

West Plains R-VII Board Meeting

April 22, 2026

Opening Items

- Call to Order by President Cindy Tyree
- Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum by President Cindy Tyree (J Purgason and C Coleman absent)
- Approval of Agenda - Approved 5-0
- Motion to enter into Closed Session - Approved 5-0

Closed Executive Session

- Adjournment to Closed Executive Session
 - Pursuant to Section 610.021.1 Legal Matters
 - Pursuant to Section 610.021.2 Leasing, purchase, or sale of real estate
 - Pursuant to Section 610.021.3 Personnel Matters
 - Pursuant to Section 610.021.6 Student Matters
 - Pursuant to Section 610.021.17 Security Operations
- Motion to return to Open Session - Approved 6-0 (Coleman joined at 5:35pm)

Open Session

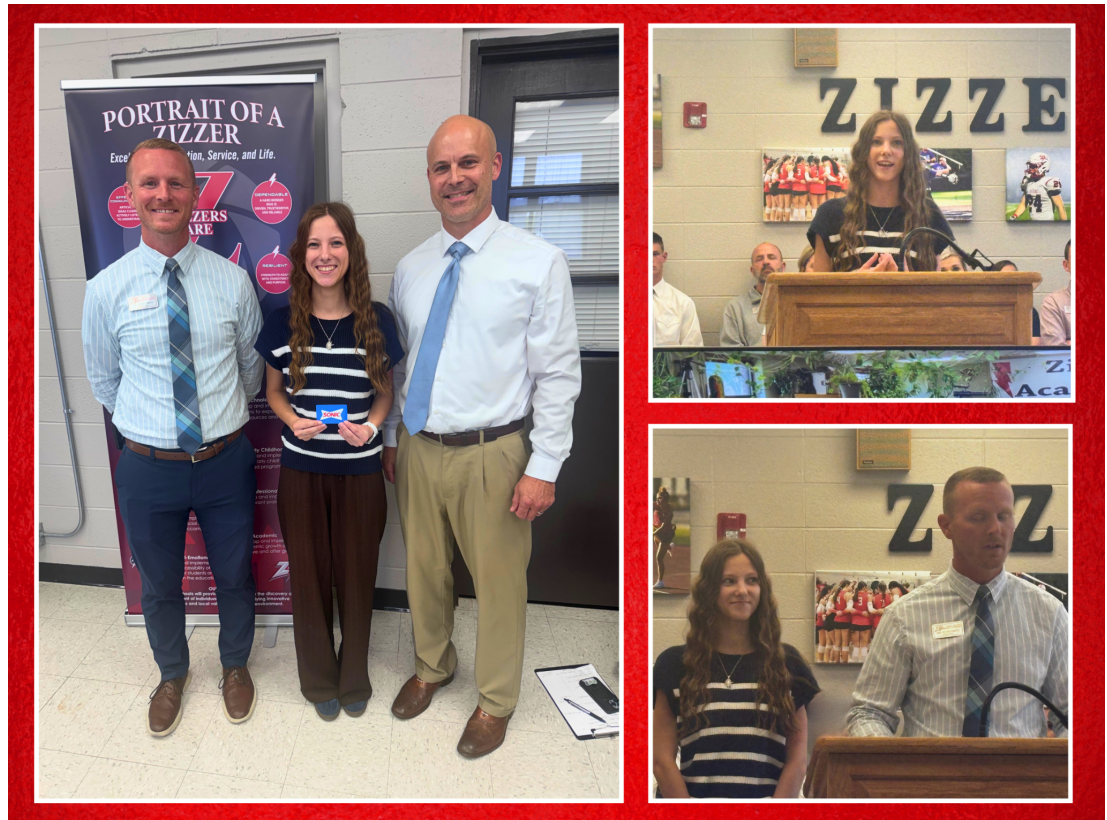
- Call to Order by President Tyree
- Pledge of Allegiance led by President Cindy Tyree

Student/Staff Spotlight

- West Plains High School - Ryan Smith
 - WPHS senior Aubrey Gross shared her experience in Project Lead The Way (PLTW), which she has been involved in since middle school at Fairview. She became interested during freshman orientation and joined the program her first year, gaining valuable lab skills, teamwork experience, and independent learning habits. Through Mr. Fleming's PLTW program, she contributed to classroom projects, including creating materials to support End-of-Course (EOC) assessments, helping improve student performance.
 - Aubrey emphasized the sense of community within the program, describing it as a family that grows and learns together. She also highlighted opportunities such as white coat ceremonies, earned through strong academic performance and EOC scores, and the development of leadership skills that helped her secure an

internship with Quantum Next DX, where she works on whole-body monitoring initiatives.

