



West Plains School District Board Update

May 18, 2021

Summer Board Workshop Dates

The board is scheduled for a summer board workshop on June 8 and June 10. The workshop is an opportunity for the superintendent and the board to dialogue about the vision and goals of the district.

Salary and Welfare Committee Recommendations

Dr. Wilson met with the salary committee and suggested raising the teacher base to \$32,000 over the next three years. The salary committee made a separate recommendation. Dr. Wilson presented this information to the board, and the board is reviewing the recommendations.

FantasTechs Contract

FantasTechs is a St. Louis based company that specializes in IT needs for school districts, similar to what Opaa! does for food service. The company evaluates and manages technology in conjunction with the school district. Dr. Wilson recommended to the board to approve a new contract for 2021-2022. The board approved the contract.

Federal Programs Review

An onsite review was conducted on April 30, 2021. The district is now in complete compliance with the regulations the district previously obtained corrective action plans.

Approve RFQ for HVAC Upgrade

The board approved an RFQ from CTS for an HVAC upgrade at the elementary.

Critical Shortage Employment

Dr. Wilson asked the board to declare a teacher shortage in special education, elementary, and bus drivers. The declaration will allow retired teachers to return to work while continuing to receive PSRS service retirement benefits. The work may be part-time or full-time, and can be in a certificate or non-certificated position. During this timeframe, a teacher can work up to 24 months without losing PSRS benefits. The retired teacher does not pay PSRS contributions or earn additional service years while working under this provision. The district can only hire 5 teachers PSRS retirees under this provision. The board approved the recommendation.

Elementary FEMA Building

Dr. Wilson recently met with SCOCOG concerning a FEMA/SEMA award. The new FEMA building at the West Plains Elementary will take approximately 30 months to complete. The architect plans and site preparation will be accomplished within 6 months.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wilson updated the board on the state board of education meeting and asked each principal to give a building update.

New Hires

Kenneth DeShane - WPHS ELA Teacher
Neyssa Simpson - WPES 3rd Grade Teacher
Lisa Stephens - WPHS Math Teacher
Zach Feurt - WPMS 6th Grade Teacher
Kirsten Peterson - WPHS SPED Teacher
Anita Womack - SCCC Practical Nursing Instructor
Daniele Yaeger - 5th Grade Teacher
Nathan Cooper - Seasonal maintenance
Cody Davis - Seasonal maintenance

Hannah Downen - Paraprofessional
Tiffany Porter - Paraprofessional
McKenzie Barker - Paraprofessional
Melissa Bregenzer - Central Office receptionist
Shandon Gross - Paraprofessional
Hagan Riley - Computer/technology specialist
Heidi Schneider - Paraprofessional
Gwendolyn Vreeland - WPES secretary

Transfers

Laura Atkins - WPHS SPED Teacher to SPED Process Coordinator
Desiree Beard - WPHS ELA to Secondary Instructional Coach
Spenser Beard - WPMS PT Library Aide to SPED Paraprofessional
Kevin Hedden - WPHS Assistant Principal to WPMS Assistant Principal
Kenneth Holstine - WPMS Principal to WPHS Assistant Principal
Becky Hutchinson - WPES Assistant Principal to WPES Principal
Donnie Miller - WPES Principal to WPMS Principal
Tanya Miller - WPMS 5th Grade to WPHS Special Education Teacher

Resignations

Zack Beard - WPMS CUSTODIAN
Chris Carstenson - SPED Para (Retirement)
Danny Cobb - Bus Driver
Sherry Francis - WPES Secretary
Diane Keeling - SCCC Practical Nursing Instructor
Jason Lopez - Maintenance Employee
Julie Marquis - A+ Secretary
Melanie Martin - SPED Process Coordinator (Retirement)
Whitney Miller - WPES 3rd Grade Teacher
Kelsey Ragsdale - WPMS 6th Grade Teacher
Leah Tidwell - WPES 4th Grade Teacher
Katelyn Barnes - SPED Paraprofessional
Julie Prince - WPHS Sped Teacher

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2021, at the West Plains High School Library.
School board meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise posted.