

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR NOVEMBER BOARD MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2025
In Person and Zoom**

The Regular November 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 7:06 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, and Board Secretary Bullock were present. Moment of silence was followed by a salute to the flag. President Kamus announced an executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel items.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD – Emily Bolan

SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

As we move deeper into November, Thanksgiving is right around the corner, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for our incredible students, staff, families, and community. This time of year reminds us how fortunate we are to work together for the success of every child in the Wyoming Valley West School District. As we approach the winter season, weather can be a factor causing school delays and closings, please refer to the district website for information regarding delays and Virtual Instruction Days. Virtual Instruction Day information can be found under District Links at the bottom of our district website, and delay information can be found under the Parent Tab in School Closing Information. Staying informed helps all of us keep our students learning and safe, no matter what the weather brings. We are excited to host Representative Brenda Pugh at the Wyoming Valley West Middle School tomorrow, November 13th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for her event, “Grooming and Exploitation: What Every Community Needs to Know.” This is an extremely important topic that impacts children and families across all communities, and we encourage everyone to attend. Together, we can strengthen our efforts to protect and educate our students both inside and outside of school. Next week, we look forward to connecting with families during Parent-Teacher Conferences. The High School, November 17th from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m. and from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Middle School, November 18th from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Elementary Schools, November 19th from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. and from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. These conferences are valuable opportunities to strengthen our home-school partnership and discuss each student's progress and success. Recently, the Bear Creek Charter School shared a message on social media regarding district funding that does not paint the full picture. It is important for our community to know that their payments come directly from our state subsidy. Because the state had not yet passed a budget, Wyoming Valley West had not received any of our state funding, therefore no money had been distributed to any charter schools. Our students, families, and staff deserve complete and accurate information. Without a state budget, we were forced into a position where we must make thoughtful decisions that prioritize the best interests of our students and community. When messages are put out to communities, it is extremely important that the facts are not left out so the entire picture is painted accurately. We are thrilled to share that the state budget has officially been approved. This is outstanding news for our students, staff, and community. The release of state funding will allow schools across Pennsylvania to continue offering high-quality programs, resources, and supports that help students succeed. This decision brings much needed stability and relief, and we are incredibly grateful to our legislators for coming together to make education a priority. As we look ahead to the holiday season, I am reminded daily of the pride and resilience within Wyoming Valley West School District. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our schools. Together, we will make Wyoming Valley West a place where every student thrives. 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.

Dwayne McDavitt, Larksville, asked about Vice Principal, Mr. Jarski. He questioned why his Right to Know was denied. He asked what Mr. Jarski can do working at home. He was told there are many things that can be done working from home through our Student Information System and Digital Platform, answering Safe2Say's, addressing issues through Zoom or phone calls. His Right to Know was not denied and it will be reviewed. He questioned a District Code of Conduct, a Code of Ethics, and a Social Media Policy. He was referred to the Policy Manual on the District Website.

MINUTES APPROVED

Moved by McGinley, seconded by Wilson, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Regular **October 8, 2025** Board Meeting.

Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Dubaskas, *Athletics*, winter sports start Friday. It is very important to fill out all the PIAA information and packets, including physicals. You cannot practice or participate in any district sport without that information. If you don't have the paperwork done, you cannot practice with the team.

Mr. Keating, *Finance*, this is the final update as Finance Committee Chairman. It has been an honor and a privilege to chair our Finance Committee for the past four years. He personally thanked the people that elected him to this position, the School Board, professional staff, faculty, and the student body.

Highlights our committee accomplished over the last three years, no tax increases. Even with a hit of over \$19 million in state aid that we have not received this year, we still have \$31 million in our general fund at the end of October. Two years ago, before we brought Rob on, who is doing a fantastic job for our school, we were earning a little over \$200,000 a year on our investments. Now we are making \$98,000 a month. The goal of our committee, based on an AG's report a few years ago, was to have a general operating fund reserve around \$8 million. Now the number would be adjusted about \$9 to \$11 million. Once we get our increase, about \$6 million additional dollars in state aid, based on the budget we are going to be carrying about a \$30 million fund balance. Four years ago that number was audited at minus \$1.1 million. We made tremendous strides for the school. I am proud to have been able to serve and just ask now that we are sitting on this money that we keep our \$9 to \$11 million unreserved and wisely reserve the balance of that money for much needed capital projects for our district. I am confident this pattern is going to continue and within a relative short period of time, maybe another two or four years, we could be looking at a new campus, new facilities for our school, because we have the resources to accomplish these much needed tasks. He thanked the Board and everyone else for their support over the last four years.

Mr. McGinley, *Education/Policy*, he attended the Veteran's Day Program at the Middle School on Monday and the students, Mr. Needle, and his staff did a great job. The veterans who were present appreciated it. He thanked everybody for the program honoring people served in the military services.

