



## **West Plains Schools Board Update**

August 23, 2016

### **Tax Rate Hearing –**

The overall district assessed valuation is down about \$5 million. According to Daniel Franks, the Howell County Assessor, the three largest factors in our decline are due to Robert Shaw, Air Evac, and Summit Natural Gas. The calculated tax rate ceiling for the 2016-2017 school year is figured at \$3.8086. As compared to last year's ceiling of \$3.6450, this is an increase just over 16.3 cents. The board approved Dr. Boyer's recommendation to set the tax rate at \$3.8086.

**Pledge of Allegiance-** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by building custodians. The custodial staff was acknowledged for their hard work in preparing the buildings for the new school year as well as their work throughout the year.

### **Academic Update**

The West Plains School District has been offered the opportunity to participate in the National eMINTS project that seeks to address key questions about the impact of the eMINTS professional development program on students' achievement and teacher practice in geographically dispersed districts in Alabama, Arkansas, Missouri, and Utah. Grade 7 content specific and special educators will receive technology and professional development to enhance classroom instruction. Each student in grade 7 will receive a Google Chromebook for use at school and to take home for special projects. Heather Hufstedler, middle school Techbrarian, and Lori Shannon, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Instructional Coach, will participate in the eMINTS National Train-the-Trainer program and become the district trainers for our teachers. The project confirmation will begin September 15, 2016.

### **MSBA Fall Conference, September 29th - October 2nd**

The district board of education will attend the Missouri School Board Association conference this year on September 29th through October 2nd. The conference is in cooperation with the Missouri Association of School Administrators and will focus on engaging, learning, and connecting.

### **Bid Approval for Surplus Property, Davidson Street Lots**

During the 2015-16 school year, the West Plains R-VII School Board surplused the empty lots on Davidson St. that had been purchased years ago for construction related projects for the Building Trades program. It was determined that constructing duplexes would be most suitable for these lots; however, constructing duplexes is not the direction district officials want our program to go. Rather, the building trades program is currently focusing on meeting district needs through building projects. As such, the board accepted a bid from Luke Romans for the property in the amount of \$20,000.

### **Acquisition of Property for Maintenance and Storage, 306 N. Howell**

The West Plains R-VII School District approved the purchase of the building located at 306 N. Howell. This is the red and white striped building just down from the high school near the railroad tracks and owned by Ward Franz. With the creation of the Greater Ozarks Center for Advanced technology (GOCAT), the district no longer has the ability to use the old city scales building for storage. 306 N. Howell will serve as the Maintenance and Storage Headquarters. The facility provides approximately 30,000 square feet of space and a fenced component

allowing for the secure storage of tractors, mowers, and other outdoor equipment. The cost of the facility is \$180,000 to be paid out in equal installments over a 3-year period. Dr. Mulford commented on this purchase, “We are appreciative of the Franz family for offering this property to the school district at such a reasonable price and with flexible terms. Essentially, we have been able to acquire this property for about \$6 per square foot and it is large enough to allow us to consolidate all of our storage and maintenance items into one location. In addition, it gives us the opportunity to use the existing maintenance (Across from the HS on Olden St.) as additional space for our educational programing. Once the existing maintenance building is empty, we will explore options for using that facility to meet the needs of our high school campus. Without this facility, the district would have likely been required to rent storage space to meet our needs. This facility provides a long-term solution in close proximity to our buildings”

### **Approval of ECSE Local Compliance Plan (State Model), Final Read & Approval**

The Local Compliance Plan is a document which the state develops and the district adopts on an annual basis. By approving this plan, the district will continue to follow the state model. An amendment has been made to the state model which will allow the district the ability to continue serving students who have been enrolled in Early Childhood Special Education upon entering kindergarten without being reassessed until entering first grade. The Local Compliance Plan was approved at the board meeting

#### **Hires:**

Cheryl Adams – Paraprofessional  
Molly Burnett – Paraprofessional  
Yuliya Caudill – Paraprofessional  
Danny Durkee – Paraprofessional  
Kelsey Givens – Paraprofessional  
Stacy Kerley – MS Secretary  
Audrey Layman - Paraprofessional  
Jadian Martin – Paraprofessional  
Kelly McNish – Paraprofessional  
Chris Mitchell – Paraprofessional  
Peter Moseley – Part Time Admin. Assistant “Substitute Coordinator”  
Heather Whittingham – LPN Clinical Supervisor “Part-Time”  
Amanda Williams – Preschool Teacher

#### **Resignations:**

Jessica Collins – MS Secretary  
Stephanie Stokes – Paraprofessional  
Anna Yakovleva – Paraprofessional

The next board meeting is scheduled for September 20th, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

*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.*