



West Plains Schools Board Update

April 17, 2018

Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the West Plains High School Speech & Debate and the high school Z-Caps program.

Last month, the West Plains High School Speech and Debate team competed at NSDA districts, the qualifying tournament for speech and debate nationals. The team competed very well. Junior, Justin Cotter, placed 2nd in International Extemporaneous Speaking and qualified for nationals. The national competition will take place in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in June.

Z-Caps is a new program to the West Plains High School this year. The program focuses on allowing juniors and seniors to test drive their future career options through internships by partnering with area business and professionals with an emphasis in engineering and manufacturing, entrepreneurship, health care or technology. Current partners include Ozarks Medical Center and the West Plains Elementary.

Naviance Presentation -

Last month, Dr. Williams presented to the board Naviance, a college and career readiness solution. The program helps districts and schools align student strengths and interests to postsecondary goals, improving student outcomes and connecting learning to life. Naviance keeps students focused on their objectives by helping students, families, and staff create course plans that not only match students' interests but also fulfill graduation requirements and align to postsecondary goals. The board approved the proposal.

SPEDTRAK Presentation -

Last month, Amy Ross presented the software system, SPEDTRAK, to the board along with cost information. SPEDTRAK is the system most widely used in Missouri and also by many of the area schools. By transferring to SPEDTRAK, the district expects to reduce the amount of time teachers are required to spend on paperwork due to improved efficiency. The board approved a 5 year agreement with SpedTrak.

Wrestling Program Proposal –

Greg Simpkins presented to the board a request to add wrestling to the activities offered at West Plains High School. The proposal involves a 4-year phase-in model. Year 1 would involve planning, hiring an experienced head coach, purchase of necessary equipment, and identifying an adequate practice area on campus that would be available during season. Years 2 & 3 would consist of a Junior Varsity schedule in an attempt to acclimate students to the sport. Year 4 would involve full implementation of both Varsity and Junior Varsity squads. The board conditionally approved the request to add wrestling pending the ability to successfully hire a qualified coach and to acquire the necessary equipment needed for practice and competitions. In Missouri, wrestling is open to both boys and girls. If all goes well during the planning year, junior varsity competition for the program is set to begin during the 2019-2020 school year.

Summer Board Workshop, July 10th – July 12th – 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The board is scheduled for a summer board workshop July 12th and 13th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The workshop is an opportunity for the superintendent and the board to dialogue about the vision and goals of the district.

MSBA Region 15 Spring Meeting, April 26th, Houston

The school board will travel to Houston on April 26th for the annual Region 15 Spring Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to inform school boards regarding current issues related to public education.

8th Grade Promotion at the Civic Center

The 8th grade promotion ceremonies will be held at 7:00pm at the West Plains Civic Center on Thursday, May 10th.

High School Graduation

The high school graduation ceremonies will be held at 7:00pm at the West Plains Civic Center on Friday, May 11th.

Summa Cum Laude Banquet

The annual Summa Cum Laude Banquet (Formerly Top 10% Banquet) was held April 17th at 6:30pm at the West Plains Civic Center. This event is sponsored each year by the Noon Rotary Club. The banquet recognizes high school seniors who rank in the top ten percent of their graduating class.

Hires:

Samantha Driscoll – High School Secretary

Faith Grace – SCCC, Business Teacher

Brian Hoyle – SCCC, Auto Body and Collision Repair

Sabrina Parrish – Elementary Classroom Teacher

Wilma Thompson – Middle School 5th Grade Language Arts

Ericka Walker – Middle School Principal

Jeremy Whittingham – High School Science

The next board meeting is scheduled for May 10th, at 5:00 p.m., Redbud Room at the West Plains Civic Center.