Mr. Hardwick, *Special Education*, said ditto Mr. Keating's remarks and he thanked the Board. This is the last committee report as chair of the Special Education Committee. He appreciates the Board entrusted him to chair the committee working with Director Baratta, her staff, and fellow committee members, Brian Dubaskas and Jack Perfetto. I hope we helped the committee and the department to move forward with different objectives and directions. I look forward to seeing this very vital part of the district continue to grow and move forward. The department continues to issue monthly Spartan Spotlights. The department is

impressed and thrilled to see the newly opened Autistic and Life Skills Support Classrooms excelling and thriving. The department is eager to collaborate with the IU Outpatient Program at the High School. This partnership will provide valuable resources and support to our students and families. On our agenda is a vote for an Assistant Director, Darlene Reilley. She will be an asset to the group. He thanked everyone and enjoyed every part of being on this Committee.

President Kamus, *Building and Grounds*, The State Street Drainage Project is underway. The roof repair at Dana Street, the second piece of the emergency repair, is in progress. Sobeck Roofing made one recommendation, about a \$2000 change, that our consultant wanted to have done. The water heater expansion tank at the high school, everything is done and we should have bids in the next couple of weeks.

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved **Real Estate Property Tax Exemption** through the Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission to the following:
 - ❖ Lawrence J Deininger
 - ❖ Carl Johnson
2. Approved Wyoming Valley West School District administering the **PAYS Survey** (Pennsylvania Youth Survey).
3. Approved the purchase of a shed for the **WVW Softball Team** paid for by the WVW Softball Booster Club.
4. Approved **Mark J. Sobeck Roof Consulting, Inc.** to provide roof consulting services for the Wellness Center, the rectory building, and garage building; \$8,970; not including inspections of work in progress.
5. Approved renewal with **Guardian** for AD&D and Life Insurance, November 1, 2025 – October 31, 2026.
6. Approved the December Board Meeting dates as follows:
Reorganization Meeting – Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., immediately followed by the Work Session.
 Regular December Board Meeting, Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
7. Approved **refund of paid taxes** for the following property owner: PIN# 48-H8SE4-047-023 Plymouth Borough Ambulance Association (for the year 2024) \$807.48
8. Approved **Dual Diagnosis Agreement** between the Luzerne Intermediate Unit and Wyoming Valley West School District for Dual Diagnosis Therapeutic Services for the 2025-2026 school year; \$155.00/day; specified student.
9. Approved **Total Grant Services (TGS) Agreement** between Edu Consult Consulting and Wyoming Valley West School District for services; 24-months, \$2,000/month, beginning November 17, 2025.
10. Approved **License Agreement** between Wyoming Valley West School District and property owner, Andrew Barney, for access to the stormwater swale at State Street Elementary.
11. Approved 36-month purchase of **CLEAR** from Thomson Reuters. (1st year - \$2709.36/month; 2nd year - \$2844.83/month; 3rd year - \$2987.07/month)
12. Approved Agreement between **WVW Transport, Inc.** and Wyoming Valley West School District for **pupil bus transportation**, effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2031.

13. Approved Agreement between **WVW Transport, Inc.** and Wyoming Valley West School District for **pupil van transportation**, including extended school year (ESY), effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2031.

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

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved addition to **Substitute Teacher** list: Tegan Shortlidge
2. Approved **excused absences** October 1, 2025 – October 31, 2025.
3. Accepted the following **resignations**:
 - ❖ **Robert Bowers** – Computer Aide/State Street, effective October 6, 2025.
 - ❖ **Tania Moore** – Autistic Support Aide/Third Ave., effective November 7, 2025.
 - ❖ **Kylee Ritchie** – Cleaner/High School, effective November 4, 2025.
 - ❖ **Rebecca Scorey** – Computer Aide/Chester St./Third Ave., effective October 2, 2025.
4. Appointed the following **new hires**:
 - ❖ **Alyssia Bevan** – Autistic Support Aide/State Street, \$16.00/hour, effective October 8, 2025.
 - ❖ **Jason Blyther** – Autistic Support Aide/High School, \$16.00/hour, effective November 10, 2025.
 - ❖ **Lexie Faux** – Autistic Support Aide/Third Ave., \$16.00/hour, effective November 10, 2025.
 - ❖ **Christina Hayes** – Autistic Support Aide/State Street, \$16.00/hour, effective October 29, 2025.
 - ❖ **Sarah Hirthler** – Autistic Support Aide/State Street, \$16.00/hour, effective September 4, 2025.
 - ❖ **Taylor Hoover** – Cleaner/State Street, \$13.50/hour, effective June 19, 2025; \$16.00/hour effective July 1, 2025.
 - ❖ **Hannah Kinney** – Autistic Support Aide/State Street, \$16.00/hour, effective October 8, 2025.
 - ❖ **Autumn Gaylord** – PCA/Chester Street, \$16.00/hour, effective October 29, 2025.
 - ❖ **Julissa Rodrigues-Gonzalez** – Autistic Support Aide/Chester Street, \$16.00/hour, effective October 20, 2025.
 - ❖ **Harlequin Mendez** – Classroom Aide/Third Ave., \$16.00/hour, effective October 22, 2025.
 - ❖ **Kelly Savage** – Autistic Support Aide/High School, \$16.00/hour, effective November 10, 2025.
 - ❖ **Kaitlyn Stark** – Computer Aide/Chester St./Third Ave., \$16.00/hour, effective October 14, 2025.
 - ❖ **Roemilka Diaz** – Autistic Support Aide/Chester Street, \$16.00/hour, effective October 20, 2025.
5. Approved the following **transfer of positions**:
 - ❖ **Brenda Murnock** – Classroom Aide/Middle School to General Duty Aide/Special Education Office, effective November 13, 2025.

