

**West Plains R-VII Board Meeting**  
**January 29, 2026**

**Opening Items**

- Call to Order by President Tyree
- Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum by Cindy Tyree
- Approval of Amended Agenda - Approved 7-0
  - New Business. A. Approval of OZH Lease and Service Agreements for ZIZZER Clinic

**Closed Executive Session**

- Adjournment to Closed Executive Session - Approved 7-0

**Open Session**

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

**Student/Staff Spotlight**

- Board Member Reid Grigsby recognized Dr. Cotter for being selected as the Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year. Dr. Davis recognized Briana Link for her recent school cancellation “songs” and all the work she had done recently with social media.

**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
      - Mackenzie Brunson - WPHS Math Teacher (Remainder 25-26 SY)
      - Judith Tilley - Secondary Social Studies Teacher
      - Keeli Holden - WPMS Computers/Reading (Remainder 25-26 SY)
      - Christina Young - WPHS Special Education Teacher
    - Non-Certified Positions
      - Ken Cook - Full Time Bus Driver
      - Ty Murray - Custodian
      - Marion Barker - Custodian
      - Blake Harris - Paraprofessional
      - Michaela Grannemann - Paraprofessional
      - Dallas Roberts - WPMS Asst. Football Coach
      - Garel McGinley - WPMS Asst. Football Coach
      - Raymond Taylor - Full Time Bus Driver
      - Avery Johnson - Paraprofessional (26-27 School Year)
      - Cody Davis - Paraprofessional

- **Transfers – Board Action Required**
  - Duane Jones - Part Time Bus Driver to Full Time Bus Driver (Critical Shortage)
  - Adam Niehaus - WPHS Asst. Football Coach to WPMS Head Football Coach
  - Sarah Land - WPES Asst. Principal to WPES Principal
  - Hailey Beazley - WPHS Physical Education to WPHS College/Career Advisor
- **Volunteers - Board Action Required**
  - Kimberly Ford
- **Resignations – Board Action Required**
  - Rebekah Frazier - Paraprofessional
  - Hagen Riley - IT Dept. Technician (1/16/26)
  - Logan Roberts - Custodian
  - Joby Steele - WPMS Principal (EOY)
  - Macie Duggins - WPHS Asst. Volleyball Coach
  - Ta'lor Sandul - Secondary Science Teacher
  - Melissa Cormier - Middle School Computer/Reading Teacher (1/20/26)
  - Radis Smith - Full Time Bus Driver (1/29/26)
- **Retirements - Board Action Required**
  - None at this time
- **Terminations - Board Action Required**
  - None at this time
- Approval of Program Evaluation(s)
- Approval of CSIP Update(s)

#### **Previous Business**

- Second Read - Approval of 2026-2027 Tuition Rate - Approved 7-0
  - 2025-26 - \$9,591.24
  - 2026-27 - \$9,757.18
- Second Read - Approval of 2026-2027 School Calendar - Approved 7-0

#### **Regular Agenda**

- Payment of Bills - Approved 7-0
- Payment of Buro Bill - Approved 6-0-1 (RG Abstain)
- Reimburse Cindy Tyree MSBA Hotel Cost - Approved 6-0-1 (CT Abstain)
- Reimburse Reid Grigsby MSBA Hotel Cost - Approved 6-0-1 (RG Abstain)

#### **New Business**

- Approval of OZH Lease and Service Agreements for ZIZZER Clinic - Approved 6-0-1 (RG Abstain)

#### **Updates & Reports to the Board**

- Student School Board Member Report - McKrae Brewer
  - McKrae Brewer shared that she sent out a survey to students regarding the phone ban. The results showed that most students fell in the middle of the spectrum in their opinions. The

survey provided valuable insight into what students initially expected from the phone ban and how they now perceive it.

