

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR AUGUST BOARD MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2025
In Person and Zoom**

The Regular August 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 7:11 pm by President Kamus. The following Board Members answered present to roll call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick, Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus. Superintendent Suppon, Finance Manager Kachurak, Attorney Messinger (Zoom), and Board Secretary Bullock were present. Moment of silence was followed by a salute to the flag.

Superintendent Charles R. Suppon Jr. was publicly sworn in by Judge Lesa Gelb.

President Kamus announced that an executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel items and a contract.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Dr. Suppon saw the band students, girls' soccer, and football team practice yesterday. The first day of school, September 4th, is right around the corner. He sat in the PBIS meeting at State Street. He reminded the community crossing guards are needed, go to their local borough building to apply. All K-5 students need a clear backpack. Families can purchase a backpack but one will also be provided. Language to be approved and updated in handbooks for a zero-tolerance approach to fighting on school grounds. An additional SRO based in the middle school will also service Chester, Third, and Dana Street. Cell phone wall holders have been purchased for every classroom in the middle school and high school. Every student will have an assigned number in the holder where the cell phone is to be placed. Building principals will mandate the utilization in buildings. Students have the option to keep phones in lockers. Capital upgrades range from new signs to new AC units pumping cool air. The buildings and grounds crew are waxing, cleaning, and preparing schools to shine day one. We continue to show we are and always will be a destination district.

Motion made by Mr. McGinley seconded by Mr. Kobusky to amend Item #20 under Staff Recommended Action (Act 93/Central Office Personnel pay adjustment report); Danielle Sennett, Salary \$48,500.

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

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.

(none)

MINUTES APPROVED

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Cussatt, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Regular **June 4, 2025** Board Meeting; Special Meeting for General Purposes **June 20, 2025**; Special Meeting for General Purposes **August 6, 2025**.

Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Dubaskas, *Athletics*, We are looking for a new head basketball coach for Varsity Coach Parker. Anyone interested should reach out to Dr. Suppon. Holy Redeemer requested to use our football field for four games, and it is on the agenda for approval tonight.

Mr. Keating, *Contracts & Personnel, Finance*, asked Rob if he heard any update on the audit. Rob speaks to them or zooms weekly. They requested some additional information that was sent. A zoom meeting is scheduled tomorrow at 4:00. The perspective deadline is August 31st. He thanked Rob and his staff and questioned putting an RFP out to see if any local firms are interested in doing the audit. A few years ago nobody wanted to touch it because of all the issues going on but now things have been cleaned up significantly. The ending general fund numbers are \$25,575,983. Our numbers look good with no tax increase again and the interest rates we earn play a big role. Besides the general fund having an ending balance of \$25.5 million, we also have almost \$5 million (\$4.7) in the dedicated capital account that was under \$2 million a few years ago. We have grown exponentially. Kudos to Rob, his staff, administration, and the rest of the Board.

Mr. Kamus asked Mr. Kachurak to put an RFP together to present in September.

Mr. Hardwick, *Special Education*, The committee met and reviewed activities and items relative to special education, communicating to the full Board in executive session. Power Up for the school year is just 12 days away. Students who are newly identified or currently receiving special education services and their families are invited to attend Wyoming Valley West Resource Day on August 25th from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the State Street Elementary Gymnasium. Further information is on our website.

Mr. Kamus, *Building and Grounds*, asked Dr. Suppon about a meeting with Mr. Mericle. He had a conversation with the CEO of the Center for Independent Living and asked Dr. Suppon to set up a meeting. He asked Mr. Cordes about the high school elevator. Mr. Cordes received an e-mail on Monday and it is under engineer review. They know the deadline and they are aware of it. Dr. Suppon also sent out an email and we should be good to go day one.

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved Agreements between Wyoming Valley West School District and **Children's Service Center** for the **Partial Hospitalization Program** and the **Therapeutic Educational Program** for the 2025/2026 school year.
2. Approved requesting Boroughs and/or their Educational Service Agencies or equivalent agencies to place school **crossing guards** at locations for the 2025/26 school year; school district to pay 60% of the borough's hourly rate paid to each crossing guard, for up to 3 hours per day while school is in session.
3. Approved the positions of **Head School Physician** (Dr. Almekey), **School Physician** (Dr. Mangino), and **School Dentist** (Dr. Hughes) and establish salaries, hours, and rates for the 2025/26 fiscal year.
4. Approved Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and **Luzerne County Juvenile Probation Department** for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.
5. Approved Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and the **Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18** for **Partial Hospitalization Therapeutic Services** during the 2025-2026 school year.
6. Approved awarding **bids** which were received and opened on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. for the following:
 - ❖ **Interscholastic Sports Supplies (2025-2026)**

