

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MAY BOARD MINUTES
MAY 13, 2026
In Person and Zoom**

The Regular May 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 (phone), Dubaskas, Bellio, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus. Superintendent Suppon, Attorney Messenger, 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 the teachers' contract and a vendor contract.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD – Emily Bolan and Rhiley Castro

Dr. Suppon congratulated Student Council Senior Liaison, Emily Bolan and stated a leaf will be added to the dedication tree in the West Wing STEM Lab at the High School.

FSL gave a brief financial presentation.

ICS gave a brief feasibility study update.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Good evening, Spartans. I truly cannot believe we are already in the month of May. It feels like just yesterday we were welcoming students and staff back for the start of another school year, and now we are approaching the finish line of what has been an incredibly successful and productive year across the Wyoming Valley West School District. This year has been filled with tremendous growth, progress, and accomplishments in every area of our district. From major security upgrades and safety enhancements to athletic success, academic achievement, student growth, STEAM enhancements, grant securements, community partnerships, and countless student accomplishments, this has been a year our entire Spartan community should be proud of. We have continued to invest in the safety and well-being of our students and staff, while also continuing to raise expectations academically and provide opportunities for students to excel in all facets of education. The momentum we have created this year is something we will continue to build upon moving forward. Following my remarks this evening, I will also be presenting the district's preliminary budget. I want to stress the word "preliminary." Nothing is finalized tonight, and nothing officially goes into effect until the final budget vote takes place in June. There is still time for adjustments and changes, and we will continue to carefully evaluate everything as we move through the process. Fiscal responsibility remains a priority as we continue working to provide the very best opportunities for our students, staff, and community. I also want to highlight a tremendous upcoming event in our community, the 70th Anniversary of the Fine Arts Fiesta. For seventy (70) years, the Fine Arts Fiesta has transformed Public Square into the heart of NEPA's creative community. From May 14th through May 17th, Wilkes-Barre's signature celebration of the arts will once again bring together musicians, dancers, theater performers, poets, and crafters for a vibrant four-day festival. I am extremely proud that both our Middle School and High School students will be participating and showcasing their incredible talents. Our Wyoming Valley West Middle School performances include Thursday, May 14th, Middle School Band from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm; Friday, May 15th, Spartan Singers from 10:00 am to 10:30 am; Friday, May 15th, Middle School Orchestra from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Our High School performances include our High School Small Chamber Orchestra Ensemble, May 14th at 11:00 am; High School Marching Spartans, May 14th at 4:30 pm; High

School Concert Choir, May 14th at 5:30 pm. In addition, I want to recognize two outstanding Spartans for remarkable accomplishments connected to the Fine Arts Fiesta. Blake Vehoski, a 6th grade student at the Wyoming Valley West Middle School, placed first out of 44 applicants in the Literary Arts Poetry Contest. Blake will be showcasing his work at the Fine Arts Fiesta on Sunday, May 17th. He will have his picture featured in the newspaper and will also read his poetry live on stage. In addition, several more of his poems will be displayed in the Poetry Club area throughout the festival. I also want to congratulate Nathan Havrilla, who won the Fine Arts Fiesta Poster Contest. Nathan's artwork was selected as the official advertisement for the Fiesta and will appear on banners and t-shirts throughout the event. What tremendous accomplishments by two very talented Spartans. We are incredibly proud of both of them. I also want to recognize a tremendous initiative that highlights the importance of attendance and student commitment throughout the school year. The Wyoming Valley West School District is proud to announce that Stacy Lluberes Helena is the winner of this year's senior attendance initiative. In an effort to encourage strong student attendance, the district offered an exclusive incentive to the senior class, free DJ services for the winner's graduation party. The criteria for selection were based on the senior with the best attendance record throughout the school year, with GPA serving as the tiebreaker if necessary. We are extremely proud to recognize Stacy for earning this award. Announcing the winner in early May allows the family time to coordinate and plan their graduation celebration around the availability of the DJ. Congratulations to Stacy and thank you to all of our seniors for your commitment to attendance this year. I also want to extend a sincere thank you to Donnie Evans Entertainment for generously sponsoring this reward and supporting our seniors and the importance of consistent school attendance. I also want to take a moment to recognize what an incredible Prom we had this past Friday. The event was outstanding, and I want to sincerely thank all the administrators, teachers, advisors, and staff members who spent countless hours planning and organizing every detail to ensure our students had a memorable and safe evening. Most importantly, our students represented Wyoming Valley West with class, respect, and pride. They truly made us proud. I also want to recognize all our students who recently completed state testing. Our students worked extremely hard, and I cannot be more proud of the effort, determination, and focus they demonstrated throughout the testing process. Their commitment and perseverance continue to make our Spartan community proud every single day. As we head into the final weeks of school, I encourage all families and community members to continue checking our school and district calendars frequently. The end of the year is always an exciting and busy time filled with concerts, award ceremonies, athletic events, celebrations, graduations, and many other special activities throughout the district. There is a great deal happening across Wyoming Valley West, and we want everyone to stay informed and involved. As we continue moving forward, our district will continue to pave the way in education. We will lead, not follow, and we will continue setting the standard high for what our students, staff, and community deserve. Our staff and students are truly the best, and together we will continue showing unity, pride, and commitment to maximizing success in all facets of education. We are and will continue to be a destination district and as always, Go Spartans!

