

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR AUGUST BOARD MINUTES  
AUGUST 14, 2024  
In Person and Zoom**

The Regular August 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, Keating, McGinley, Perfetto (Zoom), Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus. Superintendent Tosh, Finance Manager Kachurak, Attorney Messinger, and Board Secretary Bullock were 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 multiple personnel items.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Tosh said we are getting close to the start of the school year. A couple important dates coming up, Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, we have new teacher orientation at 9:00 that will be held at the high school this year. On Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> we have 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation at the Middle School from 9:00 to 12:00. Further information will come out about that orientation if necessary. Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the freshman class, will have orientation from 9:00 to 11:00. Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup> will be the first In-Service Day for our teachers only, from 8:00 to 1:00 at the High School. The following Tuesday, the In-Service Day will be for the teachers from 8:00 to 3:00. Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Kindergarten orientation is from 1:00 to 2:30. Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, we start the 2024/2025 school year. As a reminder, as we did in June, the elementary students will be issued clear backpacks this year. They will get those on the first day of school. I want to thank our safety coordinator, Mr. Dicton, for all his work in that regard. Finally, on Sunday night, August 25<sup>th</sup>, we will start our regular weekly Robo calls with any District updates that you may need to be aware of. The big announcement as far as dates, Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> is the first day of school.

**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.

*James Sienkiewicz, Plymouth*, questioned the repairs of the elevator at the High School for the upcoming school year since the May meeting. His son, Noah used the elevator over the summer, and it was not worked on yet. He was told the replacement parts were ordered by the elevator company in May and the work should be completed by the start of the school year.

**MINUTES APPROVED**

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Wilson, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Regular **June 12, 2024** Board Meeting and the Special Meeting for General Purposes **June 25, 2024**. Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Mr. Dubaskas, Athletics/Technology*, said the resurfacing of the track at the high school is on the agenda to approve. This is used for track and for residents to walk around. Also on the agenda is the approval for Holy Redeemer to use our field to have a place to play football.

*Mr. Keating, Contracts & Personnel/Finance*, thanked Mr. Kamus and Mr. Hardwick for conducting so many interviews over the summer since he was unable to attend due to changing careers. OneSource Staffing Solutions is on the agenda to help locate the ideal candidate to fill the position of Operations Manager.

*Mr. McGinley, Education/Policy*, went to the high school today and the elementary teachers had an In-Service with McGraw Hill to start the new K-5 Math program approved last year. With anything new, there is a need for more In-Services and trainings as they come up with different issues. They did a nice job. They are enthusiastic to start a new program.

*Mr. Hardwick, Special Education/ESSERS*, said there are three settlements on the agenda for approval tonight. He gave a brief update on ESSERS with a report provided by Kim Walek. ESSER grants will close out on September 30, 2024.

*Mr. Dicton, Safety*, said clear backpacks will be distributed to all students in grades K-5 the first week of school. Students in grades 6-12, Middle School and High School, can take backpacks to school but need to put them in a locker. Students that need to carry a backpack during the day will need to have a clear backpack. He will meet with the Policy Committee to develop a policy for mandatory student ID badges for students in grades 6-12 beginning in November. He will develop a policy for cell phone locking pouches if the decision by the Board moves forward.

*Mr. Kamus, Buildings and Grounds*, Andrew Zwally, SitelogIQ, gave a brief update on the Middle School and Third Avenue projects. Upgrades on toilets for Middle School were questioned and the roof at Dana Street.

### GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

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:
  - ❖ Glen F Kelley
  - ❖ Joseph Moss
2. Approved Agreements between Wyoming Valley West School District and **Children's Service Center** for the **Partial Hospitalization Program** and the **Therapeutic Educational Program** for the 2024/2025 school year, as presented.
3. Approved Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and **Children's Service Center** to provide Behavioral Health Services for the 2024/2025 school year, as presented.
4. Approved Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and **Kishbaugh Behavior Services** for services during the 2024-2025 school year, as presented.
5. Approved Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and **KBS Academy** for services during the 2024-2025 school year, as presented.
6. Approved requesting Boroughs and/or their Educational Service Agencies or equivalent agencies to place school **crossing guards** at locations for the 2024/25 school year; school district to pay 60% of the borough's hourly rate paid to each crossing guard, for up to 3 hours per day while school is in session, as presented.
7. Approved the positions of **Head Physician, School Physician, School Dentist** and establish salaries, hours, and rates for the 2024/25 fiscal year, as presented.

