

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR OCTOBER BOARD MINUTES  
OCTOBER 8, 2025  
In Person and Zoom**

The Regular October 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 7:05 pm by President Kamus. The following Board Members answered present to roll call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Hardwick, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus. Mr. Keating was absent. Superintendent Suppon, Finance Manager Kachurak, Attorney Messinger, Attorney Wendolowski, 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 professional teachers' contract.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD** – Emily Bolan

**SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Dr. Suppon said it has been an incredible start to the school year. Our students are engaged and motivated, our staff continue to go above and beyond, and our families and community partners remain dedicated to supporting our schools in every way possible. The positive energy across the district is truly inspiring. One of the exciting changes this year has been the introduction of classroom cell phone holders. This initiative has been working extremely well. Teachers have reported noticeable increases in student focus and participation, and students have commented on how much easier it is to stay engaged in lessons without the distraction of their phones. Early data and feedback show improvements in classroom performance and assessment scores; proof that when we all commit to creating the best learning environment possible, great things happen. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the staff and students at Wyoming Valley West High School for their outstanding leadership and compassion bringing Josh's Suicide Awareness Bench to our school grounds. This meaningful addition stands as a powerful symbol of hope, support, and unity for our students. Your commitment to promoting mental health awareness and encouraging open, honest conversations about such an important topic is truly commendable. The bench serves as a lasting reminder that no one is ever alone and that help, understanding, and caring are always within reach. Thank you for your dedication, empathy, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of our entire school community. We must acknowledge the growing concern surrounding the delay in the passage of the state budget. Every day without the finalized budget has a real and lasting impact on our students, staff, and community. It affects the resources we can provide, the programs we can sustain, and the financial stability of our district. I strongly encourage all members of our community to reach out to your local legislators and urge them to come together to pass a fair and timely budget. Our students deserve stability and support, and every day of a delay is a day taken away. Another critical issue tied to the state budget is the urgent need for cyber charter school funding reform. Local tax dollars are funding cyber charter schools, and the cost continues to rise dramatically each year, diverting millions of dollars from our public classrooms. These funds could otherwise be used to directly benefit our students, staff, and programs. Meaningful reform is long overdue. We need to ensure that all educational institutions are fairly funded and transparent. We need our legislators to take decisive action and make cyber reform a priority in the upcoming budget. October is a wonderful time to build on our momentum. It is a month filled with learning, growth, and opportunity to come together as one united Spartan community. In our classrooms or athletic fields, or through community events, it's clear that when we work together with shared purpose and pride, we achieve great things. Let's continue to support one another, celebrate our successes, and make the month another great chapter in what is shaping up to be a fantastic school year. Thank you for your continued teamwork,

dedication, and commitment to our student success. Together we are stronger. Together we are Wyoming Valley West. Together we are and will continue to be a destination district. Thank you and as always, go Spartans.

### 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.

*Amy Carrozza, Forty Fort* was at the Middle School, September 25<sup>th</sup> for Junior Achievement YES Day and commended the cell phone policy and how well it is at the Middle School. She thanked everyone involved. The Middle School is off to a great start.

*Dwayne McDavitt, Larksville* questioned what is happening with Vice Principal, Joe Jarski. Attorney Wendolowski stated the Board will not comment on the situation, the investigation is ongoing by the Pennsylvania State Police. Mr. Jarski continues to work from home. Mr. McDavitt does not believe the Facebook account was hacked and encouraged the Board to ask the State Police to get on this.

### MINUTES APPROVED

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Cussatt, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Regular **September 10, 2025** Board Meeting.

Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Dubaskas, *Athletics*, The Spartan Softball Team is asking for an alternative logo to be approved tonight. Coach Bell is recommended tonight for the Basketball Program.

Mr. McGinley, *Education/Policy*, Under the leadership of Mr. Novrocki, the District is starting to review to replace our K-5 Reading Series. The Stem Lab is up and running. Teacher training K-2 for the preparation of state testing. He thanked the Department Chairs for leading these efforts.

President Kamus, *Building and Grounds*, There will be a meeting tomorrow afternoon at Central Office. High School elevator project will start over this holiday weekend and should be completed next week. Working on the roofs at Dana Street, the Rectory, Wellness Center, and some drainage projects.

### GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved **Agreement** between **ProCare** and Wyoming Valley West School District for the 2025/2026 school year.
2. Approved Agreement between **Keystone Academy** and Wyoming Valley West School District for services during the 2025/2026 school year.
3. Approved request from David Sieminski/Ashley Temarantz, **Spartan Ski & Board Club Advisors**, to take members to Smugglers' Notch Resort, Vermont, January 27-30, 2026, no cost to the District.
4. Approved request from **WVW Lady Spartans Softball** to use an alternative logo.

5. Approved Agreement between **WVIA (Enhanced Scholar Program)** and Wyoming Valley West School District for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 school years, \$3,000/year.
6. Approved **Workers' Compensation Review Agreement** between American Risk Management Services, Inc. and Wyoming Valley West School District to review the workers' compensation insurance policies and the premiums paid.
7. Authorized the adoption by the School Board of Wyoming Valley West School District of a **Resolution** declaring its intent to reimburse itself for expenditures to be paid by the School District from its general funds in connection with capital projects of the District with the proceeds of a tax-exempt bond issue, all as more fully described in the complete text of the Resolution.
8. Approved Agreement for continuation of **(CSBBH) Community and School-Based Behavioral Health Program** at State Street Elementary for 2025/2026.

