



**West Plains R-VII School District
Board of Education Update
October 15, 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.

West Plains High School Student Spotlight

Principal Mr. Smith highlighted Dr. Brewer, the summer drivers education instructor, and students Wyatt Battreal and William LaChance. The students shared their experiences from the course. 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:
 - Financial report
 - Hires, Transfers, Volunteers, Resignations, Retirements, and Terminations
 - **New Hires – Board Action Required**
 - Certified Positions
 - Brenda Colter - Elementary Teacher - WPES (25-26 school year)
 - Non-Certified Positions
 - Tara Miller - WPHS Assistant Boys Tennis Coach
 - Don Long - WPHS Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
 - Anabaya Crutchfield - Custodian
 - **Transfers – Board Action Required**

- None at this time
- **Volunteers - Board Action Required**
 - Micki Anderson
 - Natalie Brazeal
 - Justin Brown
 - Sam Cobb
 - Bailey Fox
 - Brenda Galiher
 - Wesley Gunter
 - Dalton Head
 - Jim Laughary
 - Lee Laughary
 - Rocky Long
 - Greg Montgomery
 - Darrik Moody
 - Rebecca Pruett
 - Jeffrey Roylance
 - Amanda Rutledge
 - Ramond Talburt
 - Timothy Temple
 - Alanna Temple
- **Resignations – Board Action Required**
 - Jacob Webb - Paraprofessional
 - Robert Kramer - Custodian (10/11/24)
- **Retirements - Board Action Required**
 - Michelle Henderson - Special Education Process Coordinator
 - Sheila Decker - WPHS Science Teacher
- **Terminations - Board Action Required**
 - Jacob Webb - Assistant Girls Softball Coach
- Approval of Program Evaluation(s) (CSIP S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, & S9)
- CSIP Update
- Approval of Literacy Plan (CSIP 8) - The Literacy Plan will strengthen reading and writing skills district-wide, equipping all students with essential literacy tools for success. Aligned with CSIP and MSIP 6 guidelines, it promotes ongoing improvement in literacy achievement throughout the district.

Previous Business

- None at this time.

Regular Agenda

- The monthly bills were paid and approved. The board approved.
- Payment of Buro Invoice (CSIP S7). The board approved. (RG abstained)

New Business

- Approval of Bus RFP (CSIP 7) - We requested bus bids for the next school year. The board approved a bid from Midwest Transit for the following.
 - Two International school buses. 77 passenger models. \$159,969 each
 - June 2025 - August 2026 delivery
 - One International Special Needs school bus - 58 passenger + 2 wheelchair positions with a lift. \$178,762
 - November 2025 - February 2026 delivery
- Approval of Board Filing Dates (CSIP 5) -
 - Filing will begin on December 10, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.. It will continue during the district's regular business hours, which are Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except for the last day of filing in which the office will be open until 5:00 p.m. Filing will not occur on days that the school district is closed due to inclement weather. Filing will also not occur on days the district is closed from the holidays. Holidays include December 24th and December 25th. Filing on December 31, 2025, will begin at 1:00 p.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m. Two positions are available with three-year terms currently held by Cindy Tyree and Sam Riggs. Other current Board members are Christina Silvey Coleman (2026), Reid Grigsby (2026), and Jodi Purgason (2026). Also Brian Mitchell (2027) and Shealia Harper (2027).

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 SFES has had a smooth start to the school year, welcoming many new students and preparing for upcoming October events. Recent highlights include a "students of the month" assembly and an Arby's fundraiser that raised approximately \$426.
 - Dr. Cotter reported that thanks to the state Enhancement Grant, \$57,404.59 is being spent this year to secure \$144,215.21 worth of new equipment, including a welding simulator and a Chromebook cart for career and technical programs. Additionally, adult program recruitment efforts are strong, with social media advertising effectively boosting enrollment for the January Electric Line and Practical Nursing programs.
 - WPES celebrated homecoming week with spirit days, a special band performance, and a popsicle parade. The "Reading Under the Lights" event was a success, bringing

families together for food, prizes, and reading with Zizzer athletes. Additionally, the first Accelerated Reader competition saw girls reading over 2.6 million words, while the first-grade class won a Standards Mastery challenge, earning free recess and lunch.

