



West Plains Schools Board Notes

March 19, 2013

Pledge of Allegiance- The Pledge of the Allegiance was led by the West Plains High School Lady Zizzer Basketball Team. The Lady Zizzers finished the season with a record of 27-2 and won the Class 4, District 11 title in an overtime win over Republic, advancing the team to state. Coach Womack has also been chosen as the District 11 Coach of the Year.

Regular Agenda

Appoint New Board Member-

Elizabeth Grisham, former Director of Development at Missouri State University-West Plains and longtime resident of West Plains, has been named the newest member of the West Plains School District Board of Education. Grisham fills the seat vacated by Shawn Rhoads who resigned in January to serve as a Missouri State Representative.

2013 Series Financing-

LJ Hart presented their recommendations to the board for the 2013 Series refinancing. The 2013 Refinancing will allow the district to lower interest rates on the existing district lease-purchase agreements. This refinancing will include two prior debt series and will include the funds necessary to complete existing projects.

MSBA Region 15 Spring Meeting-

The School Board will travel to Dora April 25th for the annual Region 15 Spring Meeting.

MSBA Policy Update – 2nd Read

Each year, the Missouri School Board Association provides its member districts with recommended policy updates. The West Plains School Board has completed a second read of these recommendations with approval scheduled next School Board meeting.

Foreign Language Program Expansion

The West Plains School Board continually strives to expand opportunities for the students it serves. One of the areas the School Board targeted was the district Foreign Language program. Recently, district administration recommended exploring the possibility of converting to an online model of delivery at the high school level. After researching the online method and visiting with several schools that use this model, the administration determined that the online option provided the following benefits:

1. Increased course offerings – the high school could expand from 2 languages to 4 languages for next school year, and even more offerings in subsequent years
2. Increased flexibility in student scheduling – the online model will be available any hour of the school day
3. Exposure of students to online courses – most post-secondary students will take at least one online course while seeking a degree or completing a program of study
4. Individualized instruction – the courses are designed to allow students to move at their own pace.
5. Interaction with native language speakers – the online courses provided students the opportunity to work with a native language coach on a regular basis
6. Expansion to lower grades – the district will use the current foreign language instructor to offer Spanish as an enrichment course at the elementary and middle school levels.

Representatives from Connections Learning and Rosetta Stone were on hand to provide the School Board with an overview of their program and course offerings. The School Board will select one of the two vendors at the next School Board meeting.

Set 2013 Summer School Calendar 5/28 – 6/20-

Summer school will be held at West Plains Schools beginning May 28th – June 20th, 2013. The program is offered for open enrollment for students in the West Plains District and outside of the West Plains School District. K-6 will be housed at the elementary. Specialized offerings will be available for 7-12 grade students.

Set Tuition Rate for 2013-2014 School Year-

The tuition rate for the 2013-2014 school year has been set at a rate of \$7,219.70 per student. The method used to set the tuition is reflective of the district's cost using the Weighted ADA from the previous year.

Bi-Annual Transportation Route Approval –

DESE requires Missouri School Boards to approve all bus routes twice per year. This includes mileage, time of bus route, etc. The board voted to approve the transportation routes as presented by Mr. Bob Pekarek.

Bus Inspection Report –

West Plains Schools recently received results on the annual school bus inspection program conducted in February by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. 94% of the 37 buses owned by the District were approved on the annual safety inspection.

Resignations – All approved by the board.

Dr. Brad Owings – West Plains Elementary Principal
Holly Owings – West Plains Middle School Reading Teacher
Kelly Davis – West Plains Elementary 4th Grade Teacher
Nancy Corkery- West Plains Elementary Special Education Teacher
Tara Atkins – High School Family and Consumer Science
Bruce Sprengel – Welding Instructor
Freda Tate – Paraprofessional/Bus Driver

New Hires –

Amanda Murray – High School Math
Shyla Simpson – Early Childhood Special Education

Promotion –

Dr. Scott Smith – Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Dr. Smith will be responsible for the areas of Transportation, Food Service, Special Services, and Employee Evaluation
Dr. Julie Thompson – Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Dr. Thompson will continue with her current responsibilities of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development. Additionally, she will oversee the implementation of the district's one-to-one technology initiative.
Dr. Luke Boyer – Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
Dr. Boyer will continue to oversee the fiscal operations of the district and he will assume the additional responsibility of Plant Management.

Superintendent Report- The Superintendent report provides an opportunity for the Board of Education to be updated on various educational topics and items of interest to West Plains Schools.

West Plains Elementary School Assistant Principal, Lenny Eagleman, was selected as the "Outstanding Assistant Principal" for the Southwest district at the MAESP conference.

The students at West Plains Elementary recently collected over 5000 box tops for the West Plains Elementary PTA. On the Friday before spring break, Principal, Dr. Brad Owings, and Assistant Principal, Mr. Lenny Eagleman, each kissed a pig at the Attendance and Behavior Assembly in celebration of the achievement.

The West Plains High School Beta Club traveled to Branson for the State Beta Convention on March 7-9. Students competed in a variety of academic and talent competitions. Three WPHS students qualified to compete at the national convention in Mobile, Alabama, in June. Alex McCrosky placed 3rd in English; Breanna Stirewalt placed 2nd in science; and Katlin Drussel placed 3rd in on-site acrylic painting.

The West Plain High School Speech and Debate team attended the National Forensic League District Tournament in Springfield March 14-16. Students qualifying for the NFL national competition in Birmingham, Alabama in June are: Laura Grisham, Humorous Interpretation and Caleb Gill, International Extemporaneous Speaking

The South Central Career Center Auto Collision and Technology programs will host the second annual Autofest on April 13th at the Thornburg Campus. Last year's event was very successful and included car shows and competition.

Next Regular Meeting-

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th at 5:30pm

School board meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday of each month at the West Plains Schools Administrative Offices, 613 W. First St., unless otherwise posted.