

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR JUNE BOARD MINUTES
JUNE 4, 2025
In Person and Zoom**

The Regular June Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Wyoming Valley West School District was held at the Middle School and on Zoom on the above date. Meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm by President Kamus. The following Board Members answered present to roll call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick (Zoom), Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus. Superintendent Tosh, Finance Manager Kachurak, Attorney Messinger, and Board Secretary Bullock were present.

Moment of silence was followed by a salute to the flag.

President Kamus announced that an executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss the teachers' contract and another contract.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Tosh said we received terrific news this week, high school teacher, Ms. Katie Finnegan, has been selected Junior Achievement Northeastern Pennsylvania Educator of the Year. A very prestigious award, a tremendous accomplishment, and we congratulate Ms. Finnegan. Next Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday are half days. The final school day of the year is Friday, June 13th. Wednesday night, June 11th is Graduation for the Class of 2025 at 6:00 at Spartan Stadium, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, we move to the next night, Thursday, and so on. Wyoming Valley West School District has earned 7th Place in the State of Pennsylvania in the Brighter Financial Futures Investing Challenge, a statewide initiative focused on building financial literacy and investing skills among Pennsylvania students. Under the dedicated mentorship of high school teacher, Mr. Thomas Cunningham, student Addison Marcin, successfully built a virtual investment portfolio at \$167,000 a remarkable accomplishment among hundreds of participants. We congratulate Mr. Cunningham and Addison Marcin on such a terrific accomplishment. I want to thank a Kingston Police Officer who has done an amazing job at the Middle School. We were informed yesterday that Middle School Resource Officer, Officer John Sosnoski, will be moving on from his current position. Officer SOS, as he is known at the Middle School, has done an outstanding job over the years. He is a true professional and has been a real asset to the health, safety, and welfare of our students and our staff. We wish Officer SOS the best in all future endeavors and thank him for his service to Wyoming Valley West and the Kingston Community.

STATEMENTS FROM INTERESTED CITIZENS

Citizens addressing the Board are asked to state their name and town of residence in accordance with Board Policy #903 (copy available). Statements are limited to three minutes.

James Sienkiewicz, Plymouth, wanted to know if there was any update on the parts to the elevator. He asked about posting a sign or marking the "dip" on the right side of the concourse where the wheelchairs get off the sidewalk because cars are often blocking it. Mr. Tosh will speak to Mr. Cordes tomorrow.

MINUTES APPROVED

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Cussatt, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Regular **May 14, 2025** Board Meeting.

Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Keating, *Contracts & Personnel, Finance*, Our Business Manager is continuing to put together the final version of our 2025/2026 budget. We are highly optimistic he is going to bring a balanced budget with no

tax increase to our meeting on the third Friday of this month. Tonight is the last official meeting for Mr. Tosh before he retires on June 30th. He thanked Mr. Tosh for all his years of service to the school district in many different capacities and most recently in the very challenging position of Superintendent. He wished him nothing but the best.

Mr. McGinley, *Education/Policy*, Tonight is the second reading of policies. The final reading of any new policy put in place. He thanked the Policy Committee and anyone who worked with the policies, particularly Dave Tosh who initiated this and led it throughout.

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Cussatt that the Board of School Directors act on the following General Recommended Items:

1. Adopted **Policy 901**, Public Relations Objectives. (Second Reading)
2. Adopted **Policy 902**, Publications Program. (Second Reading)
3. Adopted **Policy 903**, Public Comment in Board Meetings. (Second Reading)
4. Adopted **Policy 904**, Public Attendance at School Events. (Second Reading)
5. Adopted **Policy 905**, Citizen Advisory Committees. (Second Reading)
6. Adopted **Policy 906**, Public Complaint Procedures. (Second Reading)
7. Adopted **Policy 907**, School Visitors. (Second Reading)
8. Adopted **Policy 908**, Relations With Parents/Guardians. (Second Reading)
9. Adopted **Policy 909**, Municipal Government Relations. (Second Reading)
10. Adopted **Policy 910**, Community Engagement. (Second Reading)
11. Adopted **Policy 911**, News Media Relations. (Second Reading)
12. Adopted **Policy 912**, Relations With Educational Institutions. (Second Reading)
13. Adopted **Policy 913**, Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals. (Second Reading)
14. Adopted **Policy 914**, Relations With Intermediate Unit. (Second Reading)
15. Adopted **Policy 916**, Volunteers. (Second Reading)
16. Adopted **Policy 917**, Parental/Family Involvement. (Second Reading)
17. Adopted **Policy 918**, Title I Parent and Family Engagement. (Second Reading)
18. Adopted **Policy 710**, Use of Facilities by Staff. (Second Reading)
19. Approved **Real Estate Property Tax Exemption** through the Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission to the following:
 - ❖ Patricia A Sapolis
20. Approved established **Tuition Rates** for the **2024/2025** school year based on 2023/2024 fiscal year operations approved by the Department of Education as follows:

<i>Elementary</i> \$9,459.71	<i>Secondary</i> \$13,477.29
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21. Approved Intergovernmental Agreement with **Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit (NEIU #19)** to provide Special Education Services for the 2025/2026 school year.
22. Approved the Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and the **Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18** for programs and services during the 2025/2026 school year.

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick (Zoom), Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Motion made by Mr. Hardwick (Zoom), seconded by Mr. Keating to add Tim Needle to #15 under Staff Recommended Action.

