

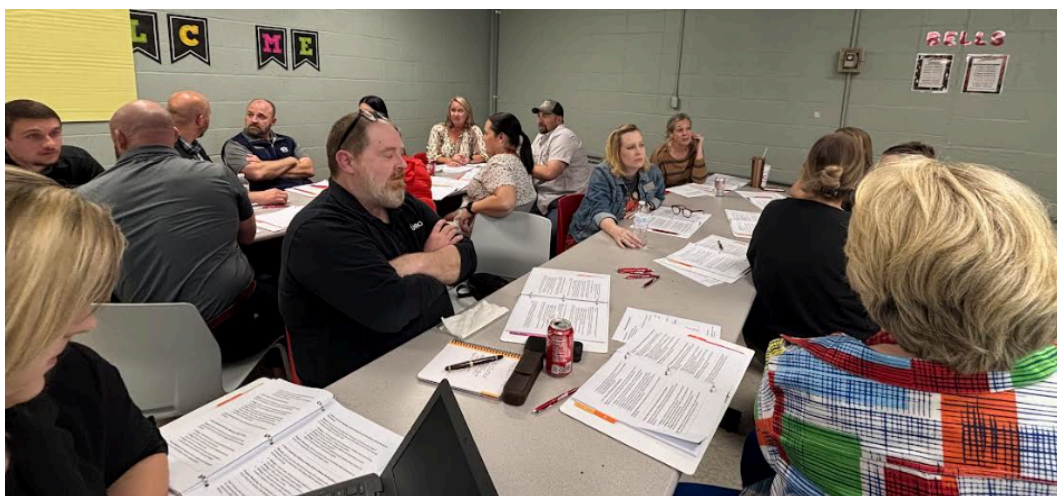


**West Plains R-VII School District
Board of Education Update
April 14, 2025
CSIP & Regular Session Meeting
West Plains High School Library**

CSIP

The CSIP update meeting held on Monday night marked an important step forward in refining our Strategic Plan in alignment with MSIP 6. Representatives from across our educational community—including West Plains R-VII school board members, teachers, administrators, and valued partners from Glenwood, Junction Hill, and Fairview came together with a shared commitment to student success. Their thoughtful contributions and collaborative spirit reflected a unified dedication to the continuous improvement of our schools and the broader community.

With a focus on key MSIP 6 priorities—such as Early Literacy, Chronic Absenteeism, and the development of our Portrait of a Graduate (Portrait of a Zizzer)—the feedback and insights shared during the evening were both timely and impactful. These conversations not only inform our next steps but also shape the long-term vision for our district. We are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and passion each participant brought to this process, and we look forward to the meaningful progress these updates will help us achieve for our students, staff, and community.







Open Session

- President Tyree called the meeting to order. (Brian Mitchell attended electronically)
- The West Plains R-VII School District Board of Education led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

New Hires – Board Action Required

- Certified Positions
- Samantha Wichern - WPES 2nd Grade Teacher
- Andrea Ratterree - SPED Process Coordinator
- Amanda Marks - WPHS Special Education Teacher
- Teresa Turner - WPES 2nd Grade Teacher
- Richard Forshee - WPHS Social Studies Teacher
- Madalyn Ivy - WPMS 5th Grade ELA Teacher
- Emily Jennings - WPMS 6th Grade ELA Teacher
- Justin Davis - WPMS 5th Grade Science/Social Studies Teacher
- Tonya Davis - WPHS Math Teacher
- Jordyn Harden - WPMS 6th Grade ELA Teacher

Non-Certified Positions

- Kynslee Burgess - Paraprofessional (25-26 SY)

- Tessa Vermillion - WPES 10 Month Secretary
- Seth Huddleston - WPHS Head Boys Basketball Coach
- Jennifer Smith - WPHS 12 Month Office Manager
- Lane Schilmoeller - WPHS Speech/Debate Sponsor
- James Speake - Paraprofessional (25-26 SY) & WPHS Asst. Wrestling Coach
- Tracy Fling-Robison - WPHS Science Department Head
- Ryan T. Smith - WPHS Math Department Head
- David Collins - 2nd Shift Custodian
- Devin Dewitt - 2nd Shift Custodian
- Leah Lopez - Paraprofessional (25-26 SY)
- Madison Mittag - WPMS Head Girls Track Coach & WPMS 7/8 Girls Basketball Coach
- Cassie Wakefield - SPED/Enrollment 10 Month Secretary
- Jamie Kingsolver - Transportation Dept. 10 Month Secretary
- Alec Rogers - Seasonal Maintenance

