

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR FEBRUARY BOARD MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 2026
In Person and Zoom**

The Regular February 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 7:08 p.m. by President Kamus. The following Board Members answered present to roll call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus. Mr. Bellio was absent. Superintendent Suppon, Finance Manager Kachurak, Attorney Wendolowski, 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 two vendor contracts and a personnel item.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD – Emily Bolan

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

It is truly an exciting time to be a Spartan. There are so many great things happening across our district, and tonight I am proud to highlight just a few examples of the momentum we continue to build together. At the high school, our Salvadori STEM Program recently completed its unit on skyscrapers, and it was a tremendous success. Our students were fully engaged in hands-on, real-world engineering challenges that pushed them to think critically, collaborate, and innovate. The excitement generated by that experience is already carrying forward to our middle school and launches its 12 week Salvadori Program focused on bridges. Even more exciting, Mr. Wincek successfully secured two additional years of funding through grants to continue this outstanding partnership. That is leadership; that is vision. Most importantly, that is opportunity for our students. Our fully grant funded Anatomage Table is up and running at the high school STEM Lab and to say it is truly awesome is an understatement. This cutting-edge technology provides students with an advanced interactive platform to explore human anatomy in ways that were once only available at the collegiate level. It will give our students a distinct advantage in building cognitive skills related to science and health fields, maximizing their potential for post-secondary success. Safety continues to remain a top priority. Our grant funded X-ray machines are now operational at the high school, enhancing student and staff safety and reinforcing learning environments that support growth, focus, and achievement. I am also extremely excited that Daktronics is on the agenda this evening. Through grants and sponsorships, not unbudgeted district funds, we have the opportunity to modernize our scoreboards at the baseball field, football stadium, and basketball gym. These digital boards will allow us to host movie nights, stream graduations, increase fan engagement, and create opportunities for local businesses through advertising partnerships that support economic growth. Beyond that, we will develop an elective course so students can learn to operate the boards, building real world technical and media production skills that may lead to future career pathways. That is what innovative education looks like, connecting academics, cocurricular experiences, technology, and community engagement. The middle school AV Project is about to start, which was another fully grant funded project. I am very excited about this project. It includes television displays and upgraded speaker systems that will be used exclusively for educational and school related purposes. These displays will enhance the visibility and consistency of our academic reminders, instructional expectations, and school wide learning messages aligned directly to our school wide improvement plan. They will also play an important role in strengthening our PBIS framework by reinforcing positive behavior, celebrating student achievements, and promoting clear, consistent expectations throughout the building. In addition, the displays and sound system will provide pertinent

visual and audio information for parents and community members during Parent and Family Engagement activities and other events held in the auditorium. These tools will not be used for entertainment, but rather will serve strictly to support instruction, behavior reinforcement, and communication connected to our federally funded programming, ensuring we maximize every resource to benefit our students and families. District wide, our feasibility study is in full swing. This is the first critical step in ensuring that our dynamic students and educators are placed in the most innovative and effective learning environments possible. We are committed to planning thoughtfully and strategically for the future so that every stakeholder benefits. These are just some great initiatives underway. We will continue to aggressively pursue funding opportunities through grants and sponsorships to address district needs without placing additional burdens on taxpayers. That commitment is unwavering. I am also proud to share that I was the first representative from District 2 to sign the Pennsylvania House Bill 41 Petition. Our boundary high school student athletes are at a competitive disadvantage under the current playoff structure. Based on a review of the data and the statistics, there is a significant disparity in championships awarded to non-boundary schools. A separate playoff format is necessary to ensure fairness and equity. You have my word, my administrative team and I will continue to fight for our students, our staff, and our community in academics and cocurricular programs alike. We are not afraid to lead the charge when it comes to doing what is right. This district is special. The passion, resilience, and unity of our students, staff, families, and community set us apart and I truly believe that what we are seeing right now is only the beginning. Together, we will continue to shape and enhance this district to meet the evolving needs of our learners. We will lead the way in education so that an opportunity for success is not just possible, it is prevalent. We are and will continue to be a destination district. As always, Go Spartans.

Amended Item on Agenda:

Motion made by Cussatt, seconded by Perfetto, to **Table Item #18** under Staff Recommended Action.

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes.

Motion Carried. Mr. Bellio was absent.

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.

Mark Mahalick, Kingston, lives across from the Middle School and wanted to thank the maintenance team at the Middle School for doing a great job with the recent snowfall, keeping the school grounds safe and accessible for the children, staff, and public.

