

## West Plains R-VII Board Meeting

September 16, 2025

### Opening Items - 5:00 PM

- Call to Order by President Cindy Tyree
- Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum (JP absent)
- Approval of Agenda - Approved 6-0

**Motion to move to Closed Session** - Approved 6-0

**Motion to move to Open Session** - Approved 6-0

- Call to Order by President Cindy Tyree
- Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Cindy Tyree

### Student/Staff Spotlight

- West Plains Middle School - Joby Steele (5th Grade Transition to WPMS)
  - Dr. Joby Steele highlighted the 5th grade transition to WPMS. Dr. Steele shared a “Welcome to 5th Grade at WPMS” video created by principal, Mrs. Erica Walker. Following the video, students Nash Beazley and Eva Collins spoke about their experiences moving into middle school.



## Consent Agenda - Approved 6-0

- Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting(s)
  - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/b06a9c7c-f7b5-4955-a08e-f46debfc3c24>
- Approval of Monthly Finance Reports
  - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/3e23aad-c-e548-40ca-bc4c-1eacd19eeb5c>
  - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/24e45936-c80f-4e26-b3e9-249b8ed7afb3>
  - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/97eaa22e-87db-4a55-9e63-56cc507cc1ef>
- Approval Request for employments, resignations, retirements, terminations, transfers, and volunteers of individuals as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools
  - **New Hires – Board Action Required**
    - Certified Positions
      - Terri Tomlinson - South Fork Elementary School Part Time Art Teacher
    - Non-Certified Positions
      - Coy Crites - WPHS Asst. Baseball Coach
      - Kyler Stowers - Paraprofessional
      - Jamison West - Substitute Custodian
      - Donnie Fox - Full Time Custodian
  - **Transfers – Board Action Required**
    - Jessica Martz - Paraprofessional to WPMS Front Office Secretary
  - **Volunteers - Board Action Required**
    - Lee Laughary
    - Ashley Patillo
    - Charles Knight
  - **Resignations – Board Action Required**
    - Kathy Grigsby - South Fork Elementary School Part Time Art Teacher
  - **Retirements - Board Action Required**
    - None at this time
  - **Terminations - Board Action Required**
    - Maggie Duncan - WPMS 10 Month Secretary
  - **Abandonment of Position - Informational Only (Board Action Not Required)**
    - Eva Benine - WPHS Counselor
- Approval of Program Evaluation(s)
  - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/11GbiL-99od45fNh5XyBsqK2FsYRyvJLM/edit>
- Approval of CSIP Update(s)
  - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/5146ce81-4dc1-46e6-bbf8-f57d40222ef6>
- Approval of Interpreting Services Contract

- <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/d9709218-5985-4a9c-9b65-142642ef811a>
- Approval of OZH Behavior Health Services MOU
  - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/3a92685b-8e74-45e2-90b3-252c1fcf4701>

**Previous Business**

- None at this time

**Regular Agenda**

- Payment of Bills - Approved 6-0
  - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/3bb57036-3188-45f8-aece-7c0a2bd48493>
- Payment of Buro Bill - Approved 5-0-1 (RG Abstain)
  - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/f12d42c4-5ff5-4ed1-a63d-61f6f8697f35>

**New Business**

- Approval of Surplus Property - Approved 6-0
  - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/89a4b444-ce63-472f-bc89-49b569eb7838>
- Approval of 2025-2026 Bus Routes - Approved 6-0
  - Mr. Orchard presented the bus routes for yearly approval to the school board.

Bus #	Driver	Grade Levels	Route Miles	Route Time	AM Count	PM Count
1	David Watson	Elem.	18	25 Min.	33	35
1	David Watson	MS/HS	15	30 Min.	66	68
2	Debra Collins	K-12	43	1 Hr. 15 Min.	52	69
3	CJ Rosenbum	K-12	49	1 Hr. 15 Min.	34	66
4	Brian Minahan	Elem.	13	28 Min.	53	53
4	Brian Minahan	MS/HS	14	30 Min.	34	34
5	David Kingsolver	Elem.	20	45 Min.	37	46
5	David Kingsolver	MS/HS	15	35 Min.	43	43
6	Jason Osswald	Elem.	22	45 Min	31	33
6	Jason Osswald	MS/HS	20	40 Min.	37	45
7	Sandra Roberts	Elem.	21	46 Min.	32	36