- Administrative Reports

- Amy Ross - Special Ed/Federal Programs

- Amy Ross reported that ESL students at West Plains Middle School held a fundraiser to benefit Bridges by taking drink orders and serving students and staff, raising a total of \$350. She shared that a MAP-A quality inspection is upcoming and that training with Ross and Young will take place soon in preparation. Ross noted that Dr. Davis received an email from Howell Valley regarding a speaker scheduled for September, and that Speech-Language Pathologists and Speech-Language Pathology Assistants will have the opportunity to attend a training there that is specifically designed for their roles, an opportunity staff are excited to attend. She also reported that Medicaid reimbursement processed through Fairbanks totaled \$6,600. Finally, Ross shared that the next board meeting night will also serve as the next parent involvement night, during which a dentist will be on site to provide screenings for preschool and Parents as Teachers (PAT) families.

- Briana Link - Communications

- Mrs. Briana Link reported that the district newsletter continues to be distributed monthly. She shared that forms have been sent out for senior spotlights and that the Distinguished Alumni Award is also currently open for nominations. She is collaborating with Matthew Orchard regarding job openings and working with Mrs. Lynn Maguffee on the Bookworm program. Link also shared that while the first snow day this year was unexpected, the remainder of the week has gone smoothly. Finally, she highlighted upcoming appreciation events, including National School Counseling Week next week.

- Joby Steele - WPMS

- Dr. Joby Steele reported on literacy scores and reading levels at West Plains Middle School, noting that the countdown is on to continue improving MAP scores. He shared that eighth-grade students who fail more than one class in a semester are not eligible to participate in certain activities. Steele also reported that students at each grade level were recognized for demonstrating compassion and responsibility.

- Josh Cotter - SMTI

- Dr. Josh Cotter praised the educators throughout the district, stating that their collective excellence makes his role easier and reflects the high quality of staff districtwide. He reported that SMTI began hosting tours last month, with students from Zizzer Preparatory Academy and sophomores from West Plains High School attending. Cotter shared that accreditation efforts are currently in full swing across the entire SMTI building. He noted that the Skills Districts competition season will begin next Wednesday and that the December graduation ceremony was a great success. Cotter also reported that SMTI welcomed new students this semester in the lineman and practical nursing programs. Finally, he shared that the fire

department recently conducted a walkthrough of the facility to review safety procedures and identify potential improvements in the event of a fire.

- Matthew Orchard - Facilities/Human Resources
  - Mr. Matthew Orchard spoke about the value of tours at SMTI and why they are important in helping fuel student education and career exploration. He also highlighted the important role Bridges plays in supporting students during days when school is not in session due to weather or other circumstances. Orchard shared updates on facilities improvements, including new concrete for school drive entrances and a new project involving the central office secured entrance. He reported on the after-school meal program, noting that it was recently audited with positive results and expressed excitement about the program's future. Orchard also shared updates on upcoming and completed projects, including a new shot put pit, new carpet at the early childhood building, and a new sound system at the West Plains High School gym. Finally, he expressed appreciation for the fire department for conducting walkthroughs of every building across district campuses, providing helpful safety recommendations where needed.
- Michael Davis - ZPA
  - Mr. Michael Davis reported that Zizzer Pride Academy had 25 graduates in December. He shared that the Missouri Options program serves students who are significantly behind in credits and require passage of the HiSET exam, noting that the majority of ZPA graduates come from this program. Davis stated that efforts continue to encourage students to enroll in SMTI programs. He also reported on the COE program, which allows students to attend school for half days and work jobs during the other half of the day, with 22 ZPA students currently participating. Davis shared that ZPA students assisted with setup for a pickleball tournament held at the sports complex, and several students also had the opportunity to participate in the tournament. Finally, he noted that new carpet was installed in the ZPA building over Christmas break, replacing approximately 20-year-old carpet, and that students, staff, and parents have all expressed positive feedback. He also shared that power has been added to the exterior doors at ZPA, which has been very helpful.
- Ryan Smith - WPHS
  - Mr. Ryan Smith reported that preparations for graduation are ready to roll. He shared that an electives showcase assembly was held to encourage students to take courses in person rather than online. During the assembly, teachers spoke about their elective courses, and students had the opportunity to indicate which courses they were interested in taking. Smith noted that a parent/guardian and student scheduling night is upcoming. He also shared information about EDU 202, which follows EDU 150 and allows students to complete substitute training and become certified to sub immediately after graduation. Smith reported that in December, 118 high school and ZPA students were tested on the Algebra I EOC, with

preliminary results showing that 65% earned advanced or proficient scores. Finally, he shared a picture of a “Wall of a Zizzer,” highlighting students who were nominated by their peers for demonstrating each character trait and whose group photos were framed and displayed.

