

**West Plains R-VII Board Meeting
December 16, 2025**

Opening Items

- Call to Order by President Tyree (5:00 PM)
- Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum
- Approval of Amended Agenda -Approved 7-0
 - Amended - Removed “Payment of Buro Bill” from Regular Agenda

Motion to move to Closed Executive Session - Approved 7-0

Motion to return to Open Session - Approved 7-0

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

Student/Staff Spotlight

- Fall Activities/Athletics presented by Dr. Ashley Cooley



Requests to Address the School Board

- None

Consent Agenda - Approved 7-0

- Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting(s)
- Approval of Monthly Finance Reports
- 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
 - Tiffanie Bryant - WPHS Counselor
 - Shandi Brinkman - SOMO Tech. Commercial & Advertising Art Instructor
 - Ta'lor Sandul - Secondary Science Teacher
 - Cole Barton - WPES Music Teacher
 - North West - SOMO Tech. Daytime Welding Instructor
 - Non-Certified Positions
 - Serah Butler - Paraprofessional
 - Kayli Thomas - WPHS Asst. Girls Tennis Coach
 - Logan Roberts - Custodian
 - Brenton Bush - WPHS Head Boys Golf Coach
 - Shelly Kruse - Paraprofessional
 - **Transfers – Board Action Required**
 - Virginia Uphaus - WPES Principal to Director of Operations
 - **Volunteers - Board Action Required**
 - Zachary Latta
 - Louis Mongillo
 - **Resignations – Board Action Required**
 - Kayli Thomas - Paraprofessional (EOY)
 - **Retirements - Board Action Required**
 - James Provow - Maintenance (12/31/25)
 - Dennis Weatherford - Transportation Head Mechanic (6/26/26)
 - **Terminations - Board Action Required**
 - Schantel Smith - WPMS Secretary
 - Cody Willbanks - Custodian
 - **Abandonment of Position - No Board Action Required**
 - Joe Robert Niesen - WPHS Mathematics Teacher (12/19/25)
- Approval of Program Evaluation(s)
- Approval of CSIP Update(s)
- Approval of Early Graduates
- Approval of MUSIC Invoice

Previous Business

- Approval of Surplus Property Bids from Matthew Orchard - Approved 7-0

Regular Agenda

- Payment of Bills - Approved 7-0

New Business

- Approval of 2024-2025 Audit - The audit was reviewed by auditor Nick Schultz. No findings were found in the audit. The audit report was approved by the board. Approved 7-0
- Approval of Bus Bids - Approved 7-0 - The board approved the purchase of two 2027 International IC 77 Passenger buses for \$176,447 each from Midwest Transit
- First Read - 2026-2027 Tuition Rate - Wesley Davis
 - Dr. Davis mentioned to the board the rate will be an increase of approximately 1.75% increase for the upcoming school year.
- First Read - 2026-2027 School Calendar - Matthew Orchard presented the board with the calendar to review.
- The board approved paraprofessionals and bus drivers as critical shortage positions - Approved 7-0

Updates & Reports to the Board

- Student School Board Member Report - McKrae Brewer
 - Miss Brewer, along with Camille Coleman, hosted *Portrait of a Zizzer* assemblies at the middle school. At the high school, five students were nominated for the character traits of Portrait of a Zizzer by their peers, and the winners received a test exemption. The high school received 168 nominations, an excellent level of participation. Plans are already in place to continue this initiative next semester.
- Administrative Reports
 - Amy Ross - Special Ed/Federal Programs
 - Dr. Amy Ross highlighted several meaningful efforts across the district. She praised McKrae Brewer and Camille Coleman for leading Portrait of a Zizzer assemblies at the high school and middle school. She also shared that gifts were collected for 51 local foster students through the generosity of staff members, clubs, and athletic teams. ZPA and Student Council partnered with the Optimist Club to help set up and decorate for the craft show, including marking booth spaces. She also reflected on the recent Special Olympics Unified Champion basketball scrimmage, describing it as an incredible night led by Student Council with enthusiastic cheering from our team as well as Forsyth, creating a supportive and inspiring environment.
 - Briana Link - Communications