8. Approved Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and **Luzerne County Juvenile Probation Department** for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, as presented.
9. Approved Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and the **Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 for Partial Hospitalization Therapeutic** services during the 2024-2025 school year, as presented.
10. Approved Agreement with Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 for the **2024-25 Idea Allocation** based on December 1, 2023, Idea Child Count of 1,294, as presented.
11. Approved extending agreement with **Larksville Borough for a School Resource Officer (SRO)**, at State Street Elementary School, effective July 1, 2024–December 31, 2025.
12. Approved **refund of paid taxes** for the following property owner:
  - ❖ CHCT Pennsylvania, LLC – Court Order #2020-11343-for the year 2020 \$21,597.08
  - ❖ CHCT Pennsylvania, LLC – Court Order #2020-11343-for the year 2021 \$25,348.52
  - ❖ CHCT Pennsylvania, LLC – Court Order #2020-11343-for the year 2022 \$32,186.58
  - ❖ CHCT Pennsylvania, LLC – Court Order #2020-11343-for the year 2023 \$32,991.15

\$112,123.33
13. Approved closing **Fidelity Optimum Choice Savings Account** ending in 1432.
14. Approved opening a new **Fidelity Checking Account** for the collection of Delinquent Taxes.
15. Approved contract with **Keystone Sports Construction** through Co-Stars for replacement of High School Running Track in the amount of \$391,095.70. The money will be paid out of the Capital Projects account, as presented.
16. Approved **Invoice #4182-06** for **SitelogIQ** in the amount of \$2,727,245 as presented.
17. Approved **Invoice #4182-07** for **SitelogIQ** in the amount of \$2,047,151 as presented.
18. Approved **Invoice #7253-01** for **SitelogIQ** in the amount of \$231,539 as presented.
19. Approved Agreement with **3B Services Inc.** for boiler repairs at Central Office in the amount of \$5,783.99.
20. Approved **Amendment #3** to the **Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement** with SitelogIQ, to include hazardous material abatement, water infiltration, and other associated work at Third Avenue Elementary School and Wyoming Valley West Middle School, not to exceed \$300,000.
21. Approved the High School, Middle School, and Elementary **Student Handbooks** for the 2024/2025 school year.
22. Approved **Settlement Agreement** pursuant to File ODR 29407-23-24 KE.
23. Approved **Settlement Agreement** pursuant to File 1738023.
24. Approved **Settlement Agreement** pursuant to File 1305123.
25. Approved **Agreement** with **3B Services Inc.** to repair leaks at the High School, including pipes, fittings, and valves in the amount of \$15,933.
26. Approved **Agreement** between Wyoming Valley West School District and **Graham Academy** for the 2024/2025 school year, as presented.
27. Approved Wyoming Valley West School District to discontinue the sale of its tax liens for 2024 with **Municipal Revenue Services through the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority**.
28. Approved proposal from **Holy Redeemer** to use Spartan Stadium for 2024 football games.

(Friday, August 30, 2024; Saturday, September 14, 2024; Saturday, September 28, 2024; Saturday, October 12, 2024; Saturday, October 19, 2024; Friday, October 25, 2024)

29. Approved and reviewed the **2024-2025 High School A-TSI Plan** (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Plan).
30. Approved and reviewed the **2024-2025 State Street Title I TSI Plan** (Targeted Support and Improvement Plan).
31. Approved and reviewed the **2024-2025 Middle School Title I TSI Plan** (Targeted Support and Improvement Plan).
32. Approved **OneSource Staffing Solutions** to assist in recruiting and selection services for the Operations Manager position.