7. Approved Agreement with Wyoming Valley West School District and **New Story Schools** for educational and related services for certain identified pupils of the District from August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2026.
8. Approved Addendum to Agreement between **ESS Northeast, LLC**, and Wyoming Valley West School District to extend providing substitute staffing from July 1, 2025 through July 30, 2026.
9. Approved the Resolution to amend the **Rain Garden Agreement** of June 16, 2020 between the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority and Wyoming Valley West School District to eliminate the District's responsibility to maintain the Rain Garden and any maintenance credit the District would have received, effective immediately.
10. Approved August payment to **SitelogIQ** in the amount of \$246,494.
11. Approved Letter of Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and The Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 to provide **Title I Services at Cheder Menachem Boys School** from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 and Addendum for the 2025-2026 school year.
12. Approved Letter of Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and The Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 to provide **Title I Services at Cheder Menachem Girls School** from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 and Addendum for the 2025-2026 school year.
13. Approved Letter of Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and The Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 to provide **Title I Services at Wyoming Valley Montessori School** from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 and Addendum for the 2025-2026 school year.
14. Approved Letter of Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and The Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 to provide **Title I Services at Good Shepherd Academy** from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 and Addendum for the 2025-2026 school year.
15. Approved language added to the Middle School and High School Student Handbooks regarding **physical altercations and fighting, effective immediately:**
 The Wyoming Valley West School District will strive to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment. Fighting will not be tolerated. Fighting in school or on school property is prohibited. Students involved in a physical altercation or fight will be sent to the Administrator/Dean who will complete an investigation of the incident, including witness statements. Any student involved in a physical altercation or fight will be suspended for up to ten (10) school days and cited accordingly. In addition to suspension, students may be assigned to the Wyoming Valley West Cyber Academy for a duration ranging from one academic quarter (45 days) to one semester (90 days), depending on the severity of the incident and the student's age. The imposition and length of any disciplinary action, including suspension and placement in the Cyber Academy, will be determined at the sole discretion of district administration based on the circumstances of the fight post investigation.
 Students who engage in fighting, instigate a fight, or engage in any act of violence, while in school, on school property, during the time spent in travel to and from school and school-sponsored activities will be held accountable in accordance with school discipline procedures. In addition, students who engage in fighting, instigate a fight, or engage in any act of violence, may be reported to law enforcement authorities and charged with a violation of the Pennsylvania Criminal Code. Each situation will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and can/may lead to an expulsion.
 Students must make every effort to avoid fighting. When confronted and challenged to fight, students should seek help from the nearest adult authority. Student onlookers who contribute to a school disruption or unsafe environment, to include video recording, may be subject to disciplinary action upon administrative review.

16. Approved the Resolution adopting the Articles of Agreement of the **West Side Council of Governments**, effective immediately.
17. Approved the Memorandum of Understanding between Wyoming Valley West School District and the **Municipality of Kingston** to assign one additional **School Resource Officer** to the District for the remainder of the current contract term.
18. Approved the High School, Middle School, and Elementary **Student Handbooks** for the 2025/2026 school year.
19. Approved patchwork repair on the **Chester Street** playground. (WSCO/COSTARS).
20. Approved continuation with **Lackawanna College** for Dual Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year.
21. Approved request from **Holy Redeemer** to use Spartan Stadium for 2025 football games. (Saturday, August 23, 2025; Saturday, September 6, 2025; Saturday, September 20, 2025; Saturday, October 4, 2025)
22. Approved **Consulting Agreement** between Wyoming Valley West School District and Debbie Troy, effective immediately.

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

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved **excused absences** June 1, 2025 – July 31, 2025.
2. Appointed **Meleny Perez**, long-term substitute, Spanish, High School, effective September 2, 2025.
3. Appointed the following **new hires**:
 - ❖ **James Skoniecki** – Cleaner/State Street, \$16.00/hr. effective July 24, 2025.
 - ❖ **Alexis Walski** – Cleaner/State Street, \$16.00/hr. effective July 24, 2025.
 - ❖ **Bruce Ridilla** – Cleaner/Middle School, \$16.00/hr. effective August 4, 2025.
 - ❖ **Cindy Jones** – General Duty Aide/Office, Dana Street, \$16.00/hr. effective September 4, 2025.
 - ❖ **Robert Bowers** – Clerk/High School, \$16.00/hr. effective August 18, 2025.
 - ❖ **Susan Carey** – General Duty Aide/Attendance Office, State Street, \$16.00/hr. effective September 4, 2025.
4. Accepted the following **resignation**:
 - ❖ **Escarlette Rivas** – General Duty Aide/Dana Street, effective June 17, 2025.
5. Appointed **Nathan Searfoss**, Computer Technician, effective September 4, 2025, \$17.00 per hour. (Full-time grant funded position)
6. Appointed **Lori Bell**, Principal's Secretary, High School, effective October 15, 2025.
7. Rescinded appointment, **Bianka Melendez**, 5th Grade Teacher, Dana Street, effective September 2, 2025.
8. Approved unpaid Medical Leave, **Emp. #141288**, effective July 29, 2025; returning TBD.
9. Approved Child-Rearing Leave, **Emp. #911785**, effective September 2, 2025; returning November 12, 2025.
10. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Joseph Hurysh**, Custodian, State Street, effective October 31, 2025.

11. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Allison Button**, Science Teacher, High School, effective June 27, 2025.
12. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Melanie Kobela**, French Teacher, High School, effective June 27, 2025.
13. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Lesley Banks**, 1st Grade Teacher, Dana Street, effective July 17, 2025.
14. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Karen Tomaszewski**, School Nurse, High School, effective November 14, 2025.
15. Approved Medical Leave, **Emp. #895611**, effective August 6, 2025; returning October 29, 2025.
16. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Lori Griffiths**, Guidance Secretary, Middle School, effective August 22, 2025.
17. Appointed **Nadia Zukosky**, School Nurse, State Street, effective TBD, \$65,500.
18. Appointed **Amistad Hackett**, Physical Education Teacher, High School, effective September 2, 2025, \$52,000.
19. Appointed **Kristy Harchar**, School Nurse, district wide, effective September 2, 2025, \$46,500.
20. Approved **Act 93/Central Office Personnel** pay adjustment report.
21. Approved the recommendations for the **Fall Coaching Positions:**

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

<u>SPORT/POSITION</u>		<u>STIPEND</u> (2024-2025)
<u>GIRLS TENNIS</u>		
VARSITY 9-12	Laura Thompson	\$2867
<u>GIRLS VOLLEYBALL</u>		
VARSITY 9-12	Ashley Temarantz	\$2867
ASSISTANT 7-12	Kristen Kaminski	\$1949
<u>FIELD HOCKEY</u>		
VARSITY 10-12	Lois Krause	\$4155
ASSISTANT 10-12	Callie Edwards	\$2893
ASSISTANT 7-9	Ryleigh Smith	\$2893
ASSISTANT 7-9	Irelynd Sullivan	\$2893
<u>CROSS COUNTRY (BOYS & GIRLS)</u>		
VARSITY 10-12	Elizabeth Kane	\$2893
ASSISTANT 7-9	Mallory Urbanski	\$2006
ASSISTANT 7-9	Laura Thompson	\$2006
<u>SOCCER</u>		
BOYS VARSITY 9-12	Gerry Kasuda	\$3601
BOYS ASSISTANT VARSITY 9-12	Augustine Gomez	\$2014
ASSISTANT (BOYS) 7-9	JJ Prutzman	\$2014
GIRLS VARSITY 9-12	Stephanie Gover	\$3601
GIRLS ASSISTANT VARSITY 9-12	Kennedi Josefowicz	\$2014
ASSISTANT (GIRLS) 7-9	Olivia Riviello	\$2014
<u>GOLF</u>		
VARSITY 9-12	Nick Kuscavage	\$2866

FOOTBALL

VARSITY 10-12	Bob Stelma	\$8892
ASSISTANT 10-12	Jason Majiros	\$4577
ASSISTANT 10-12	Janssen Wilborn II	\$4577
ASSISTANT 10-12	John Karazia	\$4577
ASSISTANT 10-12	Bill Halenda	\$4577
ASSISTANT 9 (HEAD)	Matt Yekel	\$4010
ASSISTANT 9	PJ Piskorik	\$3560
ASSISTANT 7-8	Dillon Ryman	\$3560
ASSISTANT 7-8	Kiandre Moses	\$3560

WEIGHT LIFTING

9-12	Bob Stelma	\$7609
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CHEERLEADER

VARSITY 10-12	Julia Jonelunas	\$3341
JR. VARSITY 9-12	Avery Zdancewicz	\$2443
JR. HIGH 7-9	TBD	\$1909

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

FINANCE RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by Cussatt, seconded by Dubaskas, 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, Keating, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wilson thanked everyone who put together the additional SRO. They will float from the Middle School to the elementary schools. They will break up fights and keep our buildings safe inside and prevent a danger from coming to our front door.

President Kamus, according to a report from our solicitors it is perfectly legal to abstain from any and all votes with the exceptions if it is a conflict of interest or de minimis capacity of money and financial gain. If that is to happen, announce and put into writing to our Board secretary the reason to abstain. We were elected to vote yes or no on things. Sometimes life is hard.

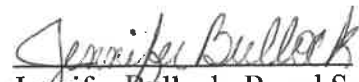
President Kamus announced the next Work Session, Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. and the September meeting, Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Adjourned: 7:33 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.