- Tiffany Young - Teaching/Learning
  - Dr. Tiffany Young reported that a curriculum work day was held on the first day of Christmas break, with 43 teachers in attendance. She highlighted the work of instructional coaches and their focus on “progress over perfection.” Young shared that every group met projected growth for grades 5–8 math and science. She reported that a total of 140 students took EOC assessments in the fall, including students who are graduating soon or may be missing state-required testing. Finally, Young shared that preparations are underway for spring assessments, ensuring that teachers are aware of the test preparation resources available to them.
- Virginia Uphaus - WPES
  - Mrs. Virginia Uphaus reported that West Plains Elementary School ended December with a successful semester. She highlighted the first-ever lock-in for third and fourth graders, which ran from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and was attended by 120 students. Activities included bingo, bounce houses, putt-putt golf, karaoke, and a pizza dinner, and parents expressed appreciation for the event. Uphaus also shared updates from the November–December reading challenge. In December, the “school elf” took 12 students (two per grade) to McDonald’s for lunch, where they could order any meal they wanted. Next month, four students per grade will go to Super Bounce. She noted that a new washer and dryer were installed in the nurse’s office and have already been put to good use. Finally, Uphaus reported that preparations are underway for MAP testing for third and fourth graders.
- Superintendent’s Report - Dr. Davis
  - Finance Update
    - 2025-2026 Budget
      - (a) Year to Date Budget as of 1.29.26
        - (i) Total Revenues - \$23,263,466 - 66.47%
        - (ii) Total Expenditures - \$18,685,537- 54.34%
          - 1. Current spending is down \$140,082 from this time last year
      - (b) Teacher Base Salary Grant was not paid in December but we received \$277,567.70 on 1/12/26; this was 1 month later than Dr. Davis had expected
      - (c) Tax collections to date - 96.09% of budgeted amount
        - (i) Budget - \$7,347,711
        - (ii) YTD - \$7,060,889
          - 1. More tax revenue will come in the next few months
    - 2026-27 Budget Planning

- (a) Budget considerations & projects
  - (i) Dr. Davis commented that there will be no “large projects” scheduled for the next few years but reviewed small projects that are started, completed, or scheduled
  - (ii) Will be completed in fiscal 2025-26
    - 1. WPMS FEMA Door Replacements
    - 2. ZPA Carpet
    - 3. CO Secured Entrance
    - 4. Parking lot entrances
    - 5. Shot Put Area
    - 6. WPHS Gym Sound System
  - (iii) Could be completed in fiscal 2025-26
    - 1. Track Resurface
    - 2. Two school buses
      - a. Dr. Davis said buses could arrive between April and August
    - 3. WPMS Library Carpet Replacement
    - 4. ECSE Carpet Replacement
    - 5. WPHS Gym Training & Official Room
  - (iv) Probably will be completed in fiscal 2026-27
    - 1. WPES Gym Floor Sanding
    - 2. WPHS Parking Lot Rotation Sealing
    - 3. SMTI Parking Lot Sealing
- (b) Staffing
  - (i) Dr. Davis said he would continue to reduce/eliminate/combine positions as the district had done in the past three fiscal years.
  - (ii) Dr. Davis mentioned he is budgeting Baseline Teacher Salary Grant for next year but he is very reluctant based on discussions at the state level
  - (iii) Mr. Orchard has started Health Insurance Bidding process

■ Upcoming dates for the school board

- February 12 - ZPA Packing at Great Rivers - 12:30ish
- February 12 - Pink Out Game
- February 13 - District will be closed
- February 24 - Unified Special Olympics Intrasquad
- Be back in 19 days for the February board meeting

**Adjournment**

- Adjournment from Open Session
- Returned to Closed Session
  - No action taken

- Adjourned at 7:41PM
- Next Meeting - February 17, 2026