**Roll Call:** Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick, Keating, McGinley, Perfetto (Zoom), Kobusky (no on #20), Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

### **STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

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

1. Approved **excused absences** June 1, 2024 – July 31, 2024.
2. Appointed the following **new hires**:
  - ❖ **John Butcher** – Cleaner/Middle School, \$13.00/hr. effective November 30, 2023.
  - ❖ **Denise Lukehart** – Cleaner/Dana Elementary, \$13.50/hr. effective June 24, 2024.
  - ❖ **Mark Hufford** – Cleaner/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective June 26, 2024.
  - ❖ **Brayden Bogdon** – Cleaner/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective June 20, 2024.
  - ❖ **Mayra Lorilla** – Cleaner/High School, \$13.50/hr. effective July 15, 2024.
  - ❖ **Tameka Porter** – Cleaner/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective July 8, 2024.
  - ❖ **Lynn Headman** – General Duty Aide/Middle School Attendance, \$12.00/hr. effective August 30, 2024.
  - ❖ **Amara Rodriguez** – Cleaner/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective July 22, 2024.
  - ❖ **Yamali Encarnacion** – Emotional Support Aide/High School, \$13.50/hr. effective September 4, 2024.
  - ❖ **Angelica Rosario** – Cleaner/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective June 24, 2024.
  - ❖ **Matthew Yasenchak** – Cleaner/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective August 7, 2024.
  - ❖ **Jamilla Farris** – Autistic Support Aide/High School, \$13.50/hr. effective September 4, 2024.
  - ❖ **Melanie Price** – General Duty Aide/Middle School Attendance, \$12.00/hr. effective August 30, 2024.
  - ❖ **Vonetta Simmons** – Autistic Support Aide/High School, \$13.50/hr. effective September 4, 2024.

- ❖ **Debbie Shultz** – Autistic Support Aide/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective September 4, 2024.
- ❖ **Karen Adamski** – Emotional Support Aide/High School, \$13.50/hr. effective September 4, 2024.
- 3. Accepted the following **resignations**:
  - ❖ **Margaret Nallon** – Cleaner/Dana Elementary, last day June 13, 2024.
  - ❖ **Barbara Wilson** – Emotional Support Aide/High School, last day June 10, 2024.
- 4. Accepted, with regret, resignation due retirement, **Matthew Territo**, Cleaner/Third Ave., last day July 26, 2024.
- 5. Accepted, with regret, resignation, **Citlalli Zaragoza**, Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts Teacher, effective immediately.
- 6. Accepted, with regret, resignation, **Michael Brown**, State Street 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, effective July 29, 2024.
- 7. Accepted, with regret, resignation, **Corinne Boyd**, High School Special Education Teacher, effective July 19, 2024.
- 8. Accepted declination of appointment, **Jessica Sims**, Middle School Mathematics Teacher, effective immediately.
- 9. Appointed recommended candidate, **Nicole Coyne**, School Nurse Chester Street/Non-Public, effective August 30, 2024, \$46,500.
- 10. Medical Leave, **Emp. #389715**, effective August 30, 2024; returning TBD.
- 11. Child Bearing Leave, **Emp. #684757**, effective September 16, 2024; returning October 28, 2024.
- 12. Child Rearing Leave, **Emp. #979284**, effective September 30, 2024; returning December 3, 2024.
- 13. Sabbatical Leave, **Emp. #912669**, effective August 30, 2024; returning January 2, 2025.
- 14. Appointed the following **Elementary Teacher Mentors** for 2024-2025:
 

<u><b>New Teacher</b></u>	<u><b>Mentor</b></u>	<u><b>Building</b></u>
Caitlin Norton	Michelle Buckler	State Street
Kelsey Coslett	Samantha Bovolick	State Street
Evelyn Mozeleski	Kristen Rossi	Dana Street
Sydney Kamus	Daniel Modrow	Dana Street
Jessica Allbritain	Christina Sickler	High School
- 15. Accepted, with regret, resignation due retirement, **Betty Hillcoat**, Cleaner/Dana Elementary, last day September 6, 2024.
- 16. Accepted the following **transfer of position**:
  - ❖ **Tameka Porter** – Cleaner/State Street to Autistic Support Aide/High School, \$13.50/hr. effective September 4, 2024.
- 17. Approved and accepted retirement agreement, **Emp. #524254**, effective August 23, 2024.
- 18. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Amy Petty**, Middle School Learning Support Teacher, effective August 30, 2024, \$66,000.
- 19. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Michelle Bankes**, Middle School Mathematics Teacher, effective August 30, 2024, \$46,500.
- 20. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Avery Zdancewicz**, State Street 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, effective August 30, 2024, \$46,500.

21. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Irelynd Sullivan**, High School Autistic Support Teacher, effective August 30, 2024, \$46,500.
22. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Maya Noble**, State Street Emotional Support Teacher, effective August 30, 2024, \$53,000.
23. Appointed the recommended candidate, **John Sharkus**, English/Language Arts District Department Chairperson, effective August 30, 2024, \$5,953.
24. Approved the recommendations for the **Fall Coaching Positions:**

**2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR****SPORT/POSITION****SALARY****GIRLS TENNIS**

VARSITY 9-12

Laura Thompson

\$2867

**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

VARSITY 9-12

Ashley Temarantz

\$2867

**FIELD HOCKEY**

VARSITY 10-12

Linda Fithian

\$4155

ASSISTANT 10-12

Diane Webster

\$2893

ASSISTANT 7-9

Lois Krause

\$2893

ASSISTANT 7-9

Ryleigh White

\$2893

**CROSS COUNTRY (BOYS & GIRLS)**

VARSITY 10-12

Elizabeth Kane

\$2893

ASSISTANT 7-9

Mallory Urbanski

\$2006

ASSISTANT 7-9

Laura Thompson

\$2006

**SOCCER**

BOYS VARSITY 9-12

Charlie Whited

\$3601

BOYS ASSISTANT VARSITY 9-12

Gerry Kasuda

\$2014

GIRLS VARSITY 9-12

Stephanie Gover

\$3601

GIRLS ASSISTANT VARSITY 9-12

Kennedi Josefowicz

\$2014

ASSISTANT (BOYS) 7-9

JJ Prutzman

\$2014

ASSISTANT (GIRLS) 7-9

Harley Krause

\$2014

**GOLF**

VARSITY 9-12

Nick Kuscavage

\$2866

**FOOTBALL**

VARSITY 10-12

Bob Stelma

\$8892

ASSISTANT 10-12

Jansen Wilborn II

\$4577

ASSISTANT 10-12

John Karazia

\$4577

ASSISTANT 10-12

~~Junior Mallory~~ (John Malloy)

\$4577

ASSISTANT 10-12

Bill Halenda

\$4577

ASSISTANT 9 (HEAD)

Matt Yekel

\$4010

ASSISTANT 9

Jim Smith

\$3560

ASSISTANT 7-8

Kiandre Moses

\$3560

ASSISTANT 7-8

PJ Piskorik

\$3560

**WEIGHT LIFTING**

9-12

Bob Stelma

\$7609

**CHEERLEADER**

VARSITY 10-12

Julia Jonalunas

\$3341

JR. VARSITY 9-12

Morgan Sullivan

\$2443

JR. HIGH 7-9

Avery Zdancewicz

\$1909

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

### FINANCE RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by Wilson, 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.**

### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. McGinley is looking forward to the start of the school year. He has concerns about the condition of the Middle School. There is a lot of work going on and a lot of people putting a lot of time in. It is going to be a close call.

Mr. Wilson hopes the faculty, staff, and students have a safe upcoming school year. There is a lot going on. He thanked the Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee for all the interviews and getting all the projects done. One of the most essential roles as Board members is to make sure that the buildings are safe for our students and faculty.

Mr. Hardwick said we have a very good talented group of people who applied for positions. Each committee did their best to find the best candidate for each position. He wished them the best as they start the year.

Mr. Keating congratulated and welcomed all the new professional staff and support staff employees. He thanked all of the staff and those who have stepped up to coach all the Fall Sports.

Mrs. Cussatt said good luck to all the new hires and have a great year.

Mr. Dubaskas said good luck to all our Fall Sports Programs. It is a lot of work for all the coaches, a lot of commitment. Good luck to everybody.

Mr. Tosh thanked Mr. Hardwick for all the time and effort he put in. He also thanked Lou Cardoni, our former Business Manager, for coming back and putting a lot of time in with Rob. He thanked Mrs. Carey for all the work on the STEM room, and Mr. Waskevich. He thanked Bill King and Andrew Zwally for all their help with everything.

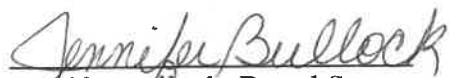
President Kamus announced a Special Board meeting will be held on Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 for General Purposes. He spoke about non-compliance with noted policies resulting in a one-day suspension and a mandatory parent conference.

President Kamus announced the next Work Session, Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. and the Regular Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

### ADJOURNMENT

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

**Adjourned: 8:16 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.