Transfers – Board Action Required

- Blaine Rybolt - WPES 1st grade to WPES Kindergarten
- Brenda Colter - WPES 2nd Grade to WPES 1st Grade
- Tamara Phay - WPES 2nd Grade to WPES 3rd Grade
- Michael Davis - WPMS 5th Grade Teacher to Coordinator of At-Risk Services/ZPA Director
- Niki Denny - District Enrollment Secretary to District SPED/Enrollment Office Manager
- Madison Mittag - WPHS Science to WPMS Girls Physical Education
- Jaelon Acklin - WPHS Social Studies to WPMS Boys Physical Education

Volunteers - Board Action Required

- None at this time

Resignations – Board Action Required

- Logann Driskell-Skyles - Speech-Language Pathologist
- Kimberly Wade - SPED Office Manager
- Michael A. Davis - WPHS Custodian
- Calvin Scrivner - WPES Custodian
- Dalton Somoza - WPHS Custodian
- Ruby Collins - SMTI/WPHS FACS Teacher & FCCLA Sponsor
- Jesse McGuire - WPHS Assistant Wrestling Coach
- Michael Davis - WPMS Assistant Football Coach
- Raymond Leonard - WPMS Custodian (4/30/25)
- Sherri Howell - WPMS 6th Grade ELA Teacher
- Korrie Vance - WPMS 6th Grade ELA Teacher
- Mackenzie Brunson - WPMS Physical Education Teacher, 7/8 Girls Basketball Coach, WPMS Head Girls Track Coach

- Shelby Smith - WPHS Science Teacher, WPMS Cheerleading & Junior Class Sponsor
- Austin Reece - WPHS Science Teacher
- Melanie Dotson - Speech-Language Pathologist

Retirements - Board Action Required

- None at this time

Terminations - Board Action Required

- Jesse Bates - WPHS Custodian
- Approval of Program Evaluations
- Approval of CSIP Update (CSIP S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, & S9)

Previous Business

- The board approved the 2025-2026 Health Insurance Contribution Rate for full time certified and non-certified employees from MEUHP. Approved 7-0
 - The current rate is \$503 with 314; the new rate is \$527
- The board approved the 2025-2026 Certified Salary Schedule. Approved 7-0
 - Approval of the 2025-2026 Faculty Salary Schedule with the current local \$1,000 longevity incentive at this time. Dr. Davis informed the board he could be asking for higher incentives later during the budget process for teachers with more experience if the district can afford it. He said the other salary schedules will be approved in the upcoming months.

Board Reorganization

- Cindy Tyree and Sam Riggs were sworn in as newly elected board members
 - Cindy Tyree was elected president
 - Reid Grigsby was elected vice president
 - Erica Jones was elected secretary of the board
 - Wes Davis was elected treasurer of the board
 - Sam Riggs was elected MSBA Voting Delegate
 - Brian Mitchell was elected Alternate MSBA Voting Delegate

Regular Agenda

- The monthly bills were paid and approved. The board approved 7-0.
- Payment of Buro Invoice (CSIP S7). The board approved 6-0-1. (RG abstained)

New Business

- The board approved salary advancement for certified and non-certified staff for the 2025-2026 school year. Approved 7-0
- Sylvia Fleming, speaking for the Salary, Benefits, and Welfare Committee, addressed the school board. She thanked the board for the steps, incentives, and insurance that they had voted upon. She also discussed the meetings and direct communication she and the committee had shared with Dr. Davis during the last few years. She appreciated the positive interactions they had with him during the process.
- Mr. Orchard recently sent out an RFP for vending services for the district. Both Pepsi and Coke submitted proposals. Mr. Orchard recommended the district accept the 5 year proposal from Pepsi. Approved 7-0