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

### STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved **excused absences** September 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025.
2. Appointed the following **Student Representatives to the School Board** for the 2025/2026 school year:
  - ❖ **Senior Liaison** – Emily Bolan
  - ❖ **Junior Liaison** – Rhiley Castro
3. Appointed the following **new hires - \$16.00/hr.**
  - ❖ **Natalie Asikainen** - Attendance/General Duty Aide, Middle School, effective September 29, 2025.
  - ❖ **Clarissa Astwood** - Autistic Support Aide, State Street, effective October 1, 2025.
  - ❖ **Robert Bowers** - Computer Aide, State Street, effective October 6, 2025.
  - ❖ **Rudilannia Diaz-Diaz** - Autistic Support Aide, Third Ave., effective September 30, 2025.
  - ❖ **Haley Freeman** - Cleaner, High School, effective October 2, 2025.
  - ❖ **Sahar Graham** - Autistic Support Aide, State Street, effective September 4, 2025.
  - ❖ **Sumayah Haya** - Computer Aide, State Street, effective September 15, 2025.
  - ❖ **Myliesha Johnson** - Autistic Support Aide, High School, effective September 15, 2025.
  - ❖ **Dawn Krugal** - Cleaner, State Street, effective September 29, 2025.
  - ❖ **Kaylee Patronick** - Learning Support Aide, Dana Street, effective September 29, 2025.
  - ❖ **Diane Patterson** - Cleaner, Middle School, effective September 5, 2025.
  - ❖ **Genesis Pedroza** - Personal Care Assistant, Dana Street, effective October 2, 2025.
  - ❖ **Erica Phillips** - Autistic Support Aide, State Street, effective September 8, 2025.
  - ❖ **Rose Rivera** - Personal Care Aide, Middle School, effective September 29, 2025.

- ❖ **Kassie Rodriguez** - General Duty Aide/Office, State Street, effective October 6, 2025.
  - ❖ **Rebecca Scorey** - Computer Aide, Chester Street, effective September 29, 2025.
  - ❖ **Darnely Toro** - Autistic Support Aide, Third Ave., effective September 30, 2025.
  - ❖ **Zakiyah Whittle** - Autistic Support Aide, High School, effective September 15, 2025.
4. Appointed **Meleny Perez**, Spanish Teacher, High School, effective immediately, \$46,500.
  5. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Frank Vnuk**, Custodian, Middle School, effective October 28, 2025.
  6. Approved Child Rearing Leave, **Emp. #644761**, effective November 10, 2025; returning November 24, 2025.
  7. Approved Child Rearing Leave, **Emp. #195381**, effective November 6, 2025; returning January 5, 2026.
  8. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Katelyn Sarnak**, Speech and Language Pathologist, Middle School/State Street, effective September 26, 2025.
  9. Accepted the following **resignations**:
    - ❖ **Logan Darling** – Cleaner, State Street, effective May 19, 2025.
    - ❖ **Lyn Pastore** – Nurse Assistant, Dana St., effective October 3, 2025.
    - ❖ **Linda Slaski** – Learning Support Aide, Dana Street, effective September 2, 2025.
    - ❖ **Denise Dalley** – Learning Support Aide, High School, effective June 13, 2025.
    - ❖ **Marilyn Oropeza** – Autistic Support Aide, State Street, effective September 2, 2025.
    - ❖ **Vanessa Citron** – PCA, High School, effective October 14, 2025.
    - ❖ **Alexis Saldana** – Autistic Support Aide, Third Ave., effective September 30, 2025.
  10. Appointed the following **Mentor** for 2025/2026:
 

<u>Teacher</u> ( <i>Social Worker</i> )	<u>Mentor</u>
Rava-Osbourn, Kelly	Kislin, Rachel
  11. Appointed **Ricky Bell**, Boys Varsity Basketball Coach, effective immediately, \$7,380.
  12. Granted **Compensation** to professional staff members, as presented:
    - ❖ 18 Credits Beyond Bachelor’s Degree
    - ❖ 24 Credits Beyond Bachelor’s Degree
    - ❖ Master’s/Master’s Equivalency
    - ❖ Beyond Master’s/Master’s Equivalency for courses approved by the Superintendent
  13. Appointed **Tiffany Kopec**, Instructional Specialist, Middle School, Act 93 Grant Funded, effective TBD, \$88,000.
  14. Appointed **Nathan Searfoss**, Instructional Specialist Assistant, Middle School, Act 93 Grant Funded, effective TBD, \$47,500.
  15. Appointed **Samuel Alba**, Dean of Students, High School, Act 93 Grant Funded, effective TBD, \$75,000.
  16. Appointed **Jason Naugle**, Dean of Students, High School, Act 93 Grant Funded, effective TBD, \$75,000.
  17. Approved stipend of \$1,280 for **GIEP** writing and implementation to the following *High School Teachers* for 2025/2026:
 

Melissa Bennett	Lisa Hogan	John Sharkus
Thomas Cunningham	Steve Klem	Douglas Shook
Rebecca Dicton	Ryan Prohaska	Karin Ulitchney
Edward Groth	Theodore Settas	Edward Zawatski

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

**FINANCE RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Moved by Cussatt, seconded by Wilson, 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, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes.  
**Motion Carried.** Mr. Keating was absent.


**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. McGinley was at the High School for Junior Achievement, the Middle School to see where the library was, and at State Street for Elementary Night. Three positive occasions and all the buildings looked great. President Kamus asked about the Social Media Policy.

President Kamus announced the next scheduled meetings, the November Work Session, Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. and the Regular November Meeting, Wednesday, November 12, 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: 7:31 p.m.**

  
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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.