Dr. Suppon gave a brief explanation of the 2026-2027 Proposed Budget.

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.

Stevei Martin, Luzerne, spoke about concerns regarding the Softball Program, the conduct of the coaching staff and the impact it is having on student athletes.

President Kamus thanked her for her concerns and stated if there is an employee situation and HR has an investigation going on, we cannot comment at this time.

MINUTES APPROVED

Moved by Dubaskas, seconded by Cussatt, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Regular **April 8, 2026** Board Meeting.

Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Adopted revised **Policy 005**, Organization. (Second Reading)
2. Adopted revised **Policy 006**, Meetings. (Second Reading)
3. Adopted revised **Policy 102**, Academic Standards. (Second Reading)
4. Adopted revised **Policy 103**, Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students. (Second Reading)
5. Adopted revised **Policy 103.1**, Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities. (Second Reading)
6. Adopted revised **Policy 104**, Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff. (Second Reading)
7. Adopted revised **Policy 105.2**, Exemption From Instruction. (Second Reading)
8. Adopted revised **Policy 113.1**, Discipline of Students With Disabilities. (Second Reading)
9. Adopted revised **Policy 113.2**, Behavior Support. (Second Reading)
10. Adopted revised **Policy 122**, Extracurricular Activities. (Second Reading)
11. Adopted revised **Policy 123**, Interscholastic Athletics. (Second Reading)
12. Adopted revised **Policy 140**, Charter Schools. (Second Reading)
13. Adopted revised **Policy 146.1**, Trauma-Informed Approach. (Second Reading)
14. Adopted revised **Policy 202**, Eligibility of Nonresident Students. (Second Reading)
15. Adopted revised **Policy 204**, Attendance. (Second Reading)
16. Adopted revised **Policy 209.2**, Diabetes Management. (Second Reading)
17. Adopted revised **Policy 218**, Student Discipline. (Second Reading)
18. Adopted revised **Policy 218.1**, Weapons. (Second Reading)
19. Adopted revised **Policy 218.2**, Terroristic Threats. (Second Reading)
20. Adopted revised **Policy 221**, Dress and Grooming. (Second Reading)
21. Adopted revised **Policy 222**, Tobacco and Vaping Products. (Second Reading)
22. Adopted revised **Policy 227**, Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia. (Second Reading)
23. Adopted revised **Policy 234**, Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students. (Second Reading)
24. Adopted revised **Policy 236.1**, Threat Assessment. (Second Reading)
25. Adopted revised **Policy 247**, Hazing. (Second Reading)
26. Adopted revised **Policy 249**, Bullying/Cyberbullying. (Second Reading)
27. Adopted revised **Policy 254**, Educational Opportunity for Military Children. (Second Reading)
28. Adopted revised **Policy 308**, Employment Contract/Board Resolution. (Second Reading)
29. Adopted revised **Policy 317**, Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures. (Second Reading)
30. Adopted revised **Policy 317.1**, Educator Misconduct. (Second Reading)
31. Adopted revised **Policy 320**, Freedom of Speech by Employees. (Second Reading)
32. Adopted revised **Policy 325**, Dress and Grooming. (Second Reading)
33. Adopted revised **Policy 332**, Working Periods. (Second Reading)
34. Adopted revised **Policy 336**, Personal Necessity Leave. (Second Reading)
35. Adopted revised **Policy 339**, Uncompensated Leave. (Second Reading)
36. Adopted revised **Policy 351**, Controlled Substance Abuse. (Second Reading)
37. Adopted revised **Policy 610**, Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation. (Second Reading)
38. Adopted revised **Policy 611**, Purchases Budgeted. (Second Reading)