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick (Zoom), Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

Moved by Dubaskas, seconded by McGinley, that the Board of School Directors act on the following Staff Recommended Items:

1. Approved **excused absences** May 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025.
2. Approved **long term status** for the following substitute teacher:
 - ❖ **Julia Franks** – effective, May 28, 2025.
3. Appointed the following **new hire**:
 - ❖ **Emily Nowikowski** – Substitute Autistic Support Aide/State Street, \$13.50/hr. effective May 19, 2025.
4. Accepted the following **resignations**:
 - ❖ **April Ash** – Cleaner/State Street, effective April 24, 2025.
 - ❖ **Breanna Brozowski** – Nurse Assistant (Floater), effective January 6, 2025.
 - ❖ **Shamina Boardman** – Cleaner/Dana Street, effective February 7, 2025.
 - ❖ **Dina Galella** – Cleaner/State Street, effective August 28, 2024.
 - ❖ **Greg Gover** – Computer Aide/Chester Street, last day May 21, 2025.
 - ❖ **Mayra Lorilla** – Cleaner/High School, effective January 2, 2025.
 - ❖ **Yesteila Loyo** – PCA/Middle School, effective February 18, 2025.
 - ❖ **Mia Simon** – General Duty Aide/Central Office, effective May 19, 2025.
 - ❖ **Keisha Thomas** – Cleaner/State Street, effective April 2, 2025.
5. Medical Leave, **Emp. #657535**, effective May 19, 2025; returning TBD.
6. Medical Leave, **Emp. #552112**, effective September 2, 2025; returning TBD.
7. Medical Leave, **Emp. #212254**, effective May 20, 2025; returning TBD.
8. Approved the following **termination** due to abandonment of employment:
 - ❖ **Emp. # 397883**– effective May 9, 2025.
9. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Reyna Lucia Villafranca**, Secondary English Teacher, High School, effective September 2, 2025, \$46,500.
10. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Diane Nemetz**, Principal’s Secretary, High School, effective October 14, 2025.
11. Appointed **Mark Maglioli**, Art Department Chairperson K-12, effective 2025/2026 school year. (3-year term as per contract)
12. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Juan Martinez**, High School Spanish Teacher, effective the last day of the 2024/2025 school year, June 13, 2025.
13. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Michelle Gugliotti**, Transportation Secretary, effective TBD, (salary as per contract).
14. Appointed the recommended candidate, **Maria Miller**, Personnel Secretary, effective TBD, (salary as per contract).
15. Appointed **Tim Needle**, Middle School Principal, effective July 1, 2025, \$100,000.

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick (Zoom), Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

FINANCE RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Cussatt, that the Board of School Directors approve the following:

1. Accepted and approved the following as presented: **Bills for Payment, Finance Manager's Reports and Treasurer's Report.**

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick (Zoom), Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McGinley said Ms. Katie Finnegan, our high school teacher, was honored by Junior Achievement at a breakfast at the casino over a month ago. She did a great presentation, well received by many over multiple school districts. She is a very deserving teacher, we should be honored that she is part of our staff. Mr. Tosh has been a very hard worker who has been vested in our school district for many years. He has done a good job and deserves his acclamations. He wished him well going forward.

Mr. Keating said there is an Agreement in place since 2020 between the district and WVSA for the maintenance of the Rain Garden in front of the Plymouth High School. The district is receiving some compensation to maintain it but is unable to maintain it due to the equipment and special maintenance tasks required. He asked about rescinding the agreement and turning the responsibilities back over to WVSA.

Mrs. Cussatt congratulated Mr. Tosh.

Mr. Tosh said this is his last scheduled Board meeting, but one more for the budget. He thanked Mrs. Carrozza, an integral member of Junior Achievement. He thanked this current school board and past school boards. He thanked all central office administrators, principals, assistant principals, deans of students, teachers, and support staff over the years. In 1998, Gary Evans, a former teacher, gave him a lot of good tips to navigate this building. He thanked Rob for all his hard work with a very challenging budget over the last couple years. He thanked the Education Association. He thanked all the students, parents, and the entire Wyoming Valley West Community. He thanked his middle school secretary, Joan Coniglio, high school secretaries, Carol Cardone and Diane Nemetz, and central office, Pat Resetar, Joanne Wood, and Jennifer Bullock. He thanked the late Mr. Marko, Mr. Piazza, and Kenny Moles. You don't sit in this chair unless you get a lot of hard work and teamwork from a lot of good people. For the hard work from all those good people and groups I am truly indebted. He concluded by saying, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Wyoming Valley West School District, and I thank you.

President Kamus thanked Mr. Tosh for all his hard work and dedication to the district.

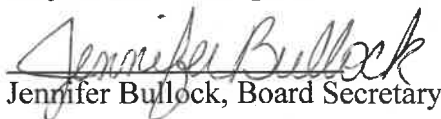
President Kamus announced the Special Meeting, Friday, June 20th, 2025 at 12:00 noon, the Work Session, Wednesday, August 6th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. and the August meeting, Wednesday, August 13th at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Cussatt, that the Board of School Directors adjourn this meeting.

Motion Carried.

Adjourned: 7:40 p.m.


Jennifer Bullock, Board Secretary

A tape of this meeting will be maintained at the District Office until the minutes are accepted at the next scheduled Board Meeting.