approved appointing the following **new hires**:
  - ❖ **Elena Rivera** – Autistic Support Aide/State Street, \$13.00/hr. effective May 13, 2024.
  - ❖ **Darla Heness** – Cleaner/Dana Street, \$13.00/hr. effective May 15, 2024.
  - ❖ **Lourdes Torres** – Cleaner/Middle School, \$13.00/hr. effective May 8, 2024.
  - ❖ **Carmen Torres** – Cleaner/Middle School, \$13.00/hr. effective May 8, 2024.
3. Accepted the following **resignations**:
  - ❖ **Arthur Parsons** – Custodian/High School, last day May 20, 2024.
  - ❖ **Angela Millikin** – Cleaner/State Street, last day May 13, 2024.
  - ❖ **Andrea Weiskopff** – Computer Aide/State Street, last day May 21, 2024.
  - ❖ **Cierra Meeker** – Autistic Support Aide/State Street, last day May 29, 2024.
  - ❖ **Thelma Chernowsky** – Life Skills Support Aide/State Street, last day June 5, 2024.
  - ❖ **Susan Dunaj** – Nurse Assistant/Chester Street, last day June 10, 2024 (will be a substitute Nurse Assistant)
4. Accepted the following **transfer of positions**:
  - ❖ **Matthew Garrabrant** – Cleaner/High School to Custodian/High School effective June 10, 2024.
  - ❖ **Sharon Davis** – Attendance Aide/Middle School to General Duty Aide/Special Education Office effective June 11, 2024.
5. Child Bearing Leave, **Emp. #892126**, effective August 30, 2024 returning November 19, 2024.
6. Accepted, with regret, resignation **due retirement, Carl Coates**, Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Teacher, effective August 12, 2024.
7. Accepted, with regret, resignation, **Nicole McNelis**, High School Journalism Teacher, effective July 29, 2024.
8. Approved **date change to November 10, 2024 - November 15, 2024**, on previously approved request from Allison Button, **Mickey Mouse Club** Advisor, for members to attend Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida, November 18, 2024 – November 22, 2024.
9. Approved the following **termination** due to abandonment of employment:
  - ❖ **Emp. #645128** – effective May 22, 2024.
10. Approved **long term status** for the following substitute teacher:
  - ❖ **Robert Gulich** – effective, June 4, 2024.

- 11. Approved the following **Co-Curricular Positions** for the **2024-2025 school year:**  
All School Musical

Director - Rachel Kislin	\$2990
Technical Director - Patricia and Joseph Rowe (share)	\$1830
Choral Director - Linda Houck	\$1830
Choreographer - Alysha Barber	\$1830
Orchestra Director - Linda Houck	\$1830
Wardrobe/House Manager - Molly Ramsey	\$1336
Business Manager Musical - Robert Cardone	\$1750
- 12. Appointed the following recommended candidates as **Special Education Teachers**, effective August 30, 2024:
  - ❖ **Sydney Kamus**
  - ❖ **Evelyn Mozeleski**
  - ❖ **Caitlyn Norton**
  - ❖ **Jessica Allbritain**
- 13. Appointed the following recommended candidates as **Music Teachers**, effective August 30, 2024:
  - ❖ **Dax Sowul** - Elementary
  - ❖ **Nicole Orlando** - Middle School
- 14. Appointed the following recommended candidate as an **Elementary Teacher**, effective August 30, 2024:
  - ❖ **Carissa Cohen**
- TABLED** 15. Appoint the following recommended candidate as **High School Science Teacher**, effective August 30, 2024:
  - ❖ **Robert Stelma**

**Roll Call:** Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick (Zoom), Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus (abstain from #12) voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

**FINANCE RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Moved by McGinley, 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 (Zoom), Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. McGinley congratulated the graduating class. The ceremony was great, they did a great job.  
 Mr. Kobusky congratulated the Class of 2024 and said he enjoyed handing out diplomas.  
 Mr. Perfetto congratulated the Class of 2024 and the entire staff at the graduation ceremony.  
 Mr. Wilson congratulated senior baseball player, Mason Matello, on being chosen for the Kristopher Moules Award of Integrity. A newly created award for a player who not only demonstrates outstanding athletic ability, but integrity, friendship, and leadership on and off the field.  
 Congratulations to him and the whole Class of 2024, the faculty, staff, and administration.

Mr. Keating congratulated the Class of 2024. He spoke about Bill 2370 that just cleared the House and the significance that it would have on this school district as well as many public education facilities. The funding system for public schools is broken. There has been some movement for years to make things better. Anybody that has an interest in this school or public education should reach out to their senators, where this is going to go next.

Mr. Wilson said the States definition of a charter school is an independently operated public school, but they do not charge the students tuition. The tuition is paid for by the residing school district. The bill calls for a cap of \$8,000 per student, which would significantly help our school district. If a student lives in one of our nine towns of Wyoming Valley West and attends a charter school, Wyoming Valley West is responsible for funding that student and supplying the transportation. President Kamus thanked State Representative Aaron Kaufer.

Mrs. Cussatt congratulated the graduates. It was a beautiful ceremony, the field looked fantastic. Good luck to everyone, have a nice summer. Good luck on the fall semester and to all the new faculty and staff being hired.

Mr. Dubaskas congratulated the Class of 2024. Being involved in the interview process for some of our new hires, several were Valley West graduates, young students fresh out of college. A little bit limited experience, but they have done some subbing. Overall, this goes to our administration, staff, Mr. Tosh, their leader, and everybody involved, if you want to get an education from Wyoming Valley West, it is there for you to take it. It was evident on the confidence, the professionalism, anything you could weigh on a new employee, it was there for all these Valley West grads.

Mr. Tosh congratulated Coach Vassello and the Girls Wrestling Team. Thank you to SitelogIQ for their professionalism and everything they are doing. Last but not least, item #13, Food Service to Aramark. Jen and Tatum, thank you. They have been terrific partners to Wyoming Valley West, very professional and we are thrilled that they are going to be with us again.

Mr. Kachurak said 12 more days he will spend tweaking the budget. He thanked the Board for their full support and for everything that has happened so far. We are moving forward and looking for bigger, better things next year.

President Kamus thanked Mr. Kachurak, Mr. Tosh and all his staff. He thanked all the Buildings and Grounds staff, the stadium was gorgeous. He congratulated the Class of 2024.

President Kamus announced the next Work Session, Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. and the Regular Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. June 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. will be the final budget meeting.

### ADJOURNMENT

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

**Motion Carried.**

**Adjourned: 7:49 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.