Kaleen Hoskins, Forty Fort, an Aramark employee concerned about the bids for the food service contract going out ahead of schedule. Aramark has been in Valley West for thirty years and some Aramark employees have been a part of the Spartan community during that span. Ninety percent of the employees live within the boundaries of the district, provide taxes, and have children walking our school halls. She questioned employees having their jobs with the same benefits and pay.

Mr. Kamus replied that none of our current employees will lose their jobs if the Board ever changed vendors. Bids go out every 5 years and this is going out in the third year because the current vendor was not the lowest bidder.

Dwayne McDavitt, Larksville, asked if Mr. Jarski was back to work and if the District ever received the report from the state police? Mr. McDavitt stated that a RTK was filed with the state police.

Lori Monica, Swoyersville, an Aramark employee asked why the bid is going out early for the food service contract. Aramark has been a strong and dedicated part of the Wyoming Valley West community for more than thirty years. As an employee, parent, and taxpayer she requests transparency and an explanation about this decision. Most employees have health insurance and benefits through Aramark.

Kim Throop, Forty Fort, an Aramark employee questioned employment if a different company comes in being employed by Aramark not the district. President Kamus responded that no one will lose their job, it would be written into the RFP.

MINUTES APPROVED

Moved by Cussatt, seconded by Dubaskas, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Regular **January 14, 2026** Board Meeting and Special Meeting for General Purposes, **January 28, 2026**. Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rick Kamus, Contracts & Personnel, is glad to see so many teachers in the audience tonight.

Motion by Wilson, seconded by Nicholson to adjourn the meeting for an Executive Session with the teachers.

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. Kobusky voting no.

Motion Carried; Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m. Mr. Bellio was absent.

Meeting was reconvened at 7:53 p.m. after an Executive Session with the teachers.

Nick Wilson, Finance, the governor announced his proposed budget for 2026/2027 and Wyoming Valley West School District is expecting a 1.1% increase in our Basic Education Funding, an increase of about \$336,794. There is a proposed increase in our Special Education Funding, about 5.4% or \$321,726. There is more to come to the early stages of the state budget. Mr. Kachurak is headed into budget season, and we will discuss that in the upcoming months.

Mark Kobusky, Education/Policy, met this week with Mr. Novrocki and the committee. The Elementary Reading Committee is in the later stages of selecting a new reading series, the teachers are piloting a few. They are also testing them at the high school. They are piloting tutoring with AI, Goblins. The Social Media Policy is on the website, adopted May 14, 2025. The Committee is looking into an AI Policy.

Rick Kamus, Building and Grounds, we are finally able to go out for bid for our domestic hot water heaters at the high school. That is finally done, thanks to Apollo Group.

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved the **Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18** General Operating Budget and Resolution for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.
2. Approved the following **2025/2026 calendar changes**:
 - ❖ Friday, January 30, 2026 – **Full School Day** (Act 80 Day cancelled)
 - ❖ Friday, March 20, 2026 – **Act 80 Day** (rescheduled from January 30, 2026)
3. Approved participating in **VisionQuest's Truancy Program**, at no cost to the district.
4. Approved Order Agreement with **Daktronics**, \$417,806 (cost will be partially/fully offset with sponsorships); pending solicitor approval.
5. Accepted \$500.00 donation from **Plymouth Rotary** to State Street ARMOR Program.
6. Approved 5-year contract with **Brightly Software Inc.**, maintenance ticketing system, July 1, 2026-June 30, 2031, \$36,232.72; pending solicitor approval.

7. Approved Agreement with **West Side Regional Police Department** for a School Resource Officer (SRO), effective January 1, 2026–December 31, 2027; pending solicitor approval.
8. Approved **Hot Water Tank Project** at Wyoming Valley West High School; \$375,312.40 (Co-Stars)

