



West Plains Schools Board Notes

May 21st, 2013

Pledge of Allegiance- The Pledge of the Allegiance was led by the West Plains High School Boys Golf team and members of the West Plains High School Choir. The golf team captured fourth place with a total score of 644 in the Class 3 state championship held on May 13 & 14 at the Sedalia Country Club. Junior, Ben Charles also won All-State Honors following the team's finish in the state tournament. Members of the team include Trey Fierce, Jacob Womack, Cole Butler, Ben Charles, Issac Burroughs and Coach Seth Huddleston. The WPHS Choir received 16 one (1) ratings at the state music festival held in Columbia on April 26th 27th.

Regular Agenda

Salary Committee Proposal –

The salary committee resubmitted its proposal to the board at the April board meeting. The following is a list of items that were presented to the board. The proposal was unanimously approved by the board at the May board meeting.

1. Continue board paid health insurance
2. Allow movement along the salary schedules
3. 1% increase to the base teacher's salary (this would translate to other salary schedules)
4. 3 floating holidays for 12 month employees
5. Addition of a doctoral stipend to the “old” salary schedule

Student Artwork Presentations –

Each year student artwork is selected for display at the district Administration Building. The framed artwork is on loan for one year and then returned to the students. The art students were recognized by the board for their creative artwork.

Teacher of the Year Nominee Recognition –

The 2013 Educator of the Year honorees were recognized at the board meeting. The honorees include: Tara Orr, Ashley Hamby, Mary Holland, Janet Rackley, Amy Ross, Karen Hunt, Lori Shannon, Rhonda Loring, Stephanie Wood, Lavada Mann, Jackie Wright. Dianna Locke is the 2013 runner up and Erica Walker is the 2013 West Plains Schools Educator of the Year.

Patron Insight Report –

Rick Noble of Patron Insight discussed the findings of a recent survey of 400 households across this district. The survey gives the district an opportunity to hear from a cross-section of our patrons their opinions about our performance, and what our priorities should be for the future. All geographic parts of the district were heard, including people of all different ages, and everyone from newcomers to long-term residents. A copy of this report will be made available on the district website.

Ag Science Building Fundraising Committee–

West Plains FFA students have begun the “Raising the Barn” fundraising campaign to build a new agriculture science facility that will give hands-on experience to the more than 200 students who take agricultural science classes at the high school each year.

The proposed facility is set to be built on a vacant lot owned by the West Plains School District on Olden Street. When completed, the new facility will offer a 10,500 square foot space that

supports current trends in agriculture and will provide a home for future growth. The increased space will allow for additional instructional staff, additional classrooms, lab space, expanded course offerings, and the potential implementation of an agriculture program for middle school grades. The agricultural science building committee has currently raised \$422,000 from community donors. The goal is \$800,000.

One-to-One Budget-

The West Plains School District is making plans to pursue its vision of a one-to-one technology initiative for its students. The initial phase of this initiative will focus on laying the groundwork for a successful program. In 2013-14, the district plans to address infrastructure needs, such as fiber, increasing wireless access points, developing a hardware life cycle, centralizing district servers, and providing professional development to its faculty and staff.

This exciting new venture will eventually provide one technology device per student enrolled in the district. The current implementation plan calls for the program to be implemented over a 6 year process. The One-to-One proposal was presented at the April board meeting and was unanimously approved at May's board meeting.

Capital Improvements Approval-

Major components of the summer capital improvements project list include technology infrastructure improvements, office relocation at high school, ADA ramp in front of high school and conversion of gang showers to private showers at field house. The project list was approved by the board.

TransPar Report-

TransPar recently conducted a in-depth Pupil Transportation Cost and Outsourcing Feasibility Study for our district. The company evaluated the different aspects of the way we currently run the transportation by looking at the past two years of data in regards to our transportation department. This process included evaluating aspects such as transportation operational data, expenditure data, fleet list, bus route narratives, shuttle schedules, driver and staffs pay rates, and payroll. In addition, the company evaluated how we are performing in accordance DESE's transportation standards. The draft findings were presented to the board and will be made available on the district website.

Student Handbooks – 1st Read

The board conducted a first read of the 2013-2014 student handbooks. The handbooks are scheduled to be approved at the next meeting.

Employee Handbooks – 1st Read

The board conducted a first read of the 2013-2014 certified and support staff employee handbooks. The handbooks are scheduled to be approved at the next meeting.

Resignations – All approved by the board.

Dustin Craft – HS History

Katy Craft – MS Special Education

Andy Ingalsbe – HVAC Repair

Mark Carr – Elementary Teacher

Karen Craig – Elementary Lunch Supervisor

New Hires –

Middle School Assistant Principal – Erica Walker

Elementary Assistant Principal – Donnie Luna

High School Assistant Principal – Sandy Hill
Elementary/South Fork Counselor – Heather Miller
High School Custodian – Alyssa Malloy
Elementary Teacher – Amber Galiher
High School Social Studies – Matthew Gurnow
Health – Tyler Schmitt
Elementary Special Education – Penny Merriman
Middle School Special Needs – Anna Thompson
SCCC Culinary Arts – Mozella Jett
Practical Nursing – Bonnie Coursey
FACS – Donna Sharpe
5th Middle School - Lisa Chezem
7th Grade Communication Arts - Michelle Wynne
High School Mathematics - Ginger Sneiderman

High School Assistant Principal –

Sandy Hill was named the Assistant Principal at West Plains High School for the 2013-2014 school year. Hill currently serves as the West Plains High School senior advisor. Before Mrs. Hill was employed by the West Plains School District she served as high school principal at Marquand-Zion High School for two years. Prior to her role as principal she was a social studies teacher for 11 years.

Erica Walker was named the Assistant Principal at the West Plains Middle School for the 2013-2014 school year. Walker currently serves as the Family and Consumer Science Instructor at the West Plains Middle School. Walker has 13 years of classroom experience. She has been in her current position 11 years.

Donnie Luna was named the Assistant Principal at the West Plains Elementary for the 2013-2014 school year. For the past three years Luna has served as the elementary principal at Dora. Prior to his role at Dora, Luna was a math instructor at West Plains High School for four years.

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.

The West Plains High School Prom was held on May 4 and, as it goes every year, the event takes months to plan, days to decorate for, and hours to tear down, but the memories will last a lifetime. These memories are extra special for two West Plains High School students. Being chosen as the Prom King and Queen is always a big deal, but for Brett Schneier and Molly Collins it was huge. Brett and Molly participate in a transition program off campus, and don't get to see their classmates a lot throughout the day. However, when high school junior Sierra Ledbetter found out about Molly's dream to be a queen, she started a campaign to elect Brett and Molly the 2013 Prom King and Queen.

The West Plains High School Track and Field Teams have qualified for four events at the Class 4 state to be held on May 24 & 25 in Jefferson City. The events include high jump, long jump, boys 4x800 meter relay and the girls 4x100 meter relay.

Eighteen students enrolled in South Central Career Center's Health Science class recently passed their state Certified Nurse Assistant exams. All 18 students have been offered employment at WestVue Nursing Center with their new certification.

Congratulations go to Dalton Freshour, Kortnee Long, Seth Pingleton and Taylor Gill, all high school students who have qualified for Academic All-State during the most recent sports season. Achieving Academic All-State requirements speaks volumes about the academic and athletic achievements of these students. They truly define the term "Scholar-Athlete".

Next Regular Meeting-

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18th 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.