Updates/Reports to the Board of Education

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

- Dr. Ross reflected on the completion of the CSIP process and the steps moving forward. She also mentioned that the district is accepting bids for related services for next year, including Occupational and Physical Therapy Services.
- ZPA currently serves 73 students, including 14 with IEPs and 10 in the MO Option Program. The staff is focusing on curriculum support, student wellness through the Zizzer Clinic, and strong partnerships with behavioral health services. This semester, 10 students completed the MO Option program. Students are working on community projects like gardening and blood drives, and efforts to enhance campus upkeep and service learning continue.
- West Plains Middle School - End of year plans are underway with MAP testing, field trips, awards ceremonies, and 8th grade promotion preparations. Students earned numerous honors at the LAD Competition and Howell County Spelling Bee, highlighting strong academic achievement across grade levels.
- SoMoTech - March was a busy and successful month, highlighted by a well-attended Showcase Night featuring hands on demonstrations from all programs and community interest in career and technical education. Advisory committees met to support program quality, staff are preparing seniors for post-graduation success, and planning is underway for the next accreditation visit in October 2026.
- Facility, Human Resources, Security, and Capital Projects - In March, the district served over 1,700 free after school meals, supported 210 Zizzer Clinic visits, and scheduled the mobile mammography bus for staff wellness. Despite storm damage and a bus accident with no injuries, facility repairs are underway, summer maintenance planning has begun, and a \$26,500 energy rebate will be used to enhance school safety.

- West Plains High School wrapped up a busy March with a successful guest speaker on mental health, a well-attended blood drive collecting 108 units, and the launch of EOC testing. Looking ahead, students are preparing for “A Day Without Hate,” senior events, and summer school offerings—with expanded options to help students earn credits toward graduation and future career goals.
- South Fork Elementary—Despite recent challenges, including severe weather and student displacement, South Fork has shown resilience and unity, with staff, students, and the community supporting one another through it all. MAP testing is underway, and students have enjoyed meaningful experiences like the 4th grade trip to Jefferson City, supported by the PTO.
- Teaching & Learning—The district has adopted the Wonders reading program for grades K-5 and is coordinating training and materials distribution before summer break. With the MRI grant ending, trainer support will no longer be available, and NWEA math and science data is being reviewed for grades 5-8.
- West Plains Elementary students are progressing in mastering grade-level standards, with 1st grade already reaching 40% mastery, and students earning opportunities to assist staff as a reward. Third and fourth graders have been working to prepare for the MAP test through MAP Mondays, practice tests, and strategy sessions.
- In the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Davis highlighted several topics:
 - Dr. Davis informed the board that the current web based program for board minutes and reports, BoardDocs, will be undergoing some changes, and that board packets could be sent via email over the next few months during this process.
 - The district has sent out a RFP for Athletic Training Services. This is a 5 year bid. The bid will be accepted at the May board meeting. It will be in place from 7/1/25 - 6/30/30.
 - After the damage caused from the flood, the district is working with insurance for turf replacement for ZIZZER Stadium. The district will use a governmental purchasing system to help with the purchasing process. This will help with timelines. Three companies have already been in contact with the district.
 - The Carmichael Property has been posted as surplus property again. Bids are being accepted until June 6th. If a successful bid is received, it will be accepted at the June board meeting.
 - Finance Update
 - YTD Budget 4.11.25
 - Total Revenues- \$27,442,327 - 82.83%
 - May and June DESE Payments
 - Total Expenditures - \$26,541,972 - 75.51%

- May, June, July, SS, and Year end Payrolls are still pending
- 2025-26 Budget Update
 - Large Expenditures
 - 1 Special Needs Bus - already ordered
 - 2 Trip/Route Buses have already arrived
 - Track resurfacing (Probably Sept/Oct)
 - Maybe delayed now because of turf
 - Zizzer Ballpark Buildings (Partial FY25 Expense)
 - Zizzer Stadium Lights (Partial FY25 Expense)
 - Zizzer Stadium Steps (Partial FY25 Expense)
 - WPES Roofing (Partial FY25 Expense)
 - Carpet Replacement - WPMS Earls (Partial FY25 Expense)
 - Doors - WPHS Band and Choir - South (Partial FY25 Expense)
 - VV, SFES, WPES, Inside Stadium fence - Seal and Stripe (Partial FY25 Expense)
 - Student School Board Member Report (CSIP S5): Emma surveyed the students on their perceptions and ideas on what the “Portrait of a Graduate” should look like. She shared the results with the board.

The next board meeting is Tuesday, May 20, 2025. *The Open Session will begin at 5:30 pm in the West Plains High School Library.*