- ❖ **Jared Sulitka** – Cleaner/State Street to Custodian/State Street (full time position), effective November 13, 2025.
- ❖ **Alan Syreika** – Cleaner/State Street to Custodian/Middle School (full time position), effective November 13, 2025.

6. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Courtenay Degnon**, Assistant Director of Special Education, effective December 16, 2025.
7. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Laurie Oakley**, Matron/Middle School, effective November 6, 2025.
8. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Bob Stelma**, Head Football Coach, effective immediately.
9. Approved stipend of \$1,280 for **GIEP** writing and implementation to the following *Middle School Teachers* for 2025/2026:

Jennifer Amato	Donna Maxwell
Michael Gross	Ned Whalen
Theresa Holodick	Patricia Winton
Erin Lada	

10. Appointed the following recommended **Winter Coaches** for 2025/2026:
(*Salary listed is the 2024/2025 amount)

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

VARSITY 10-12 Gary Ferenchick	\$7380
GIRLS ASSISTANT VARSITY 10-12 Keith Ferenchick	\$4155
GIRLS ASSISTANT 9 Eric Raitter	\$3918
GIRLS ASSISTANT 8 Joe Podskoch	\$3560
GIRLS ASSISTANT 7 Tyler Ferenchick	\$3560

SWIMMING

GIRLS VARSITY 9-12 Ed Zawatski	\$4776
BOYS VARSITY 9-12 Ed Zawatski	\$4776
DIVING (Boys & Girls) 9-12 Ibrahim Ismail	\$2867

TRACK (BOYS & GIRLS) WINTER 9-12

VARSITY (Girls) Courtney Thomas	\$4449
VARSITY (Boys) Ashley Temarantz	\$4449

WRESTLING

VARSITY 10-12 Ryan Vassello	\$7380 + \$2000 girls
ASSISTANT VARSITY (GIRLS) 10-12 Dan Seip	\$4155
ASSISTANT VARSITY 10-12 Matt Judge	\$4155
ASSISTANT VARSITY 7-9 (Head) Tim Casey	\$3918
ASSISTANT VARSITY 7-9 Derrick Simms	\$3560
ASSISTANT VARSITY 7-9 Dan Modrow	\$3560

BOYS' BASKETBALL

BOYS VARSITY 10-12 Rick Bell	\$7380
BOYS ASSISTANT VARSITY 10-12 Derrick West	\$4155
BOYS ASSISTANT 9 Omar Kellom	\$3918
BOYS ASSISTANT 8 Chris Rivers	\$3560
BOYS ASSISTANT 7 Chris Rivers	\$3560

CHEERLEADER

JR. HIGH 7-9 Abby Schaal	\$1909
--------------------------	--------

11. Appointed recommended candidate, **Audrey Roccograndi**, Speech/Language Pathologist, Dana Street/State Street, \$91,200 effective TBD.

12. Appointed recommended candidate, **Darlene Reilley**, Assistant Special Education Director, \$90,000 effective TBD.
13. Approved Resolution authorizing Statement of Charges, suspension without pay, and Notice of Right to a Hearing, **Emp. #895611**.
14. Approved Resolution authorizing Statement of Charges, suspension without pay, and Notice of Right to a Hearing, **Emp. #323159**.
15. Approved Resolution authorizing Statement of Charges, suspension without pay, and Notice of Hearing, **Emp. #433156**.
16. Approved Medical Leave, **Emp. #763734**, effective November 18, 2025; returning TBD.

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

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, Keating, Hardwick, McGinley, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wilson, there is a lot of positive things happening within the district. He had the opportunity to attend Dana Street's Literacy Night. Mr. DeRocco and his staff did an amazing job. The State Street Trunk or Treat over the Halloween weekend had a great turnout, hundreds of students and families coming together. Our orchestra at the high school is competing at a state level. We had two district championships this fall. He wished Mr. Keating and Mr. Hardwick best of luck and is very grateful he worked on the Board with them.

Mr. McGinley, we have two Board members that served the last four years and have done an excellent job. The financial footing of the district is in much better shape than it was just a short time ago. It is through the efforts of people like Mr. Keating and Mr. Hardwick. They deserve a lot of credit for what was done and we certainly should applaud their efforts. He wished them nothing but the best moving forward.

Mrs. Cussatt, thanked Mr. Hardwick and Mr. Keating for all their hard work. We will miss you guys.

Mr. Kachurak, because of these two gentlemen and the rest of the Board, you set the direction of the district into a very positive area where we are moving. He thanked the whole Board.


President Kamus thanked them for all their hard work. He announced the *Reorganization Meeting*, Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., immediately followed by the *December Work Session*. The *Regular December Meeting*, Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Adjourned: 7:38 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.