



West Plains School District Board Update

December 17, 2019

Board Candidate Filings – December 17, 2019 – January 21, 2020

Board candidate election filing opened today at 8:00 a.m. and runs through 5:00 p.m. January 21, 2020. Lee Freeman, Christena Coleman, and Courtney Beykirch are in their final year of a three-year term. All three seats will be up for election in April.

Discussion of Outsourcing the Hiring of Substitutes

A group from Penmac discussed with the board the possibility of a substitute teacher recruitment and placement program. The board will discuss the prospect at an upcoming board meeting.

Approval of 2020-2021 Calendar

The West Plains School District Board of Education has approved the 2020-21 school calendar. The State of Missouri now mandates all districts must start on or after August 24. The district start date for the 2020-21 school year will be on Monday, August 24, and the district will end one week later than in recent years.

The district has collaborated with the five K-8 districts to create a calendar that is community minded yet meets the unique needs of each district. Districts are required to offer at least 1,044 hours of instruction annually. Annual days and hours of instruction differ from district to district due to the incorporation of snow days, bussing schedules, and local autonomy. In order to meet state requirements, the West Plains School District has extended the school year and modified school start and end times. Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, West Plains Elementary will begin at 7:30 am and end at 2:55 pm. South Fork Elementary will begin at 8:05 am and end at 3:45 pm. West Plains High School and Middle School will begin at 8:05 am and end at 3:40 pm.

In an effort to shift focus from teaching to learning, the district has designated time in the 2020-2021 calendar to allow teachers at all grade levels to work together. The collective wisdom of all should be greater than the wisdom of one, and educators can better their classroom experience for students by sharing methods among peers. District leaders and the board of education recognize the need for teachers, as professionals, to collaborate with peers. Each week on Wednesdays, all buildings will dismiss one hour early. This dedicated, weekly time will be devoted to teacher collaboration through the Professional Learning Communities school improvement model.

Information on Professional Learning Communities and can be found at www.zizzers.org/PLC.

Designation of Foster Care Liaison

Each year, school districts are required to designate a foster care liaison. The board designated Amy Ross to serve in this capacity for our district.

Annual Liability Insurance Renewal

The district is currently a member of the Missouri United School Insurance Council (M.U.S.I.C.), a self-funded insurance consortium for public schools in Missouri. The district received an annual renewal proposal for 2020. The district administration has been pleased with M.U.S.I.C. and recommended that the renewal be accepted. The school board unanimously approved the recommendation.

Hires:

Ryan Smith – WPHS Math (2020-21 School Year)

Brett Henry – SCCC Carpentry (2020-21 School Year)

Sherri Howell – Special Education Teacher (2020-21 School Year)

Lauren Atkins – Special Education Teacher (2020-21 School Year)

Anatasia Cattron – SPED Paraprofessional
Brynn Sherman – SPED Paraprofessional
Valecity Enlow – Custodian

Resignations-

Mary Mulford – SFES Music/Title Teacher (Retirement – End of school year)
Angela Kinder – WPHS Science (End of school year)
Taylor Quarti – Sped Para (12/20/2019)
Ekaterina Coleman – Foreign Language Para (1/17/2020)
Bill Martin – Bus Driver (Retirement – End of school year)

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21st, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at the West Plains High School Library.

School board meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday of each month at the West Plains High School library, unless otherwise posted.