



West Plains School District Board Update September 21, 2021

Academic Update

Dr. Greg Carter and Tiffany Young gave the board an update on teaching and learning at the elementary and secondary levels. Dr. Carter spoke about available tutoring for elementary and middle school and the NWEA assessment. Mrs. Young updated the board on online learning and ELA and Math curriculum progress.

Board Vacancy Discussion

The board of education continued to discuss plans for the school board vacancy at the September board meeting. The board set a timeline for letters of interest and interviews.

September 27 – October 8, 2021 – Letters of interest accepted.

October 12 – Letters of interest distributed to the board.

October 14 – Special board meeting to interview board member candidates during open session.

West Plains Elementary FEMA Addition Discussion

The West Plains Elementary has been approved for a FEMA/SEMA building. SAPP Architects gave the board an update on the progress so far. The new FEMA building will take approximately 30 months to complete. The architect plans and site preparation will be accomplished within six months.

Approval of Safe Return to In-Person Learning and Continuity of Services

At last night's September Board of Education meeting, a decision was made that impacted each building. After a continuous review of the data, it was decided that all teachers and high school students will continue to wear masks. All elementary and middle school students are **highly recommended** to wear masks. The masking changes are effective immediately. The data will be evaluated on an ongoing basis, and if it is determined there is a rise in positivity or quarantines, students will once again be required to wear a mask.

Approval of ESSER Budget

Upon approval by DESE, the district is required to allocate 20% of the funds to address learning loss. The majority of the remainder of the funds will be spent on HVAC throughout the district. The application was due August 23, 2021. The board approved the budget.

Approve Access Control Systems

Jonathan Hufstедler, the district Network Director, gave the board an update on district access controls and upgraded phone systems. An upgraded phone system will allow for staff to remain connected while off-site. A similar system was implemented at the City of West Plains, allowing a cloud-based application to mirror the staff member's office extension to send and receive phone calls. This upgrade would allow staff members to remain on the job while working from home. The project was funded through HEERF I FIPSE funds.

Discussion of Regional Hub for Early Learning

The district was asked to become a regional hub for Missouri's Early Care and Education Department as the school district and fiscal agent serving the surrounding five counties of Howell, Ozark, Texas, Wright, and Douglas. A regional hub is a coordinating body that provides resources in a designated area in Missouri, focusing on supporting families with newborns to age five. This coordinated support system is designed to ensure families have the knowledge and resources to make informed decisions about their children's safety, health, and education. Regional hubs will be located throughout the state to improve access for Missouri families and children. The ultimate goal of a regional hub model is a coordinated system of Early Care &

Education Connections with a place for every family to access resources and services that promote safe and healthy learning environments for young children. This aligns with the district's Early Learning CSIP goals of expanding our preschool, early learning programs, and resources for the community.

Approval of Bus Routes

Each year, the state requires school boards to officially set and adopt bus routes and bus schedules for the current year. Dr. Wilson provided the school board with a list of recommended routes and schedules, and the school board unanimously adopted all routes.

Discussion of Lineman Program at SCCC

The board approved a lineman program at the South Central Career Center, beginning January 2023. The year-long program will teach safety, climbing practices, equipment operation, transformer wiring, and more. Registration begins in May 2022.

Approval of Resolution for Additional Leave Due to COVID-19

The board voted to reinstate COVID leave for employees. Each person is eligible for up to 80 hours of COVID leave. This change also applies to staff members who missed work prior to this resolution and used PTO or sick days. The board will re-evaluate this benefit at the December board meeting for the spring semester.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wilson updated the board on the student enrollment, upcoming dates and asked each principal to give a building update.

New Hires

Rex Dotson – Automotive Mechanics Technology Adult Instructor
Aubrey King – Substitute Nurse
James McGuire – Assistant Wrestling Coach (WPHS)
Thomas Peabody – Custodian (WPHS)
Taylor Reavis – School Nurse

Transfers

Billie Welch – Custodian (WPMS) to Head Custodian (WPMS)

Resignations

Penny Fox-Jones – Speech Pathologist (SPED) Retirement
Bobby Gray – Custodian (WPHS)
Elizabeth Rodriguez – Paraprofessional (WPES)
Ethan Smith – Custodian (WPMS)
Tammy Snow – Paraprofessional (WPHS) Retirement
Lori Young – Accounts Payable (Central Office) Retirement
Hardy White – Evening Adult Mechanic Instructor (SCCC)

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2021, at the West Plains High School Library. School board meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday of each month unless otherwise posted.