



**West Plains R-VII School District  
Board of Education Update  
September 17, 2024  
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.

**New Staff Introductions**

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



**West Plains Middle School Student Spotlight**

Principal Dr. Joby Steele highlighted two students, Stella Rhoads and Asa McFarland, from the RTI program. The students demonstrated to the board how they are advancing in the program. The students were awarded a Sonic gift card as a token of appreciation and recognition.



## 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
      - None at this time
  - Non-Certified Positions
    - Nathan Huddleston - Head Boys Tennis Coach
  - Transfers – Board Action Required
    - None at this time
  - Volunteers - Board Action Required
    - None at this time
  - Resignations – Board Action Required
    - None at this time
  - Retirements - Board Action Required
    - Sheila Sparks - WPHS SWAT/Special Education Teacher (End of Year)
    - Dee Rowland - District Paraprofessional (End of Year)
  - 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
  - Approval of Special Education Local Compliance Plan (CSIP S4 & S8)  
[https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/D8RJVS4EA19A/\\$file/Adoption%20Local%20Compliance%20Plan%2024-25.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/D8RJVS4EA19A/$file/Adoption%20Local%20Compliance%20Plan%2024-25.pdf)
  
  - Approval of School Resource Officer MOU with Howell County Sheriff (CSIP S7)  
[https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/D92MFN5B0E9B/\\$file/HCSO%20WPR7%20SRO%20MOU.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/D92MFN5B0E9B/$file/HCSO%20WPR7%20SRO%20MOU.pdf)
  
  - Approval of School Resource Officer MOU with West Plains Police Department (CSIP S7)  
[https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/D92MLR5BC7D7/\\$file/MOU-WPPD%20%26%20WPR7%20SRO.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/D92MLR5BC7D7/$file/MOU-WPPD%20%26%20WPR7%20SRO.pdf)

## Previous Business

- MSBA Policy Update - 2nd Read (CSIP S5)

## Regular Agenda

- The monthly bills were paid and approved. The board approved 7-0.
- The payment of the BURO bill was approved. The board approved 6-0. (RG abstained)

## New Business

- Approval of Bus Routes (CSIP)  
[https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/D92MJ65B65C6/\\$file/Bus%20Route%20Approval.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/D92MJ65B65C6/$file/Bus%20Route%20Approval.pdf)
- Approval of Surplus Property Bids (CSIP 1)  
[https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/D97G6M424BE8/\\$file/Bid%20Results%20Sept%202024%20Board%20Meeting.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/D97G6M424BE8/$file/Bid%20Results%20Sept%202024%20Board%20Meeting.pdf)

## 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 South Fork is off to a great start. Students are engaged, teachers excel, and the positive climate energizes them. He recognized Mrs. Camisha Hunter for her dedication and consistent high student achievement.
  - Dr. Cotter started the school year smoothly and thanked his team. He said student enrollment is strong with high school students transitioning to hands-on learning, and the adult programs, especially welding, and nursing, are seeing record recruitment.
  - West Plains Elementary is focused on raising reading levels by setting grade-specific goals and ensuring mastery of each standard, which will enhance student success on the MAP test. Additionally, the Zizzer Style team has reinstated Zizzer tickets to promote a positive environment, rewarding students for meeting expectations with fun class celebrations.
  - Dr. Steele reported that Dr. Young met with teachers to review MAP scores and the district's ranking in the Ozark Mountain Conference. The middle school is working with Dr. Young, Mrs. Maguffee, and instructional coaches to improve standards mastery through Study Island. Ashlie Ledbetter has joined as the new office manager, bringing stability and focus to the daily operations.
  - West Plains High School recognized 403 students (47%), from sophomores to seniors, for academic excellence with GPAs of 3.33 and above. The high school is enhancing communication through Google Classroom and other platforms while focusing on the positive recognition of students and staff. Homecoming events are

scheduled for September 27-28, and students are working hard to plan and organize activities.

- ZPA has 56 students enrolled, 14 on IEPs and 9 in the MO Option Program. The school's instructional coach has been working weekly with teachers to improve curriculum and instruction, and attendance has improved significantly to over 90%. Celebrations include outdoor and fine arts field trips and guest speakers for the JAG program.
- Public Relations & Communications Report (CSIP S5 AP1, AP2, & AP3) - Lana Snodgras
  - The district uses digital storytelling to strengthen connections between schools and the community by showcasing classroom experiences, student achievements, and innovative teaching. Additionally, the district highlights staff through spotlights, awards, and campaigns like Teacher Proud Tuesday.
- Teaching & Learning Report (CSIP S6: AP1 & AP5) - Dr. Tiffany Young
  - Key upcoming curriculum dates include ELA sessions for Kindergarten, 7th, and 8th grades in September. MAP and EOC testing groups have reviewed state assessment data and set academic growth goals for the year, focusing on preparing students for assessments. Professional development has included training on Exact Path, a personalized learning tool, and the next PD day on September 23 will cover security training and curriculum planning.
- Facility, Human Resources, Security, and Capital Projects Report (CSIP S1 AP1) - Matthew Orchard.
  - The district is focusing on filling 2nd shift custodian positions and has posted anticipated openings for the 2025-26 school year. Key facility updates include the installation of above-ground fuel storage tanks by Thanksgiving, completion of the baseball/softball field turf project, and progress on the soccer field expansion. Safety initiatives are underway, including promoting the Courage 2 Report Tip Line and conducting active shooter training during the September 23 PD day. The Zizzer Clinic saw an increase in patient visits in August, and flu shots will be offered to staff on September 18 and 23.
- Federal Programs and Special Education Report (CSIP S7)
  - High-dosage tutoring for students needing additional support in Communication Arts and Mathematics will begin in September, funded through Title V. Several payment requests for special education, federal programs, and Parents as Teachers have been submitted to DESE, while enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year continues to grow, with 172 new or returning homeschool students.
- Superintendent's Report (CSIP S1 AP 1; S3 AP1 & AP2; S5 AP 2 & AP3)
  - The external audit was completed by an outside firm. No findings were discovered. Board President Tyree mentioned that the auditor had called her personally and complimented the office staff and administration for their due diligence they place in the financial operations of the district. He also stated the

district was in the best financial shape in many years. The auditor will come to an upcoming board meeting to review the entire audit with the school board.

- Dr. Davis thanked the admin team for helping pack 1200 food backpack bags alongside the Sunrise and Noon Rotary members. These backpacks provide food for students in West Plains and area schools for the weekends.
- The K8 high school student roster has been sent to the area schools for tuition purposes. He stated the bills will begin soon.
- The district is currently taking bids for two school buses for the upcoming year. Dr. Davis stated the district will approve the bid during the October School Board meeting. He also referenced the upcoming need for an additional handicapped bus for the district.
- Lastly, Dr. Davis stated the district is going to pursue a towable lift for the district. Currently lifts are rented for maintenance, technology, and landscaping projects. With the ever increasing use of lifts he stated the district could save funds in the long term by purchasing a lift.
- Student School Board Member Report (CSIP S5)
  - Emma Arnold distributed a survey to all students and staff to gather their feedback on the start of the school year. She also shared insights about the questions included in the survey.

The next board meeting is Tuesday, October 15th, 2024. *The Open Session will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the West Plains High School Library.*