



**West Plains R-VII School District
Board of Education Update
January 21, 2025
Regular Session Meeting
West Plains High School Library**

Open Session

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

Student/Staff Spotlight

Student Presentation - The district has rallied around Zizzer athlete Lexi Williams and her family as she faces a serious health challenge. On January 11, the district hosted "Lexi Williams Night" during the WPHS boys basketball game, featuring a dessert auction, 50/50 raffle, and smoked ribs generously prepared by Jay Hale and his crew. STUCO also organized a t-shirt fundraiser, encouraging staff to wear shirts for "Lexi Williams Day." Thanks to the community's support, \$15,322 was raised and presented to Lexi and her family at tonight's Board of Education meeting.



SoMoTech - Instructors from Southern Missouri Technical Institute gave an update on the SkillsUSA competition and introduced students who plan to compete. Mrs. Wheeler introduced students in the CNA program and discussed employment opportunities in the field.



Glenwood School Board - The Glenwood School Board attended the meeting to express their appreciation for the strong partnership and collaboration between the two boards and superintendents, highlighting the importance of working together, the transparency that has been shared, and the commitment to support our students and communities.



Consent Agenda

- Before approving previous board meeting minutes, the board approved the following:
 - Financial report
 - [https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/DCNLBL55C602/\\$file/Board%20Balance%20Sheet%20-%20January%202025.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mo/wpr7sd/Board.nsf/files/DCNLBL55C602/$file/Board%20Balance%20Sheet%20-%20January%202025.pdf)
 - Hires, Transfers, Volunteers, Resignations, Retirements, and Terminations
 - New Hires – Board Action Required**
 - Certified Positions
 - Marshall Turner - High School/Middle School Intro. to Carpentry Teacher
 - Tracie Nash - 7-12 English Teacher Anticipated Opening
 - Non-Certified Positions
 - Jason Bowen - District Maintenance
 - Transfers – Board Action Required**
 - Donald Collins - WPHS Custodian to WPHS Head Custodian
 - Andrea Gaither - WPES 1st Grade to WPES 3rd Grade
 - Drew Crawford - WPHS Teacher to District Paraprofessional
 - Kylie Wakefield-Agnew - WPES 3rd Grade to WPES 2nd Grade
 - Molly Burnett - WPES Anticipated to WPES 3rd Grade
 - Blaine Rhybolt - WPES Anticipated to WPES 1st Grade
 - Emilie Brotherton - ZPA Instructor to District Paraprofessional
 - Volunteers - Board Action Required**
 - None
 - Resignations – Board Action Required**
 - Shay Amoss - WPHS Paraprofessional and Asst. Football Coach
 - Joel Wyatt - WPHS Teacher and Head Football Coach
 - Bennett Sutter - WPHS Social Studies Teacher
 - Becky Conway - WPHS Math Teacher
 - Brittany Moore - WPHS English Teacher
 - Jermyn Vance - WPMS Special Education Teacher
 - Jennifer Boze - WPMS Special Education Teacher
 - Retirements - Board Action Required**
 - Lisa Fox - SFES Secretary
 - Terminations - Board Action Required**
 - None
 - Approval of CSIP Update (CSIP S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, & S9)

Previous Business

- Second Read - 2025-2026 Tuition Rate (CSIP S7) - Dr. Davis reviewed the rate. The board approved to set the upcoming rate at \$9,591.244. (The board approved 6-0)
- Second Read - 2025-2026 School Calendar (CSIP S5) - Mr. Orchard discussed both calendar options. The board approved the 2025-2026 school year calendar beginning Monday, August 18. (The board approved 6-0). The calendar will soon be available at www.zizzers.org.
- Second Read - 3rd and 5th Grade ELA Curriculum (CSIP S8). This was tabled until the February board meeting.

Regular Agenda

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

New Business

- Approval of West Plains Elementary School Roof Bid (CSIP S1) - The board rejected the bids and will start the process over per the request of Mr. Orchard.