7	Sandra Roberts	MS/HS	22	44 Min.	62	72
8	Craig Harrison	Elem.	8	45 Min.	38	38
8	Craig Harrison	MS/HS	7	35 Min.	42	44
9	Peggy Tyler	Elem.	18	40 Min.	29	30
9	Peggy Tyler	MS/HS	16	35 Min.	66	66
10	Raymond Blake	Elem.	20	30 Min.	40	52
10	Raymond Blake	MS/HS	22	41 Min.	51	68
20	Richard Davidson	SF	95	1 Hr. 15 Min.	27	36
22	Dave Clarkson	SF	100	1 Hr. 15 Min.	34	37
23	Kevin Collins	SF	110	1 Hr. 15 Min.	20	23
24	Lucas Hensley	SF	111	1 Hr. 15 Min.	29	29
26	Greg Johnson	SF	69	1 Hr. 14 Min.	29	34
50	Rick Green	SPED	19	1 Hr. 15 Min.	13	12
53	Doug Warren	SPED	50	1 Hr. 15 Min.	25	21
62	Darrell Milburn	Elem.	4	20 Min.	-	59
62	Darrell Milburn	MS/HS	6	30 Min.	-	26

### Updates & Reports to the Board

- Student School Board Member Report - McKrae Brewer
  - A video update was submitted as Miss Brewer attended a softball game. Next week, a form will be sent out to students to gather their thoughts and input. Homecoming activities are going well, with the powderpuff game being a highlight full of fun and school spirit.
- Administrative Reports
  - Amy Ross - Special Ed/Federal Programs
    - High-dosage tutoring has started in all buildings, with over 100 students participating at the elementary level. Adequate staff and transportation are provided to ensure students can attend. The district continues key compliance efforts, including the State-aligned Special Education Local Compliance Plan, partnerships to support students with visual impairments, and submission of required Federal and IDEA expenditure reports. Special Olympics has partnered with the Student Council, supported by a donation of 30 uniforms from Veregy and labeled “Unified Champion” and “Zizzer,” and the district

maintains its designation as a Unified Champion School. High school students will represent the “Portrait of a Zizzer” character traits on the radio this Thursday: Camille Coleman as effective communicator, Lila Miller as kind, and Addysun Sturgeon as resilient. Early childhood programs are being enhanced, and Parents as Teachers services continue. The 2023–24 IEP Direct Service Cost Report was finalized, resulting in a \$3,414.74 federal reimbursement. The dedication of teachers, staff, and administrators is evident in the smooth start to the school year and the positive culture across all buildings.

- Briana Link - Communications
  - In September, the district saw strong growth in social media engagement, continued updates to the website, and active promotion of upcoming events. There were many opportunities for community connections through the *RED* magazine from Ozark Marketing, Chamber of Commerce student performances, and weekly radio features, while also celebrating staff and student achievements.
- Joby Steele - WPMS
  - Assessment results continue to show positive growth, with 8 out of 10 scores increasing. Of the two areas that did not rise, one still improved by 20 percentage points, while the other saw only a slight 2% dip. Teachers are placing a strong emphasis on content standards, and students are being recognized and rewarded for their progress with encouragement and fun incentives like ice cream. In addition, it’s been exciting to see older Zizzers supporting younger students by helping with activities such as opening doors, volleyball, cross country, BOLT the mascot, and softball.
- Josh Cotter - SMTI
  - Classroom visits have been impressive, with students actively engaged in learning—from practicing fundamentals to taking blood pressure in health classes. The welding shop is now up and running, and the city has requested Zizzer decals on all of its vehicles, with 50 decals being produced by Mr. Heidy for utility and trash trucks. This week also included a tour from Zora Mulligan of MSU–West Plains. Looking ahead, Monday’s professional development day will be led by the building’s PD committee with a focus on CTE, and all staff will complete CPR and safety training.
- Matthew Orchard - Facilities/Human Resources
  - The district currently has openings for a high school counselor and a college advisor, with anticipated needs in core areas such as math, science, english, social studies, and special education for next year. Transportation has made a major step forward with electronic routes now in place—allowing addresses

to be entered for automatic route details and printable maps for substitute drivers. Safety and security measures also continue to strengthen: the KidAccount visitor management system is now at all entrances, WPES is distributing daily bus manifests, and recent drills have included fire, lockdown, bus evacuation, and tornado procedures. Professional development will include active shooter training, and the district's goal is to place two-way radios in every classroom, supported by Summit Natural Gas rebate funds. Student services remain a priority with 150–200 free after-school snacks served daily, and the high school program set to begin in October for students staying for tutoring, activities, or sports. In addition, the mammogram bus served 20 staff members on September 2 and will return in the spring, while Ozarks Healthcare will provide flu shots during the upcoming PD day.