39. Adopted revised **Policy 619**, District Audit. (Second Reading)
40. Adopted revised **Policy 626**, Federal Fiscal Compliance. (Second Reading)
41. Adopted revised **Policy 626.1**, Travel Reimbursement - Federal Programs. (Second Reading)
42. Adopted revised **Policy 718**, Service Animals in Schools. (Second Reading)
43. Adopted revised **Policy 805**, Emergency Preparedness and Response. (Second Reading)
44. Adopted revised **Policy 805.1**, Relations With Law Enforcement Agencies. (Second Reading)
45. Adopted revised **Policy 805.2**, School Security Personnel. (Second Reading)
46. Adopted revised **Policy 810**, Transportation. (Second Reading)
47. Adopted revised **Policy 816**, District Social Media. (Second Reading)
48. Adopted revised **Policy 827**, Conflict of Interest. (Second Reading)
49. Adopted **Policy 815.1**, Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education. (First Reading)
50. Approved **Board Operations Guidelines** for Standing Committees.
51. Approved **Real Estate Property Tax Exemption** through the Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission to the following:
 - ❖ Cynthia Allen
 - ❖ Johnny Castillo
 - ❖ Mary Ann Osolnick
52. Accepted and authorized advertisement for **bids** to be received and opened at the District Office on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.
 - ❖ Interscholastic Sports Supplies (2026-2027)
53. Approved **bonding** of Wyoming Valley West Board Secretary in the amount of \$300,000 during fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.
54. Accepted a \$30,000 donation for STEM initiatives from **Geisinger**.
55. Approved Proposal from **Superior Sealcoating & Paving** for emergency repairs to the Third Avenue parking lot, \$58,650.
56. Approved **Change Order #1** from **Elite Concrete and Excavation** for additional concrete and wall repair work, \$11,763. (Bleachers Project at Stadium)
57. Approved **Rosen Real Estate Inc.** to provide appraisal services to the district at the cost of \$2,000.
58. Accepted a donation of a 10 x 20 storage shed for the WVW Baseball Team from the **Moules Family**. (No cost to the district; no electric; no water)
59. Approved Proposal from **H&G Mechanical** to install four (4) roof hydrants at the Middle School, \$2,925.00 each; \$11,700.
60. Approved Proposal from **R.N. DeMeck** for four (4) roof penetration installations at the Middle School, total cost of \$4,000.
61. Approved Proposal from **Barry Isett & Associates Inc.** for Survey, Environmental, Geotechnical, and Civil Engineering Professional Services.
62. Approved the **2026-2027 Proposed Preliminary Budget** in the amount of **\$110,291,046**.
63. Approved payment to **Apollo Group** for construction management services rendered through April 30, 2026, \$17,080.75.

