



**West Plains R-VII School District
Board of Education Update
August 27, 2024
Tax Rate & Regular Session Meeting
West Plains High School Library**

Open Session

- President Cindy Tyree called the meeting to order.
- The West Plains R-VII School District Board of Education led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tax Rate Hearing

- Motion to enter Tax Rate Hearing (CSIP S1)
- Tax Rate Calculation (CSIP S1)
 - Dr. Davis provided information about the proposed tax rate.
- Public Comment on Tax Rate (CSIP S1)
- Set Tax Rate (CSIP S1)
- Motion to Return to Open Session

New Staff Introductions

- Mr. Orchard and the building principals recognized the new teachers.



Consent Agenda

- Before approving previous board meeting minutes, the board approved the following 6-0:
 - Financial report
 - Hires, Transfers, Volunteers, Resignations, Retirements, and Terminations
 - **New Hires – Board Action Required**

- Certified Positions
 - Becky Conway - High School Math Teacher
- Non-Certified Positions
 - Brooke Berry - Paraprofessional
 - Betty Brown - Custodian
 - Garrett Forester - Computer/Technology Specialist
 - Lenny Eagleman - Substitute Bus Driver
 - Jennifer Boze - Substitute Bus Driver
 - John May - Substitute Bus Driver
 - Madeline Newman - Paraprofessional
 - Rebekah Frazier - Paraprofessional
 - Elias Woodard - Custodian
 - Ashlie Ledbetter - WPMS Office Manager
 - Kevin Collins - Full Time Bus Driver
 - Shelby Vance - Custodian
 - Jessica Martz - Paraprofessional
 - Jessica Wages - Paraprofessional

■ **Transfers – Board Action Required**

- Rachel Holloway - Full Time Driver to Part Time Driver
- William Miller - Part Time Driver to Full-Time Driver

■ **Volunteers - Board Action Required**

- Austin Riggs

■ **Resignations – Board Action Required**

- Nicole Harris - WPMS Office Manager
- Tracy Elliott - Paraprofessional
- Leslee Ruengert - Paraprofessional
- Jordan McLaurin - WPHS Asst. Boys Basketball Coach
- Jordan McLaurin - WPHS Head Boys Tennis Coach
- Gary Huff - Full Time Bus Driver
- James McEntire - Custodian

■ **Retirements - Board Action Required**

- None at this time

■ **Terminations - Board Action Required**

- None at this time

- Approval of Program Evaluation(s) (CSIP S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, & S9)
- CSIP Update
- Approve MOU for Ozark Action Head Start (CSIP S4)
- Reapprove Board Policy BBFA (CSIP S7)

- Approval of Early Graduates
- Approval of OZH ZIZZER Clinic Contract Amendment

Regular Agenda

- The monthly bills were paid and approved. The board approved 6-0.
- The payment of the BURO bill was approved. The board approved 6-0. (RG absent).
- The payment of the Tyree Fertilizer bill was approved. The board approved 5-0-1. (CT abstained).

Previous Business - None

New Business -

- MSBA Policy Update - 1st Read (CSIP S5) - These are mainly policies to reflect recent legislation. It includes definitions of crimes and also background checks requirements for adult students. The board will vote on this next month.
- Approval of Zizzer Ballpark Advertising (CSIP S1) - The district recently released a bid opportunity for the scoreboard. Walmart was selected for a 10 year agreement. Walmart will contribute a total of \$10,500 during the ten years to be the sole scoreboard sponsor. The board approved 6-0.
- Approval of Surplus Property (CSIP S1) - The board approved 6-0.
 - 1998 Chevy Silverado
 - 2006 Chevy Express
 - 2002 Dodge Grand Caravan
 - 2006 Chevrolet HR
 - 1994 Woodtek Dust Collector
 - Cincinnati Fan Dust Collector
 - Grizzly Drum & Flap Sander
 - Delta Dust Collector
 - 2000 Grizzly Dust Collector

Updates/Reports to the Board of Education

Administrators reported on current events, projects, and plans in their respective buildings or departments.

