



**West Plains R-VII School District
Board of Education Update
December 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.

Student/Staff Spotlight

Dr. Cooley highlighted the fall athletics programs, introducing coaches and players during the spotlight.



Consent Agenda

- Before approving previous board meeting minutes, the board approved the following:
 - Financial report

- [https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/DBSJBR4C6BC9/\\$file/Board%20Balance%20Sheet%20-%20December%202024.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/DBSJBR4C6BC9/$file/Board%20Balance%20Sheet%20-%20December%202024.pdf)

- Hires, Transfers, Volunteers, Resignations, Retirements, and Terminations

New Hires – Board Action Required

Certified Positions

- Amanda Hollis - WPHS Counselor
- Blaine Rybolt - Elementary Teacher (Anticipated Openings)
- Molly Burnett - Elementary Teacher (Anticipated Openings)

Non-Certified Positions

- Jimmy Miller - WPHS Head Boys Soccer Coach
- Kourtney Stockton - WPHS Assistant Boys Swim Coach
- Raymond Leonard - 2nd Shift Custodian
- Emily Jennings - Paraprofessional
- Brenton Bush - Paraprofessional
- Jesse Bates - 2nd Shift Custodian
- Christopher Baldrige - 2nd Shift Custodian
- Jordan Jennings - Full Time Route Driver

Transfers – Board Action Required

- Anna Luehrs - WPES Teacher to WPHS Science (2025-2026 SY)

Volunteers - Board Action Required

- Travis Smith

Resignations – Board Action Required

- Cody Davis - Seasonal Maintenance
- Kenneth Baker - Maintenance (12/30/2024)
- Valeria Molina - Paraprofessional (1/17/2024)

Retirements - Board Action Required

- Paul Davis - WPHS Head Custodian (12/31/2024)

Terminations - Board Action Required

- Anabaya Crutchfield - Custodian
- Rachel Holloway - Sub Bus Driver
- Brandon Pitti - Custodian

- Approval of Program Evaluation(s) (CSIP S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, & S9)
- CSIP Update (CSIP 2)
- Approval of Early Graduates (CSIP S5)
- Approval of MUSIC Workman's Comp and Insurance Invoice (CSIP S7)
- Approval of Facility Management Plan (CSIP 1)

Previous Business

- 2nd Read - Approval Strategic Communication Plan - (CSIP 5)
 - [https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/DATL9B556FF1/\\$file/Strategic%20Communications%20Plan%202025%20-%202030.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/DATL9B556FF1/$file/Strategic%20Communications%20Plan%202025%20-%202030.pdf)
- 2nd Read - Approval of Board Policy 24C Update - (CSIP S5)

Regular Agenda

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

New Business

- Approval of 2023-2024 Audit Report. (CSIP S7) - The board approved the audit as presented by Dr. Davis; the auditor was unavailable to attend. Dr. Davis noted that the district had zero findings in the audit. [WP Audit](#)
- First Read - 2025-2026 Tuition Rate (CSIP S7) - Dr. Davis reviewed the tentative rate increase for the upcoming year. The final rate will be determined based on the enrollment on the last day of the semester. His best estimate is that the rate will increase between 2.9% and 3.1% based on the current rate. The rate will be approved in the January 2025 board meeting.
- Declare Surplus Property (CSIP S2)
 - The board declared 613 W 1st Street at Surplus Property (commonly known as Carmichael Street Building). Sealed bids will be accepted until March 7th, 2025, at 12:00 pm. Bids will be opened at 12:05 pm on that same day. Bids will be accepted/rejected at the March 2025 School Board Meeting.
- First Read - 3rd and 5th Grade ELA Curriculum - (CSIP S8)
- First Read - 2025-2026 School Calendar - (CSIP S5). Mr. Orchard and Dr. Davis reviewed the two options for the upcoming school year. The calendars were similar, with the only differences mainly being a Monday or Wednesday start date (and then a Wednesday or Friday end date). Mr. Orchard discussed that the committee was split evenly on the start date, and the faculty vote was very close as well. Dr. Davis mentioned that area schools are looking at both options as well. He also noted that some things are already scheduled and partially paid for in accordance with the Monday start date. His recommendation would be to continue with the Monday start date for the 2025 school year, but if a large majority of the staff wanted to move to Wednesday as a start date to start that planning now for the 2026 school year.
- Approval of Substitute Pay Rate (CSIP S7) - The board approved the rate to increase from \$100 to \$110 per day to meet the requirements of the minimum wage law that goes into effect on January 1, 2025.
- Approval of Surplus Property Bids (CSIP S7) - The board approved. [SMTI Surplus Bids](#)