Roll Call: Wilson (phone), Dubaskas, Bellio, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved **excused absences** March 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026.
2. Approved additions to substitute teacher list: **Olivia Gayoski, Daniel Pape, Morgan McAndrew**
3. Approved **Settlement Agreement** pursuant to Emp. #757466.
4. Appoint the following **Mentors** for 2025/2026:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Mentor</u>	
Marti Calpin	Jessica Preiman	<i>(Dana Street)</i>
Andrew Faul	Pam Oliveira	<i>(Middle School)</i>
Marylillian Stepanski	Jessica DePhillips	<i>(Middle School Guidance)</i>
5. Accepted the following **resignations**:
 - ❖ **Harlequin Mendez**, Classroom Aide, Third Ave., effective March 11, 2026.
 - ❖ **Vanessa Luton**, Learning Support Classroom Aide, Middle School, effective March 6, 2026.
 - ❖ **Faythe Chapman**, Autistic Support Classroom Aide, State Street, effective March 25, 2026.
 - ❖ **Sarah Hirthler**, Autistic Support Classroom Aide, State Street, effective March 20, 2026.
 - ❖ **Samantha Bobowicz**, Classroom Aide, Third Ave., effective March 27, 2026.
 - ❖ **Laura Haines**, Personal Care Aide, Middle School, effective March 9, 2026.
6. Appointed the following **new hires**; \$16.00/hour:
 - ❖ **Sharon Shea**, Learning Support Classroom Aide, Middle School, effective March 23, 2026.
 - ❖ **Shawn Temarantz**, Autistic Support Classroom Aide, State Street, effective March 20, 2026.
 - ❖ **Amy Hodle**, Computer Aide, State Street, effective March 23, 2026.
 - ❖ **Erin Egan**, Cleaner, Middle School, effective March 23, 2026.
 - ❖ **Sarah Kriso**, Learning Support Classroom Aide, Dana Street, effective March 23, 2026.
 - ❖ **Louise Newman**, Autistic Support Classroom Aide, State Street, effective March 30, 2026.
7. Rescinded appointment, **Ian Jones**, District Wide Maintenance, \$17.50/hour, effective March 30, 2026.
8. Accepted resignation, with regret, due retirement, **Brenda Glynn**, Title I Reading Teacher, State Street, effective the last day of the 2025/2026 school year.
9. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Sarah Lispi**, Kindergarten Teacher, Third Ave., effective the last day of the 2025/2026 school year.
10. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Samantha Kozokas**, Emotional Support Teacher, High School, effective April 3, 2026.
11. Approved **Compensation** to professional staff members:
 - ❖ 18 Credits Beyond Bachelor's Degree
 - ❖ 24 Credits Beyond Bachelor's Degree
 - ❖ Master's/Master's Equivalency
 - ❖ Beyond Master's/Master's Equivalency for courses approved by the Superintendent
12. Approved to adjust the salary column placement of **Emp. #633595** from M to M+12 consistent with Article 26 of the CBA, effective the original date of hire, with retroactive compensation as calculated by the Business Office.

13. Approved to adjust the salary column placement of **Emp. #787361** from M to M+12 consistent with Article 26 of the CBA, effective the original date of hire, with retroactive compensation as calculated by the Business Office.
14. Approved Medical Leave, **Emp. #142153**, effective April 10, 2026; returning TBD.
15. Approved Child-Bearing Leave, **Emp. # 713181**, effective April 30, 2026; returning TBD.

Roll Call: Wilson (phone), Dubaskas, Bellio, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

FINANCE RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by Bellio, seconded by Dubaskas, 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 (phone), Dubaskas, Bellio, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kobusky stated a lot was presented tonight and we will have to make some hard decisions whether we are going to raise taxes or not. We have a lot of buildings that need work and possibly build new buildings. Tough decisions to think about with the future and the finance of the district.


President Kamus announced the next scheduled meetings, June Work Session, Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. and the Regular June Meeting, Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Adjourned: 8:25 p.m.



Jennifer Bullock, Board Secretary