



West Plains Schools Board Update December 16th, 2014

Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by several West Plains Middle School student groups including the Junior Beta Club, Student Council, members of the middle school recycling project, Junior All-State Band members, and members of the 8th grade football team.

Regular Agenda

SCCC Accreditation Final Update

The South Central Career Center has received verbal confirmation that they have been granted a 6 year accreditation from the Council on Occupational Education. The official document is set to arrive by the end of the week.

Board Candidate Filing Update

Board candidate election filing opened at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 16th, and will run through 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20th, 2015. Sam Riggs and Brian Mitchell are in their final year of a three year term and Courtney Beykirch is in completing her first year of a term previously held by Bo Pace. Three seats, 2 three year terms and 1 two year term, will be up for election in April.

Project Lead the Way Proposal

The U.S. Department of Commerce estimates that jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) will grow 17 percent by 2018—nearly double the growth for non-STEM fields. By 2018, the U.S. will have more than 1.2 million unfilled STEM jobs because there will not be enough qualified workers to fill them. According to experts, STEM is where jobs are today and where the job growth will be in the future. At the November 2014 board meeting, Dr. Williams proposed the introduction of experiential courses at the high school and middle school level which are a step toward aligning our district curriculum with the 21st century learner. Project Lead the Way is the nation's leading provider of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs.

Dr. Williams requested the board move forward with a pilot program during the 2015-16 school year, beginning with a full year course the high school level and 2 semester exploratory courses at the middle school level. If the pilot year is successful, the district would then look to add additional courses in subsequent years. The board unanimously approved the proposal.

Strategic Planning Update

The West Plains Public School District is currently reviewing and revising the district Comprehensive School Improvement Communication (CSIP). Six committees consisting of Communication, Safety, Academic, Finance, Professional Development, and Community Relations have been formed. The committees have developed recommended objectives which align with the goals listed below. A final planning date will be held in January to “polish” the plan before it is submitted to the school board. A target date for the comprehensive final meeting is set for January 7th, 2015 at noon.

GOALS:

1. Improve academic achievement in at least one core area for each student on an annual basis.
2. Provide opportunities and incentives for each student to participate in community service.
3. Ensure a safe environment that promotes excellence for students, faculty and staff.
4. Communicate effectively on all levels.
5. Attract, retain and continually develop a highly qualified and professional administration, faculty and staff.
6. Operate in a fiscally responsible manner by being good stewards of patron resources.

2015-2016 High School Course Offerings – 1st Read

Each year, the school board reviews and approves the course offering for West Plains High School. The board conducted a first read of the 2015-2016 course offerings for West Plains High School and is scheduled to approve the list at the next meeting.

MSU-WP Culinary Arts Partnership MOU – 1st Read

The South Central Career Center has been in conversation with MSU-WP regarding a partnership which would incorporate the SCCC Culinary Arts class into a degree program at the university. The board was presented with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would allow the SCCC to move forward with this partnership. The board will conduct a second read in January and decide whether or not to move forward with the partnership.

Community Assessment Proposals

Lana Snodgras has been working to solicit proposals from consulting firms that specialize in working with school district stakeholders to conduct a needs assessment, evaluate support for potential tax levy issues, and provide research for district marketing campaigns. Dr. Mulford recommended the board approve a proposal from the firm known as Thought Exchange. The proposal will span a 3-year window with the bulk of the work being done during year 1 and follow-up research during years 2 and 3. The cost is spread out over 3 years as follows: yr 1 = \$10,608, yr 2 = \$7,956 and yr 3 = \$7,956. Dr. Mulford shared with the board that recommending spending funds for this type of service comes with mixed emotions. That said, he believes it is important that the district continually assess the pulse of the district to guarantee that the needs of all stakeholders are being met. The board unanimously approved moving forward with the proposal as presented by Thought Exchange.

New Hires

Bill Martin – Bus Driver

Robert Arnett – West Plains Elementary Custodian

Transfer

Brittany Bryant – HS Office Manager

Resignations

Erin Lair – HS Secretary

Early Separation Incentive Retirees

Karen Hunt – West Plains Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Becky Rutledge - West Plains Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Lesa Smith - West Plains Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Ruth Schaumburg - West Plains Elementary Reading Specialist

Jackie Shelton – West Plains Elementary Reading

Jodi Ficken – West Plains Middle School 5th Grade Teacher

David Williams – West Plains Middle School Health/P.E.

Tina Jolliff – West Plains High School Reading

Dalena Allen – West Plains High School Senior Advisor

Steve Roseman – West Plains High School Science

Next Regular Meeting-

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 20th, 2014 at 5:00pm

School board meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday of each month at the West Plains School of Education Office, 305 Valley View Drive, unless otherwise posted.