- WPMS students have earned 6,077 blue ribbons for mastering content standards through Study Island during RTI time. They participated in the "Reading Under the Lights" event and hosted a Title One Parent Night "Tailgate Party" on October 4th, featuring games, a bounce house, and concessions.
- WPHS RTI is now in progress, with daily sessions focused on re-teaching concepts to students with D's or F's, and data is being collected to track improvements. The first quarter will end on October 16, and upcoming events include Parent/Teacher conferences, Sophomore Career Day, a College Fair, and a Community Blood Drive.
- ZPA has an enrollment of 61, with improved attendance of over 90% and ongoing instructional coaching support. Recent highlights include students taking the ASVAB, Hailee Vaughn winning the JAG essay competition, and Juno F. being named September Student of the Month.
- Public Relations & Communications Report (CSIP S5 AP1, AP2, & AP3) - Lana Snodgras
 - The district launched a new user-friendly website to improve communication with students, parents, and the community. 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
 - Fourth-grade teachers have revamped their writing curriculum to align with MAP assessment prompts and provide more teaching and writing practice time throughout the year. Additionally, recent and upcoming professional development includes training on tools like Freckle for personalized learning and an Educamp on November 1, offering teacher learning sessions.
- Facility, Human Resources, Security, and Capital Projects Report (CSIP S1 AP1) - Matthew Orchard.
 - The district focuses on filling 2nd shift custodian positions and reviewing wages for various hourly roles to stay competitive while posting anticipated teaching positions for the 2025-26 school year. Recent facility updates include the installation of new fuel storage tanks, the completion of the grass soccer field expansion, and enhanced safety measures at the WPHS Ag Building, with plans to present an Emergency Operations Plan for board approval in November.
- Federal Programs and Special Education Report (CSIP S7)
 - Dr. Ross has submitted various payment requests and expenditure reports, including for IDEA, ESSA, and Special Education, and is awaiting approvals. Additionally, the

district focuses on supporting high-needs students, providing high-dosage tutoring, and enhancing social-emotional wellness services for students and staff while participating in state and federal education programs.

- Superintendent's Report (CSIP S1 AP 1; S3 AP1 & AP2; S5 AP 2 & AP3)
 - Dr. Davis spoke of the increased number of “student hours” generated by the 2024 summer school program. He credits the increase to the extra activities that the K-8 students were able to attend and the added drivers ed program at WPHS.
 - He discussed the decreased enrollment of the current kindergarten students at WPES and SFES. He commented that at a recent Ozark Mountain Conference other schools in the conference had the same decreased enrollment in kindergarten. He did mention that Springfield numbers were unavailable at that meeting.
 - The West Plains R-VII Board of Education, along with Dr. Davis, will be headed to Kansas City this week. They will attend the Missouri School Board Association state meeting from Thursday evening until Saturday night. Currently, it appears that five West Plains board members will be in attendance with him.
 - During Dr. Davis’ report, he read a letter that he (and Board President Mrs. Tyree) had received from the Missouri School Boards Association. The letter recognized board secretary Erica Jones as one of the first secretaries in the state to complete the new MSBA Board Secretary Academy program and certification. The academy requires board secretaries to attend several additional hours of training through the state and a minimum of three other school district’s board meetings.
 - Dr. Davis discussed the budget for the 2025-2026 school year. The biggest issue will be meeting the state requirements on salary schedules now required by law. He discussed reducing some programs, positions, extra duty contracts, and other things that could be needed to meet this state requirement. He is also working on the tuition rate for the upcoming school year that he will provide to the area school districts. The first reading will be in December, and the rate will be approved in January. Major projects for the district that are being budgeted include paving at student parking, roofing at WPES, and tile replacement at portions of West Plains High School.
 - Lastly, he commented that two representatives from U.S. Senator Eric Schmidt’s office visited the district today. Dr. Davis informed the board that in his 28 years, he had never had a visit from either the U.S. Senator or U.S. Representative office and was very appreciative of the opportunity to discuss federal policies and share concerns related to the federal level and how it impacts West Plains and rural Missouri.
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- Student School Board Member Report (CSIP S5)
 - Emma Arnold shared the survey results she sent to all students and staff to gather feedback on the start of the school year. She also emailed all WPHS students a summary of the September board meeting and a school safety survey. She plans to

involve the high school morning announcers to boost participation in October's board meeting feedback.

The next board meeting is Tuesday, November 19th, 2024. *The Open Session will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the West Plains High School Library.*