- Aubrey has been accepted to Saint Louis University, where she plans to study biochemistry. She was also accepted into the Honors Program and Medical Scholars Program. Additionally, she earned the Vice President's Scholarship of \$39,000, scored a 34 on the ACT, and qualified for the Bright Flight Scholarship. We wish her the very best of luck with her post high school plans!



Consent Agenda - Approved 6-0

- Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting(s)
- Approval of Monthly Finance Reports
- Approval of 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

- Bailey Tinsley - WPES 4th Grade Teacher
- Rylie Coats - WPES Art Teacher

- Susan Fiorino - WPHS/WPMS English Teacher
- Jeanne Jorash - WPHS Drama/Theater Teacher
- Seth Bryant - Coordinator of At Risk Services/ZPA Director
- Avery Johnson - WPES 1st Grade Teacher
- Nancy Jackson-Bean - WPHS SWAT (Students Working at Transition) Teacher

Non-Certified Positions

- Barbara True - WPES Secretary
- Don Long - WPHS Head Softball Coach
- Mick Price - WPHS Asst. Softball Coach
- Jordan Letterman - WPHS Head Boys Tennis Coach
- Kayli Thomas - WPHS Asst. Boys Tennis Coach
- Jarrod Girdley - WPHS Asst. Football Coach
- Shawnee Pauly - Paraprofessional (26-27 SY)
- Sebastian Agnew - Paraprofessional (26-27 SY)
- Kayla Pearson - Paraprofessional (26-27 SY)
- Evan Ackerson - Paraprofessional (26-27 SY) & WPHS Asst. Football Coach

Transfers – Board Action Required

- Cherry Robertson - WPHS SWAT Instructor to WPMS Special Education Teacher
- Tara Orr - WPES Kindergarten Teacher to WPHS Counselor
- Anastasia Closser - WPMS 8th Grade English Teacher to WPHS English III Teacher
- Michael Davis - Coordinator of At Risk Services/ZPA Director to WPHS Asst. Principal
- Abby Hensley - SFES 2nd Grade Teacher to SFES 1st Grade Teacher
- Vanessa Doss - District Lead Nurse/WPHS Nurse to SOMO Tech Health Science Instructor
- Brenda Colter - WPES 1st Grade to WPES Kindergarten
- Serah Davis - Paraprofessional to WPES 3rd Grade Teacher
- Kim Brunson - WPES Kindergarten to WPHS/SMTI Supervised Business Experience Teacher
- Camisha Hunter - SFES 6th Grade Teacher to WPMS Assistant Principal

Volunteers - Board Action Required

- Darrik Moody

Resignations – Board Action Required

- Megan Hughes - WPES 1st Grade Teacher
- Karissa Surface - WPES 4th Grade Teacher
- Madyson Callahan - WPES Art Teacher
- Tamara Phay - WPES 3rd Grade Teacher
- Karsyn Smith - WPHS Business/SBE Teacher & Asst. Softball Coach
- Tayler Mitchell - WPHS Theater Teacher
- Nathan Huddleston - WPHS Head Boys Tennis Coach
- Jordan Hall - Music Production Asst. Director
- Madison Stevens - WPHS Asst. Girls Basketball Coach
- Jessica Wages - Paraprofessional
- Thera Lashley - WPMS ELA Teacher
- Hope Berry - WPES 4th Grade Teacher

Retirements - Board Action Required

- Christy Frazier - WPHS English Teacher
- Erica Walker - WPMS Assistant Principal
- Desiree Beard - WPHS English Teacher

Terminations - Board Action Required

- None at this time

- Approval of Program Evaluations
- Approval of CSIP Update

Previous Business

- Set the 2026-2027 Health Insurance Contribution Amount at \$544 - The board voted unanimously to pay the full \$544 of the base health insurance plan for the 2026-2027 school year. Approved 6-0
- **Board Reorganization**
 - Congratulations to Christena Silvey Coleman for serving on the Board for 9 years and Jodi Purgason for serving 3 years.



- Board Secretary, Erica Jones, swore in newly elected board members Jim Laughary, Reid Grigsby, and Jim Thompson.