Updates/Reports to the Board of Education

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

- Federal Programs and Special Education - Dr. Ross submitted payment requests totaling \$151,818.37 for December expenditures, covering IDEA, Title programs, and Parents as Teachers activities, with funds supporting salaries, parent involvement events, and educational initiatives. Additionally, January highlights include enrolling 332 homeschool students for 2024–2025 and administering the ACCESS WIDA assessment for ESL/ELL students to support academic growth and success.
- Zizzer Pride Academy currently has enrolled 60 students, including 14 with IEPs and 13 in the MO Option Program, with ongoing efforts to enhance curriculum, instruction, and student support. Celebrations include 10 new MO Option students, December graduates, and Cali Bruffet earning Student of the Month, while students continue service learning projects and daily responsibilities.
- West Plains Middle School is preparing for MAP assessments, and reading proficiency has risen from 35% to 47% this year. The Student Council raised \$922.44 through fundraising efforts to support Blessing Boxes and spread holiday cheer at Pleasant Valley Manor.
- In January, SoMoTech welcomed new cohorts in Practical Nursing (27 students) and Electric Line Technology (17 students), along with additional returning nursing students from last year. Enrollment efforts for the next school year are underway, while current students are actively honing their skills in labs, clinics, and shops. Preparations for the 2026 accreditation visit have also begun, ensuring program quality and funding access.
- Public Relations & Communications - The communications director focuses on engaging families and community partnerships through storytelling, social media, and outreach efforts. Key initiatives include celebrating staff, highlighting student achievements, maintaining

digital platforms, and strengthening community ties via radio shows, news releases, and civic involvement.

- Facility, Human Resources, Security, and Capital Projects - A multi-agency school safety meeting on January 23, 2025, focused on improving emergency response plans with real-world scenario training facilitated by Glen Moore. Vanessa Doss will provide safety training at the February EduCamp, covering topics like Stop the Bleed, CPR, and AED use. The Zizzer Clinic served 175 patients in December, and staff biometric screenings will be conducted for the first time during EduCamp by Ozarks Healthcare.
- West Plains High School is reviewing recent APR scores and focusing on improvement by evaluating EOC courses, expanding advanced placement and dual credit opportunities, enhancing teaching methods, and increasing student encouragement.
- South Fork Elementary's annual St. Jude fundraiser is underway, with all grade levels working toward a \$20,000 goal by February 12, 2025. First-semester highlights include a 14% increase in reading proficiency, mastery of nearly 3,000 standards, and students reading 3.5 million words.
- West Plains Elementary celebrated community involvement with the 4th-grade choir caroling at West Vue nursing home and 1st graders baking cookies with FACS students at Ruby Doo's. Academically, students have read nearly 13 million words, mastered over 11,000 standards, and increased grade-level reading proficiency from 41% to 54% compared to last year.
- In the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Davis highlighted several topics.
 - He discussed the success of the Lexi Williams Fundraiser and stated this is what we needed to focus on.
 - He referenced the electrical outage day and its impact on the district.
 - He commented that there would not be a board election in April as the incumbents, Cindy Tyree and Sam Riggs will fill the two spots. They are running unopposed. This would save the district over \$10,000 in election costs.
 - The CSIP will be updated in April. Dr. Ross will be coordinating that moving forward. Dr. Davis has invited the K-8 schools to participate in this process. Junction Hill has provided names of participants and Glenwood has also agreed to participate.
 - The enrollment document will look drastically different in January as over 75 students graduated in December. Dr. Davis wanted to remind the board of the changes that will be reflected on the attendance sheet moving forward.
 - On December 2, 2025, the WPHS wrestling program will host a meet at the WPCC. The district plans to take all students in grades 3-8 to watch the event. Dr. Davis has invited the K-8 schools to attend this event as well. He hopes to create a large interest in the wrestling program of the district.
 - The student board member representative program for the 2025-26 selection process has begun. The board has begun soliciting applications for this. The new member will be named in April.

- Dr. Davis' report focused mainly on the 2025-2026 budget. Many things were mentioned in his report. Items such as reduced major facility projects but stating the district will still take care of the needs, working on a new salary schedule to meet the state requirements for a \$40,000 minimum, reducing stipends, reducing positions when available, reducing and eliminating budget line items, eliminating the SPARK program, reducing the amount of people attending the fall GOCSO in Branson, reducing sub usage for professional development days, and many more ideas. He informed the board that he anticipates a negative budget for the upcoming year. He also anticipates more reductions for the upcoming school year(s).
- Student School Board Member Report (CSIP S5) - Emma Arnold sent high school students an overview of the December board meeting. She mentioned the following survey would include questions about school lunches and an incentive.
- The board moved back into a second closed session at approximately 6:30. During that closed session, they voted unanimously to offer Dr. Davis an updated 3-year contract extension that extends until June 30, 2028.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:07.

The next board meeting is Tuesday, February 18, 2025. *The Open Session will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the West Plains High School Library.*