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, WPHS, & ZPA (CSIP S5 AP1)
 - South Fork Elementary had a successful November, with increased family involvement, growing enrollment, and strong staff support. Students enjoyed participating in community events like the Veterans Day parade and “Operation Christmas Child,” donating 50 boxes to those in need.
 - SoMoTech programs continue to thrive, supported by \$433,120 in state CTE Base and Performance Grant funding, which offsets 44% of salary costs for 22 instructors. Highlights include strong student performance, preparations for Practical Nursing and Electric Line graduations on December 19th, and a successful November PD day that sparked valuable collaboration and ideas.
 - West Plains Elementary has doubled its word count from last year, reflecting a growing love for reading. Teachers are working diligently on standard mastery, with third grade implementing targeted instruction that helps students catch up on missing skills.
 - The West Plains High School counseling team hosted a successful FAFSA Frenzy, with another session and Scholarship Night planned for February 13th. Highlights include the National Honor Society induction ceremony recognizing student achievement and 475 students qualifying for semester test exemptions due to outstanding performance. Preparations for next year’s master schedule and course recommendations are already underway.
 - ZPA has 69 students enrolled, 11 completing the MO Option Program, and 35 names submitted for December graduation. Highlights include a successful Thanksgiving meal, Serenity Mondy earning Student of the Month, and collaboration with STU-CO to host the Craft Show.
- Public Relations & Communications Report - Lana Snodgras (CSIP S5 AP1, AP2, & AP3)
 - The district continues to prioritize strong communication and community engagement, with highlights including updated staff directories, \$5,500 in winter mini-grants awarded to 12 teachers, and ongoing faculty recognitions through campaigns like Teacher Proud Tuesday. Leadership roles in the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club further support community connections.
- Teaching & Learning Report - Tiffany Young (CSIP S6: AP1 & AP5)
 - The district continues to focus on balancing literacy and math instruction while emphasizing growth. Highlights include receiving a \$6,000 grant for PLTW courses, upcoming curriculum workdays, and spring MAP and EOC assessment preparations.
- Facility, Human Resources, Security, and Capital Projects Report - Matthew Orchard (CSIP S1 AP1)
 - Two 2025-2026 calendar options were presented to the Board, with a staff survey favoring a Wednesday start. Facilities updates include roof repairs at WPE and

WPMS, new fuel tanks, and a man lift purchase. Safety initiatives include an upcoming multi-agency school safety meeting in January and emergency preparedness training at the February EduCamp.

- Federal Programs and Special Education Report - Amy Ross (CSIP S7)
 - The district submitted payment requests totaling \$158,093.51 for IDEA, Title programs, Parents as Teachers activities, supporting staff salaries, and parent engagement efforts. Additionally, enrollment updates show 317 new or returning homeschool students, while technology integration and ESL/ELL support continue to progress with professional development and assessments.
- Superintendent's Report - Wesley Davis (CSIP S1 AP 1; S3 AP1 & AP2; S5 AP 2 & AP3)
 - Finance
 - The YTD Budget as of 12.16.24 is as follows:
 - Total Revenues - \$11,223,157 - 33.89%
 - Total Expenditures - \$16,058,691 - 46.42%
 - Tax Collections - YTD the district has received about 18% of the budgeted amount. (\$1.2 million)
 - Dr. Davis discussed several ideas about budget reductions for next year in preparation for the required salary schedule. This included reductions and/or elimination of stipends, reducing positions, transferring people to positions as needed to open positions, changes to online classes (Spark, Launch, etc.), and a continued reduction of pulling teachers for curriculum by offering other work days.
 - Dr. Davis also followed up with a discussion about seated courses in relation to student activities. This has been discussed during the last two board meetings. He commented that this is also something that the staff referenced in the climate survey that is an issue. He said he recommended a decision be made no later than January for the upcoming school year concerning the required amount of seated courses. The timing of this is to assist with student scheduling. He followed up that in regards to online courses, the district is required by law to allow courses, but not required to offer such a wide variety of different options.
 - The district currently has two board member spots coming open. The filing date ends on 12/31 at 5:00 pm. The terms of Cindy Tyree and Sam Riggs are both ending, and both have filed for reelection.
 - The district will be closed on 12/24, 12/25, & 1/1.
 - The Holiday Basketball Tournaments will soon be underway. Dr. Davis provided copies of the brackets to school board members.
 - The School Board Member Refresher Training this year will be virtual and sent out by Board Secretary Erica Jones. In the past, the school board did this as a group in January or February during the board meeting.

- The 2025-2026 Student Board Representative search will begin next month. This will be the 2nd year of this for the school district. Currently, senior Emma Arnold is the student representative and will be assisting Dr. Davis with the process.
- Dr. Davis discussed the current and future use of Penmac in the district. This was focused mainly on the amount of funds it currently costs the district and also the amount of time and resources the district would need to use in the future if the district would take this responsibility back over.
- Student School Board Member Report (CSIP S5)
 - Student board member Emma Arnold shared staff survey results regarding AI. Emma surveyed the high school student body to better understand their knowledge and current use of AI in their learning. Dr. Young sent a survey to the middle school and high school staff to gain the same information from the staff's perspective.

The next board meeting is Tuesday, January 21, 2025. *The Open Session will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the West Plains High School Library.*