- Building - Level Reports — SFES, SMTI, WPES, WPMS, WPHS, & ZPA (CSIP S5 AP1)
 - Dr. Huddleston reported that the South Fork Elementary campus looks great, with a new sidewalk cover, well-maintained grounds, spotless floors, and teachers creating inviting learning spaces as students return to school.
 - Dr. Cotter reported that SoMOTech welcomed 300 high school students and 84 adult students, exceeding ten-year averages. The campus looks better than ever, thanks to summer updates and the district custodial team ensuring everything was

ready. SoMOTech also celebrated an 85% pass rate in Surgical Technology certification exams and national gold medals won by FCCLA students in Seattle.

- Mrs. Uphaus reported the West Plains Elementary was ready for the new year with a "camping" theme, updated building features, and a focus on boosting reading levels with an early AR competition. The elementary school had three successful open house nights, with lots of smiles and a clean, welcoming environment thanks to the dedicated teachers and custodial crew.
- Dr. Steele reported the WPMS is focused on achieving grade-level reading for all students, 80% mastery of state content standards, and maintaining a positive school culture. WPMS is off to a great year with over 80% student attendance at orientations and an excellent job by the janitor crew in preparing the facilities.
- Mr. Smith reported WPHS completed several summer projects thanks to the hard work of custodians, maintenance staff, and coordination by Dr. Davis and Mr. Orchard. He also commended the teachers who dedicated time to curriculum meetings, and congratulated the FFA Trap Shoot team for earning back-to-back AIM FFA Grand National and Reserve Championships.
- Mr. Somoza reported that ZPA will start the year with 61 students, including 13 with IEPs, with the possibility of enrolling up to 12 in the MO Options program. With new supervisors, the Zizzer Clinic now has more therapists to address student mental health, and thanks to grant funding, students will also have the opportunity to take an outdoor activities/skill class this year.
- Public Relations & Communications Report (CSIP S5 AP1, AP2, & AP3) - Lana Snodgras
 - Ms. Snodgras reported the district is ramping up the #ZizzerFriday campaign with staff wearing red shirts, buttons, and stickers to boost school spirit and community engagement. Additionally, 10,000 copies of the back to school edition of R.E.D. Magazine will be distributed in the community, and the West Plains Education Foundation awarded \$6,700 in classroom innovation grants for the fall semester.
- Teaching & Learning Report (CSIP S6: AP1 & AP5) - Dr. Tiffany Young
 - Dr. Young reported on the spring 2024 assessment data and highlighted key curriculum focuses for the 2024-2025 school year, including new ELA resources for grades 6-8. Additionally, 66 WP educators attended the GOCS D Innovation Summit, and 37 new teachers were welcomed during New Teacher Orientation, emphasizing safety and relationship-building.
- Facility, Human Resources, Security, and Capital Projects Report (CSIP S1 AP1) - Matthew Orchard.
 - Mr. Orchard reported that the underground storage tanks received a "No Further Action Required" document, with above ground tanks expected by Thanksgiving, while the baseball/softball field and WPHS East Wing connection are nearly complete. Safety updates include upcoming active shooter training, the addition of seven school resource officers, and various technology projects being finalized for the new school year.

- Superintendent's Report (CSIP S1 AP 1; S3 AP1 & AP2; S5 AP 2 & AP3)
 - Dr. Davis reported the district's current enrollment for 2024-2025 is 2,608, slightly down from 2,648 last year. He reported that the 5 year average is 2647.6 He referenced a decrease in Kindergarten enrollment this year for the district..
 - During his finance report, he provided the following fiscal information concerning the closing of the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
 - Total Revenues - \$35,667,970.92
 - Total Expenditures - \$36,373,798.05
 - Ending Balance
 - Fund I - \$9,194,710.59
 - Fund II - \$0
 - Fund III - \$0
 - Fund IV - \$4,538,648.69
 - Reserve Percentage for the district as calculated by DESE
 - 2022 - 30.97%
 - 2023 - 29.23%
 - 2024 - 29.74%
 - West Plains R-VII Nine Year Average - 25.63%
 - He informed the school board that 8th grade promotion will return to Thursday evening the day prior to 12th grade graduation on Friday. He referenced that this mainly helps with band and choir set ups.
- Student School Board Member Report (CSIP S5)
 - Emma Arnold discussed her upcoming plans for communicating with both the staff and students.

The Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, September 17th, 2024. *The Open Session will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the West Plains High School Library.*