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes.
Motion Carried. Mr. Bellio was absent.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved **excused absences** January 1, 2026 – January 31, 2026.
2. Accepted the following **resignations**:
 - ❖ **Dawn Krugel**, Cleaner, State Street, effective January 14, 2026.
 - ❖ **Arianna McLeod**, Computer Aide, Dana Street, effective January 21, 2026.
 - ❖ **Monica Miller**, Cleaner, State Street, effective January 15, 2026.
 - ❖ **Amara Rodriguez**, Autistic Support Aide, High School, effective January 21, 2026.
3. Appointed the following **new hires**; \$16.00/hour:
 - ❖ **Samantha Bobowicz**, Classroom Aide, Third Avenue, effective February 2, 2026.
 - ❖ **Amanda Davies**, Classroom Aide, State Street, effective January 12, 2026.
 - ❖ **Nicole Davies-Herne**, Personal Care Aide, Middle School, effective January 13, 2026.
 - ❖ **Laura Haines**, Personal Care Aide, Dana Street, effective January 20, 2026.
4. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Jodi Welki**, English Teacher, Middle School, effective the last day of the 2025/2026 school year.
5. Medical Leave, Intermittent FMLA, **Emp. #871912**, effective January 12, 2026.
6. Child-Bearing Leave, **Emp. #379443**, State Street, effective March 13, 2026; returning June 1, 2026.
7. Child-Bearing Leave, **Emp. #156833**, Middle School, effective March 24, 2026; returning the first day of the 2026/2027 school year.
8. Appointed **Stephen Forward**, volunteer assistant E-Sports Coach.
9. Approved **Professional Contract Status** (Tenure) to the following teacher:
 - ❖ **Samantha Kozokas**
10. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Patricia Winton**, English Teacher, Middle School, effective the last day of the 2025/2026 school year.
11. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Amy Rothschild**, Title 1 Reading/Math Teacher, State Street, effective the last day of the 2025/2026 school year.
12. Approved the following **2026 Spring Coaching Positions**:

2025-2026 School Year

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
<u>Boys Baseball</u>	
Varsity 10-12 Mike Petroski	\$4240
Assistant 10-12 Jim Griffin	\$2893
Assistant 7-9 Mikey Pollick	\$2893
Assistant 7-9 Derek Cease	\$2893
<u>Boys Tennis</u>	
Varsity 9-12 Edward Groth	\$2867

Boys Volleyball

Varsity 9-12 **Ryan Hettes** \$2867

Track Boys & Girls

Winter 9-12 & Spring

Varsity (Girls) **Courtney Thomas** \$4449

Varsity (Boys) **Ashley Temarantz** \$4449

Spring Track

Assistant Girls 10-12 **Elizabeth Kane** \$2893

Assistant Boys 10-12 **George Simms** \$2893

Boys and Girls Track

Assistant 7-9 (Head) **Lois Krause** \$2463

Assistant 7-9 (Head) **Omar Kellom** \$2463

Assistant 7-9 **Chloe Ruckle** \$2143

Assistant 7-9 **TBA** \$2143

Girls Softball

Varsity 10-12 **Mark Senchak** \$4240

Assistant 10-12 **Mary Ann Bottaro** \$2893

Assistant 7-9 **Sabrina Hamersley** \$2893

Assistant 7-9 **Sarah Fugate** \$2893

Unified Track

Varsity 9-12 **Abbey Rodway** \$1500

13. Approved the following **Co-Curricular Position** for the **2025-2026** school year:
Interim Advisor 9-12 **Christina Sickler**
14. Approved the following **transfer of position**:
❖ **Willard Davies** – Utility High School to Utility Stadium, effective TBD.
15. Medical Leave, **Emp. #697324**, effective January 9, 2026; returning TBD.
16. Approved the termination of **Emp. #895611**, effective immediately, after the Employee received an appropriate Statement of Charges and failed to submit a written request for a hearing before the Board of School Directors on or before the deadline of 4:00 p.m. February 6, 2026, as set forth in the Statement of Charges.
17. Appointed **Andrew Faul**, Math Teacher, Grade 7, Middle School, effective immediately, \$46,500.
- *TABLED 18. Appoint **Cara Nolan**, Learning Support Teacher, State Street, effective TBD, \$91,200.
19. Appointed **Abby Singh**, Food Service Management Coordinator, Act 93, effective TBD, \$70,000.
20. Medical Leave, **Emp. #886896**, effective February 12, 2026; returning TBD.
21. Appointed **Marti Rae Calpin**, Learning Support Teacher, Dana Street, effective TBD, \$52,000.
22. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Ellen Ercolani**, PCA, State Street, effective the last day of the 2025/2026 school year.

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes.
Motion Carried. Mr. Bellio 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, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes.
Motion Carried. Mr. Bellio was absent.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kobusky, Plymouth Rotary is donating to the ARMOR Program at State Street. Mrs. Butz, who retired from State Street, asked the Rotary on behalf of State Street. They gave a \$500 donation. There is a meeting tomorrow night, and some teachers will attend to thank the Rotary, on behalf of the school district.


President Kamus announced the next scheduled meetings, March Work Session, Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. and the Regular March Meeting, Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Adjourned: 8:00 p.m.



Jennifer Bullock, Board Secretary