- The following board officials were appointed for the upcoming school year:
 - Election of President - Cindy Tyree
 - Election of Board Vice President - Reid Grigsby
 - Election of Board Secretary - Erica Jones
 - Election of Board Treasurer - Wesley Davis
 - Election of MSBA Delegate - Sam Riggs
 - Election of MSBA Alternate Delegate - Jim Thompson

Regular Agenda

- Payment of Bills - Approved 7-0
- Payment of Buro Bill - Approved 6-0-1 (RG abstained)

New Business

- Approval of Related Services Bid - Approved 5-0-2. (RG and SR abstained). The contract was awarded to OZH for the 2026-2027 school year. This contract provides OT and PT services for the district. It will also provide additional Speech Services if needed.
- Approval of Surplus Property - The board declared four items as surplus property. Approved 7-0
 - Tow behind cement mixer, Tractor style lawn mower, van, & Bluebird bus

Updates & Reports to the Board

- Student School Board Member Report - McKrae Brewer
 - Miss McKrae Brewer presented each board member with an “impact shirt.” She thanked them all for the impact they have had on her since her time on the board. The shirts were designed by the senior class, were available for seniors to purchase, and intended to give to individuals who have made a meaningful impact on a senior’s high school journey. The initiative also serves as a fundraiser to support the senior trip and other class activities. McKrae also created a video of some of the seniors gifting teachers and parents with their impact shirts. It will be on social media soon.
 - Administrative Reports
 - Amy Ross - Special Ed/Federal Programs
 - Dr. Amy Ross reported that the district will host the Special Olympics Track Meet on April 28. Ozark Independent Living provided funding for senior banners honoring Special Olympics athletes, which will be displayed at the stadium. She also recognized

the Student Council for their work in planning the track meet, noting that students have taken a lead role in organizing and staffing event activities.

- She shared updates from the PAT Advisory meeting, where attendance has increased to 34 families compared to 8 last year, with Shealia Harper also in attendance. Screening numbers were reported, including 63 preschool and 95 kindergarten students.
- Amy also highlighted student success at the Job Olympics held at the civic center, where 10 students from SWAT and Jamie Allen's classroom competed, earning 4 gold, 4 silver, and 2 bronze medals in job-skill events.
- In assessment updates, MAP-A follow-up meetings were held with Dr. Young and Dr. Ross, and the district received strong results. She also reported that the district earned a perfect score of 42 points on the state accountability review, part of the APR (Annual Performance Report). The district was commended for its CSIP (Comprehensive School Improvement Plan) and the positive changes being implemented, reflecting strong growth and effective practices.

■ Briana Link - Communications

- Mrs. Briana Link reported that the district's updated mobile app is now live and available for download on both Android and Apple devices by searching "West Plains Schools." The app provides easy access to key information, including events, calendars, athletic schedules, school menus, and the parent portal, as well as staff resources such as email, Frontline, FinalForms, enrollment, and employment opportunities. She noted that the app is designed to be user-friendly and will help families stay more efficiently connected to the district.
- She also announced the Educator of the Year finalists: John May (ZPA), Briawna Wilson (SMTI), Jena Record (WPES), Tammy Lamb (WPMS), Zane Johnson (WPHS), and Jennifer Ryan (SFES). The winner will be announced at the end-of-year recognition and awards luncheon.

■ Joby Steele - WPMS

- Dr. Joby Steele reported that WPMS has had a busy schedule with multiple ongoing events, including testing, athletics, and a recent choir concert. He also highlighted academic success from Mrs. Closser's LAD Fair submissions, noting 155 entries were entered from WPMS alone, with 67 WPMS students being recognized, which is approximately 43% of all entries recognized. He emphasized the strong talent and achievement of WPMS students.
- He also shared that middle school promotion is coming up in two weeks, marking the transition of eighth grade students to the high school.

■ Josh Cotter - SMTI

- Dr. Josh Cotter reported that SMTI hosted its second CTE Night and Showcase Night, with strong community attendance and significant participation in the meal service, including high demand for food prepared by Chef.
- He shared updates from the advisory meeting with industry partners, including participation from Meagan Jones of Patient First Family Care, which is also supporting the provision of free physicals for students.
- Student achievement highlights included Finn Pendergrass advancing to the national SkillsUSA competition in carpentry. He will compete in Atlanta in early June.
- Cotter also reviewed updates related to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and upcoming program events, including the Practical Nursing (PN) ceremony scheduled for May 9.
- He also shared that the accreditation process is changing, with the upcoming visit conducted virtually.
- Finally, he noted that tomorrow will be the last full day with all students on campus, as seniors begin concluding their time and end-of-year transitions continue, with April 22 marking the last day for all students to be present.