○ Michael Davis - ZPA

- Zizzer Pride Academy enrollment grew to 61 students, including 16 with IEPs, and the Missouri Options Program now serves 17 students preparing for HiSet testing later this month and in October. Staff continue to provide strong support through food backpacks, eyeglasses, emergency aid, and home visits, with three students on track to graduate this semester. Students are also accessing therapeutic services through the Zizzer Clinic, which provided 25 sessions in partnership with Behavioral Health Care. Recent celebrations included birthdays and academic awards for Akili McClung and Lilly Vaughn, with upcoming events such as community service at the garden, an Outdoor Skills fishing trip, and HiSet testing.

○ Ryan Smith - WPHS

- The annual Academic Awards Ceremony was held September 4, recognizing students with a 3.33 GPA or higher—an average of 54.8% across three classes, up from last year, with 63% of seniors meeting the benchmark. Holding the event during the day helps inspire other students to make better grades in the future. Instructional progress continues with a strong focus on standards mastery through Progress Learning, led by Dr. Young and Mrs. Rutledge, with positive momentum. Homecoming week is underway with decorated hallways boosting morale and pride. Additionally, efforts to rebuild collaboration among rural schools have led to a breakfast scheduled for October 10, with several districts already confirmed to attend including Fairview, Howell Valley, Glenwood, and West Plains Middle School.

○ Seth Huddleston - SFES

- It's been great to see athletic teams helping open doors each morning, building a welcoming and spirited culture in the school. Student council

elections were recently held, and the newly elected leaders have already met to create a slideshow and begin their work. A MAP score celebration was held last Friday to build community, with PTO providing inflatables for students to enjoy. Additionally, the Pre-K and Kindergarten Grandparents Day welcomed 50 grandparents to celebrate with students.

- Tiffany Young - Teaching/Learning
  - Baseline assessments are complete across all grade levels, including STAR Reading and Math, NWEA, and Progress Learning, providing valuable data to guide instruction. K–4 math teachers will meet three times this year to strengthen instruction and support student growth. The instructional coaches continue to provide excellent guidance, helping teachers refine their practice and track student progress effectively. The next professional development day is September 22, with Shield Solutions leading active shooter training in each building, followed by curriculum and assessment work. Looking ahead, the October 31 PD day will feature an Educamp model, where teachers will lead sessions for their colleagues.
- Virginia Uphaus - WPES
  - The 2025–2026 school year at WPE is off to a great start, with students and teachers setting goals and working hard to improve reading levels. Early STAR Reading results have sparked many positive conversations, and with routines and expectations in place, learning is underway—and fun! After-school tutoring began the week of September 8, serving approximately 85 students each quarter, with meals provided beforehand. Transportation ensures students consistently have a way to get home after tutoring, making this valuable program possible. The Check ‘n Connect program, led by Mr. Minor, serves 87 at-risk students, providing them with a trusted adult and a safe, supportive presence at school. Teachers celebrated MAP scores with a festive Fiesta, recognizing 3rd and 4th grade staff and emphasizing teamwork and strong foundations.
- Superintendent’s Report
  - Dr. Davis discussed the recent request by both Central High School and Parkview High School to join the Ozark Mountain Conference. Both were denied entrance into the conference by a vote of the current members. He did mention that the conference superintendents discussed the opportunity for other schools to petition in the future and those schools might petition again in the future.
  - The school board and Dr. Davis will have various meetings in the upcoming weeks. The Regional Missouri School Board Association meeting will be held at Glenwood on September 25th. In October, the state MSBA Conference will be held at Kansas City.

- A thank you note to the board was read from WPHS teacher Mrs. Campbell. It thanked the board for the support during the tornado from the school and staff. (As a special treat, Mrs. Campbell provided homemade bread to the board members).
- Fifteen R-VII employees and 10 community members packed over 1200 backpack bags for area students to have food for the weekends. Three times a year the Sunrise Rotary Club and Noon Rotary Club packs these bags. The Sunrise Rotary Club raises over \$45,000 each year to provide meals to SFES, WPES, WPMS, Fairview, Glenwood, Junction Hill, and Howell Valley students. Current Board President Cindy Tyree also joined the staff in this community service project. The school board expressed gratitude to all of those that participated in this event.



## Adjournment

- Adjournment from Open Session - Approved 6-0
  - Next Meeting - October 7, 2025
    - Dr. Davis asked the board to move the meeting to this early date. This will provide the board the opportunity to join the staff, parents, and students at the “Reading Under the Lights” event that evening at Zizzer Stadium.