WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026 ~ 6:00 PM

Members Present
Alisa Brewer
Shannon Crocker
Shauna Harrington
Roger Kemler
Janine Lynch
Sara Northup-Lynch
Edwin Schatzel
Alisa Brewer

Others Present
Jeremy Siddon, Superintendent
Kelley Crossett, District Treasurer
Daphne Raymo, District Clerk
Glenn Broadbent, MS/HS Principal
Christine Nofri, Elementary Principal
Kathy McEvoy, Teacher
Erin Roberts
Tom Roberts
David J. Amendolare

THIS MEETING WAS LIVE-STREAMED THROUGH THE WEST CANADA VALLEY CSD WEBSITE.

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Shauna Harrington, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Schatzel and seconded by Mrs. Brewer for the Board to recess into Executive Session to discuss specific issues pertaining to staffing for the 2026-2027 school year.

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

Entered Executive Session: 6:01pm Exited Executive Session: 6:26 pm Reconvened Public Session: 6:27 pm

ACTION ITEM: BUDGET WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS
ELIMINATION OF STAFF POSITIONS THROUGH ATTRITION

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mr. Schatzel and seconded by Mrs. Northup-Lynch to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to eliminate;

One (1) full-time **Account Clerk** through attrition, effective June 30, 2026

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mrs. Crocker and seconded by Ms. Lynch to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to eliminate;

One (1) full-time **Bus Driver** through attrition, effective June 30, 2026

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mrs. Crocker and seconded by Mr. Schatzel to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to eliminate;

One (1) full-time **Elementary Teacher** through attrition, effective June 30, 2026

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mrs. Northup-Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Crocker to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to eliminate;

One (1) full-time **Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher** through attrition, effective June 30, 2026

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Ms. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Schatzel to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to eliminate;

One (1) full-time **Math Teacher** through attrition, effective June 30, 2026

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

ACTION ITEM: BUDGET WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS
ELIMINATION OF STAFF POSITIONS THROUGH ATTRITION

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mrs. Crocker and seconded by Mr. Schatzel to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to eliminate;

One (1) full-time **Spanish Teacher** through attrition, effective June 30, 2026

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Ms. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Brewer to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to eliminate;

One (1) full-time **Technology Teacher** through attrition, effective June 30, 2026

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mr. Schatzel and seconded by Mrs. Brewer to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to eliminate;

Two (2) full-time **Teaching Assistants** through attrition, effective June 30, 2026

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

ACTION ITEM: BUDGET WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS
ELIMINATION OF STAFF POSITIONS THROUGH REDUCTION / LAYOFF

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mrs. Brewer and seconded by Mrs. Crocker to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to eliminate;

One (1) full-time **Building Maintenance Mechanic** through staff reduction, effective June 30, 2026

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Ms. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Northup-Lynch to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to eliminate;

One (1) full-time **English Teacher** through staff reduction, effective June 30, 2026

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion was made by Mrs. Northup-Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Brewer to approve the following resolution,
RESOLVED, to eliminate;

Two (2) full-time **Teaching Assistants** through staff reduction, effective June 30, 2026

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

ACTION ITEM: BUDGET WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATION
ADOPTION OF PROPOSED 2026-2027 BUDGET

Motion made by Mrs. Crocker and seconded by Mr. Schatzel to approve the 2026-2027 Budget in the amount of **$21,997,673** to be brought to public vote on May 19, 2025 with a tax levy of 15%.

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The District Clerk received one public comment email, from Sandra Satterlee who resides in Newport, asking the following questions:

Q. Sandra Satterlee: "Is a copy of the budget going to be mailed to all taxpayers?"

A. *Mr. Siddon: Yes, the annual budget newsletter is being compiled and can now be completed since the Board approved the proposed 2026-2027 budget at tonight's meeting. It will be mailed to district residents shortly.*

Q. Sandra Satterlee: "If we are in such financial strain and we want tax payers to vote on this budget increase, why has the community (those that aren't connected to social media) not been informed?"

A. *Mr. Siddon: We broadcast all Board of Education meetings on YouTube, we use social media, and we will be mailing the budget newsletter out shortly. If any community members have questions at any time, they can contact the District Office.*

Q. Sandra Satterlee: "If our student population has decreased, can't we operate with one principal and one vice principal? We shouldn't need two with salaries of six figures. That will help toward our budget greatly. I understand that one of our principles is not tenured."

A. *Mr. Siddon: Our population has decreased and our total number of students is around 650 which makes it difficult with PreK-6 and 7-12 in separate buildings. We're looking at all cost savings areas but at this time it would be difficult to operate with one principal.*

Additional public comments were made by in-person meeting attendees as follows:

Q. Kathy McEvoy, who resides in Newport, asked if consolidating two bus runs into one run has been looked at. Kathy indicated that many people ask the same question and she thought this would be a good time to address it, while the public is listening.

A. *Mr. Siddon indicated that the double bus runs have been looked at and explained that because of the 84-86% transportation aid we are reimbursed by the State, if too much is taken off this year, the revenue will be less the following year. If we went to one run, contract obligations of health benefits are still there for the drivers who would then go from a 6-hour to a 4-hour day, and the yearly-generated reimbursable State aid would be cut in half.*

Q. Kathy McEvoy also appreciated the breakdown of the positions being eliminated because of attrition, and those by staff reduction. She asked what other areas besides instructional staff have been looked at for cuts.