■ Matthew Orchard - Facilities/Human Resources

- Mr. Matthew Orchard reported that certified staffing vacancies for April are in a positive position, including certified position openings in kindergarten, 1st grade, 6th grade, 8th grade, and high

school English. He noted an improved applicant pool within the region, with increased interest in district positions.

- He shared that over 1,000 after-school meals have been served, reflecting strong participation in the program. Upcoming health services include a mobile mammogram bus visit on April 29, continuing a fall and spring partnership with Ozarks Healthcare to support staff wellness.
- Updates from Mrs. Michelle Miller: March through April included 46 completed home visits focused primarily on attendance, 33 interviews with the Missouri Children's Division, and 29 referrals to the juvenile office for attendance-related concerns.
- Facility updates included completion of a fall insurance inspection, which identified needed improvements to gym basketball goals. A quote of approximately \$25,000 has been received to address safety updates. Additional improvements include a middle school football field located east of the grass soccer field for practice, supported by a \$5,000 donation from the Quarterback Club. A new sound system has been installed in the high school gym. Summer plans include resurfacing and re-striping the track.
- School safety planning was also highlighted, including a full-scale active shooter drill with multiple agencies participating. Additional training includes rapid response training in July at South Fork Elementary and continued annual SWAT training this summer.
- Finally, Orchard reported strong utilization of the Zizzer Clinic, where employees receive four visits a year covered by the school. The clinic recorded 25 employee visits in February and March combined, funded through wellness dollars and viewed as a valuable employee health resource.

■ Michael Davis - ZPA

- Mr. Michael Davis recognized Mrs. Michelle Miller for her outstanding work and dedication, noting her consistent support for students, such as attendance and overall student success.
- He reported that ZPA had 25 graduates last semester and currently has 23 students on track for graduation, with a goal of 35 total

graduates by the end of the school year. These students have completed all required credits and EOC assessments.

- He also shared that Title funding provided by Dr. Ross was used to purchase instructional resources focused on real-world financial literacy, including budgeting activities and lessons on needs versus wants. Students engaged in hands-on learning using items such as clothing and shoes to support these concepts.
- Additionally, donations to the JAG program supported student participation in a shopping experience at Shoe Sensation, where students were able to select new shoes as part of a practical learning and support opportunity.

■ Ryan Smith - WPHS

- Mr. Ryan Smith shared that it is encouraging to see high school students attending board meetings and engaging in district activities. He noted that the end of the school year is a busy time, beginning with Freshman Night at Richards for rural schools, and shared highlights and photos from the event.
- He reported that End-of-Course (EOC) testing is underway and progressing well, and that summer school planning meetings are scheduled for Thursday evening.
- Upcoming events include “Day Without Hate,” organized by Student Council, which promotes kindness, positivity, and school spirit through music and activities. Prom is scheduled for this Saturday, April 25.
- He also shared that the theater program will be competing at State and was recently recognized with a walk-through at the high school. Additionally, students participated in an interscholastic competition at Missouri State University with strong results.
- Finally, students will be recognized at the Noon Rotary Club meeting on Tuesday, including those earning summa cum laude honors.

■ Seth Huddleston - SFES

- Dr. Seth Huddleston reported that the basketball banquet was held on Sunday, recognizing student-athletes for both academic and

athletic achievement, with ten students earning Academic All-Conference honors.

- He shared that MAP testing is nearing completion, with a few grade levels still testing and all remaining assessments expected to be finished by the end of the month. He noted that both teachers and students continue to demonstrate strong commitment to academic success.
- Additional highlights included the Student of the Month assembly and recognition of Lavada Mann for leading a successful spring book fair, which was the first of its kind and went very well.
- He also noted that field trip season begins tomorrow, marking an exciting time for students and staff. Finally, he recognized Jennifer Ryan for being named Educator of the Year at the South Fork building, noting it as a well-deserved honor.

■ Tiffany Young - Teaching/Learning

- Dr. Tiffany Young reported that the district is currently in a busy testing season, with testing schedules communicated and underway. She shared that the state has announced possible changes to the assessment system for grades 3–8, transitioning from a single end-of-year assessment to three administrations throughout the year. The district applied and was selected to serve as a pilot site for the new assessment, which would impact 4th grade ELA and 5th grade math and potentially replace the MAP test; however, funding for the pilot program was recently cut at the state level. Questions remain if this will be available next year.
- She also shared that Project Lead The Way received grant funding through Missouri S&T for \$9,000, supporting continued implementation.
- Finally, she highlighted the recent MAP Parade at WPES, which helped kick off testing season and celebrate students and staff as they begin state assessments.