- Mrs. Briana Link shared several updates, including plans to take a photo of the Board and ongoing work on the District Christmas card. She announced the upcoming Ugly Sweater Contest on Friday and noted that blankets were distributed to staff on Monday as a fun and festive celebration. She also added that the district is snow-day ready and prepared for whatever winter brings.
- Joby Steele - WPMS
 - Dr. Joby Steele, West Plains Middle School, reported that the Portrait of a Zizzer assembly was a success at the middle school, with support from McKrae Brewer and Camille Coleman. He also highlighted the Wrestling Assembly Quad, noting that middle school students were able to attend and participate, which generated significant interest in the wrestling program afterward.
- Josh Cotter - SMTI
 - Dr. Josh Cotter shared that this is a busy time of year with new student orientations and exit meetings underway. He announced that graduation will take place Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center and noted that plans are in progress for tours for high school students as they prepare for next year.
- Matthew Orchard - Facilities/Human Resources
 - Mr. Matthew Orchard reported strong hiring success this month, noting a positive shift in district culture and growing momentum of people wanting to be part of the district. He shared updates on collaboration with Dr. Young and MSU regarding teacher recruitment. He announced that substitute pay will increase from \$145 to \$158 in January due to the minimum wage increase.
 - After-school programs served 1,177 free meals, and several facilities projects are underway or completed, including a new entrance at the bus lot, with two more similar projects planned over break, improvements to the high school student parking lot and middle school parent pickup area, and the completion of the FEMA door project with finish work ongoing. He also shared upcoming projects such as a more secure central office entrance, new access control at ZPA, carpet updates, shot-put improvements, and a washer and dryer for the nurse's office.
 - He highlighted the OZH mobile mammogram bus visit, which recently served 15 staff members and five community members. Additionally, he emphasized the strong partnership with Ozark Healthcare, which is providing valuable mental health services to 20-25 students through case management, reducing the need for students to be checked out of school and serving as an important resource for the district.
- Michael Davis - ZPA

- Mr. Michael Davis reported the submission of the official graduate list, noting a record-breaking December class with 25 graduates. He shared that the care team met and has added new students for the spring semester. He highlighted several community service projects, including packing bags at Great Rivers for the Rotary Backpack Program and assisting the Optimist Club at the Civic Center. He also announced the addition of two new part-time therapists at the Zizzer Clinic, bringing the total to four who are now serving ZPA students. Additionally, he discussed a new cooking class partnership with Mizzou, coordinated with Dr. Ross which will focus on healthy eating and nutrition and allow students to participate in hands-on cooking while selecting a new cooking appliance and crockpot at the end of the program.
- Ryan Smith - WPHS
 - Mr. Ryan Smith shared that the school is currently working through finals this week, with test exemptions awarded to students meeting rigorous criteria, including maintaining at least a 75% course average, no late assignments, no discipline issues, and 95% attendance. This year, 495 students qualified for exemptions, an increase from 475 last year. Looking ahead, he noted the addition of new courses for next year. He also highlighted data shared by an OMC principal comparing APR percentages among similar-sized schools with comparable demographics, reporting that WPHS moved from last place last year to first this year, reflecting significant academic progress.
- Tiffany Young - Teaching/Learning
 - Dr. Tiffany Young reported that the semester is going well as end-of-semester testing continues, including fall EOCs at the high school and ZPA. She shared encouraging STAR Math data for grades K–4, showing consistent growth in math achievement. Curriculum adjustments have been well received, with 50-70 staff members attending optional days and strong collaboration among teams. She also noted ongoing spring test preparation, with teachers receiving resources and support, and announced that GOCS D has requested the district serve as a host site for a two-day leadership training in February. Additionally, she highlighted an EDU 150 field trip to schools in Nixa and Ozark, which provided valuable insights and reinforced the strong work already happening within the district.
- Virginia Uphaus - WPES
 - Mrs. Virginia Uphaus shared positive behavior data, noting a significant decrease in behavior referrals, with 474 referrals from August to the present compared to 681 during the same period last year among approximately 700 students. She highlighted that some days have passed with no referrals,

crediting teachers for consistently reinforcing expectations. She also celebrated academic success alongside Mrs. Lynn Maguffee, recognizing third-grade reading achievement with 71% of students performing at or above grade level and acknowledging the continued dedication of kindergarten through third-grade teachers over the past three years.

- Superintendent's Report
 - Finance Report
 - Dr. Davis mentioned that November/December is Missouri Public Schools' "low money time" as tax monies start to come in. While February/March is the "high time" once those monies are received. The district has received about 15% of the budgeted amount. (\$1.04 million)
 - YTD Budget 12.12.25
 - Total Revenues - \$11,454,661.97 - 32.73%
 - Total Expenditures - \$15,768,976.08 - 43.18%
 - Last YTD Budget 12.13.24
 - Total Revenues - \$11,227,846 - 33.91%
 - Total Expenditures - \$16,059,141 - 46.48%
 - MUSIC Invoice - Work comp, liability, facility
 - 2025 Assessment - \$580,647
 - 2026 Assessment - \$614,247
 - 2026 Budget Amount - \$637,711
 - School Board Filing Update
 - Filing Ends - 12/30/25 at 5:00 pm
 - Five candidates as of today
 - MSBA Board Self Evaluation
 - Emailed the survey link on January 5th
 - Completion date of January 16th
 - Results sent to you by January 20th/21st
 - Virtual feedback at February board meeting
 - District will be closed - 12/25, 12/26, & 1/1
 - Legislative Luncheon on December 2nd
 - Over 1,000+ bills prefiled
 - A few main topics that could affect public schools
 - (a) Tax reform
 - (b) Elimination of MSHSAA or change in control
 - (c) Open Enrollment

Adjournment

- Return to Closed Session for Personnel - Approved 7-0

- Adjournment from Open Session - Approved 7-0
 - Next Meeting - January 27, 2026