A. *Mr. Siddon stated that other areas being looked at are sports tournaments, not replacing uniforms for another year, not purchasing equipment that we may need but we can do without for the time being. We've looked at overtime costs, building use functions held during the weekends that incur costs to the district. Unnecessary spending has been frozen since January.*

Q. Erin Roberts, who resides in Newport, asked what kind of impact will not filling the positions lost by attrition and the cuts to positions have on the kids, or is decreased enrollment helping to absorb that?

A. *Mr. Siddon: Some of it is decreased enrollment; the enrollment ebbs and flows. The sixth grade coming up to the middle school next year is smaller so that does help us. We've been operating with three Math teachers throughout the school year and feel like we can do that in a couple other subjects; Science has labs so it has constraints. One History teacher also teaches Driver Education also. It is going to hurt; we may not be able to offer some of our electives. Some of our teaching positions have been open for two years, we just haven't been able to replace them. We've managed in Spanish with one teacher and now Spanish is given in 8th grade rather than 7th. I think as we work together to determine what is the best possible education we can give our students here at West Canada and that will be our number one priority within the means of what we can do.*

Q. Erin Roberts asked: If this current budget passes (which I generally do think it will, I think the community is very supportive), is this it for cuts?

A. *Mr. Siddon: Yes.*

Q. Erin Roberts asked: How did we get here?

A. *Mr. Siddon: It's been a culmination of events leading up to it. For a few years we had COVID money coming in, we had the School in Need of Improvement money coming in and now they've both fallen off the books. I think that was a big hit to this district. Three years of not raising taxes? It might not catch up to you in one or two years down the road, but it will, and it has caught up to us. For whatever reason, we need to get ourselves back in a stable fiscal position, not looking year to year but at a five-year plan on how we can continue to monitor our staff and make sure staff is in line with the number of students. As our enrollment declines, we have to look at maybe having two class sections instead of three sections. This is a year-in and year-out of looking at every angle to see where we can be fiscally responsible.*

Q. Erin Roberts stated she has deep sympathy for the Board Members because it is grueling trying to decide what to cut and not to cut, but with the declining enrollment can administrative costs be cut? Do we need full-time administration? Can we share administration with another district?

A. *Mr. Siddon: These are all things we are looking at year-in and year-out. I've reached out to neighboring districts to ask if we have something they need. I think it scares districts; the word "merging" scares everybody because what is every community known for? They're known for their education; the school is the central hub. Before I came here, I was in a small community and I understand how important this building is to all of our neighboring towns. I think when you start saying "merger" it puts people in an angry state of mind.*

Erin Roberts added that when things start decreasing or slipping, not being the correct word for it here, people are going to have to look at that; we can't sustain on our own and our kids keep losing out because we have hardly anything to give them now.

Q: Lisa Elwood-Farber suggested to start having conversations with the community on a possible merger, educating the community on the pros and cons of a merger, what Central Valley gained when they merged, and what they lost, or may have done differently. She also stated, "The mascot change was so horrible and horrifying to see people behave that way. I can imagine why you're so hesitant on a merger, but seven years from now, you may not have a choice." Lisa suggested asking people from CVA to come to some of our board meetings and events to talk about things they liked and things they wish they had done differently. She indicated that "this might not be such a bad thing. I know they're not the only schools that have merged, but you might want to start that conversation because we want to be able to offer quality education to our students."

A. *Mr. Siddon: I think that some of that conversation is going to be spearheaded at the State level too because one thing going on right now is regionalization, which is another term for merging. Operational costs are growing at an absurd rate; when you have a 10% rise in healthcare on a year-to-year basis, that's a big number, and it's fiscally not sustainable. Other costs, such as BOCES programming to educate students, are rising. These are all valid points, especially with merging and having conversations. This is all I'm focused on right now; I came here in January 2024 and I'm focused on the future. How can we sustain long-term at West Canada and be fiscally responsible?*

Mr. Siddon asked if there were any other questions, then thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- April 20: School Board Candidate Petitions due by 5:00 PM
- May 5: Spring Concert I (Senior Band) 7:00 PM
- May 7: Spring Concert II (First & Third Grades) 6:00 PM
- May 8 & 9: Solo Festival @ Central Valley CSD
- May 11: Budget Hearing & Regular BOE Meeting 6:00 PM
- May 12: Spring Concert III (Jr. & Sr. Choruses, Jr. Band) 7:00 PM
- May 12: Second Annual Nighthawks Art Show, MS/HS Library 6:00 PM
- May 19: Annual Budget Vote & School Board Election 12:00 - 8:00 PM
- May 19: Spring Concert IV (4th Grade/Elementary Band & Chorus) 6:30 PM
- May 22: "Snow Day" Give Back
- May 25: Memorial Day Holiday (Building Closed); Parade - Middleville 10:00 AM

ADJOURN

Motion made by Ms. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Brewer to adjourn the meeting.

All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0 **Meeting adjourned: 6:45 PM**

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President, Board of Education Clerk, Board of Education