■ Virginia Uphaus - WPES

- Mrs. Virginia Uphaus reported that third grade began MAP testing today, with fourth grade scheduled to begin next week. She highlighted a student-focused approach to preparation, including a

“Play Before You Slay” event featuring activities such as putt-putt golf, an obstacle course, bingo, and stress ball making, designed to help students relax and reduce testing anxiety before state assessments. Students rotated throughout the day with these activities and then spent part of the day at the park.

- She also shared that the recent first and second grade music performance, themed “Yeehaw,” was a success, featuring student speaking parts and solos. The concert also included a retirement recognition of Martha Williams, making it a meaningful evening for teachers, students, and families.
- Finally, she recognized significant academic growth in second grade MAP data, noting improvement from 35% in August to 65% currently. She expressed pride in the teachers’ efforts and the hard work of students.
- Superintendent Report - Wesley Davis
 - Dr. Davis first reported on the current year budget.
 - Based on a most recent state call; he had received notice that the Lottery/Gaming funds were projected to be down \$138 million from the budgeted numbers. This will cause a reduction in funds for the current year and also next year.
 - He informed the board that he would be looking at very limited, (if any), transfers from Fund I to Fund IV this year in June. The state allowed tentative amounts are as follows:
 - 7% - \$1,120,546
 - Transportation - \$306,739
 - (a) These transfers move monies into the Capital projects account for large purchases and projects. He stated he felt confident that the district probably would not transfer any funds this year.
 - Dr. Davis mentioned that districts are being informed that the June payment will be reduced this year due to state revenues being below budgeted amounts. He did not state the amount or percentage that this could be. He told the board that this was reminiscent of when districts had funds withheld in 2003. That year, approximately 200 million was withheld from school payments.

○ 2026-27 Budget Update

- The district is currently earning 3.35% on their invested money. The Lease Purchase payments range from 3.00% - 3.25% per payment coupon. He recommended that at this time, the district not utilize any advance payment options on the Lease Purchase payment schedule.
- It appears that Transportation revenues could return back to 2023-2024 levels. This would be an approximate 10% decrease to the district. Resulting in a \$65,000-75,000 reduction in revenue for transportation. Dr. Davis said this could change many times until the state budget is finalized.
- Dr. Davis informed the board that based on the uncertainty on funding this year, he felt that he could not ask for final approval of steps and salary schedules until the June meeting. He mentioned he might ask for approval in May, but expected it to be in June this year.
- “Enrollment equates to revenue” was Dr. Davis’ comments he shared concerning the future of the district. He referenced the district’s, the conference’s, and the area’s schools decreasing elementary grade level enrollments and future enrollments. He mentioned that this is a trend nationwide with reduced enrollments in the lower grade levels. He continued to stress to the school board that enrollment has a very direct relationship with revenue from the state and other revenue sources.
- Referencing back to the 2026-2027 budget, Dr. Davis said this year will be the least amount of facility improvements dating back to at least 2018; perhaps many years before that. Below is the list he mentioned that he was budgeting for at this time:
 - Parking lot seal rotation - Dr. Davis informed the board that the district is moving from a three year rotation to a four year rotation on parking lots to help reduce costs.
 - The track will be sealed at the stadium. This was scheduled for last summer and was pushed back. He told the board this needs to be completed every 8-10 years to save the integrity of the track.
 - ECSE carpet at Valley View will be replaced this summer.
 - Wood gym floor maintenance - WPES, WPMS, WPHS
 - WPMS Library carpet will be replaced this summer. It was pushed back from last year.

- Two School buses should arrive over the summer
- Chromebook replacements will be reduced next year by approximately 33%. He also mentioned that there is a strong push in Jefferson City to reduce the amount of “screen time” allowed. Possible legislation could force this in the near future.
- Dr. Davis mentioned what he felt the school board and future administration needs to consider for future capital projects.
 - Tennis Courts Resurfacing (Completed every 8-10 years)
 - Two School buses every year
 - Van/SUV replacements when available
 - Ballpark Light replaced to LED fixtures

Closing

- The board returned to closed session for personnel issues.
- Motion to Adjourn - Approved 7-0
- Next Regular Meeting - May 19, 2026