

West Plains R-VII Board Meeting
September 15, 2026

Opening Items - 5:00 PM

- Call to Order by President Tyree (S. Harper absent)
- Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum
- Approval of Agenda - Approved 6-0
- Motion to enter into Closed Session - Approved 6-0

Open Session - 5:30 PM

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

Consent Agenda - Approved 6-0

- Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting(s)
- Approval of Monthly Finance Reports
 - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/84a3903f-058a-43f3-bd9a-526e63dab92b>
 - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/0432219a-32f8-45e0-9eb5-89cc879d7650>
 - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/66d57b0a-0852-4d78-8a19-7ccf0bb136f8>
- 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
 - None at this time
 - Non-Certified Positions
 - Seth Bryant - Substitute Bus Driver
 - Erica Reid - Substitute Bus Driver
 - Transfers – Board Action Required
 - Sarah Mayfield - WPE Office Manager to Activities Administrative Assistant
 - Volunteers - Board Action Required

- Brandon Hunter
- Ramona Talburt
- Timothy Temple
- Alanna Temple
- Emma Schrock
- Vanae Emerick
- Faith Long
- Resignations – Board Action Required
 - Kristy Miran - Paraprofessional - Effective - 9-9-26
 - William Miller - Full Time Route Driver
- Retirements - Board Action Required
 - None at this time
- Terminations - Board Action Required
 - None at this time
- Approval of Program Evaluation(s)
 - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/934fdd78-d1c5-432a-8618-7f5740768a20>
- Approval of CSIP Update(s)

Previous Business

- None at this time

Regular Agenda

- Payment of Bills - Approved 6-0
 - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/03af6e2f-afec-456a-8c69-f6e2213010dd>
- Payment of Buro Bill - (RG Abstain) - Approved 5-0-1
 - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/8e33675e-23f1-4dcb-847f-71759f5a7eb9>

New Business

- Approval of 2026-2027 School Bus Routes (CSIP S7) - Approved 6-0
 - <https://zizzers-org.community.highbond.com/home/document/ae3aa470-b6f9-435c-9ae9-18521105274d>

Updates & Reports to the Board

- Student School Board Member Report - Abigail Freidt

- Abigail Freidt shared that she recently sent a three-question survey to the student body to gather feedback on students' understanding of the Student School Board Member role, their expectations for the school year, and any questions they would like her to address. She also shared how much she enjoyed participating in the Sunrise Rotary food backpack packing project and attending the recent West Plains Bank check presentation. Abigail introduced Student Body President Makenzie Kinder, who spoke about her experience attending the Missouri Association of Student Councils Summer Leadership Institute at William Woods University. Abigail and Makenzie have attended the weeklong conference three times, joining approximately 500 student delegates from across Missouri. Students are divided into councils of about 20 delegates and spend the week participating in leadership activities and building connections with students from other schools. West Plains High School is a member school, and the conference provides students with valuable leadership experiences and scholarship opportunities.



- Administrative Reports
 - Amy Marshall - WPMS
 - Amy Marshall shared that WPMS celebrated the end of the first week of school with Friday Fun Day, giving students an opportunity to celebrate a successful start to the year. Fifth and sixth grade students

enjoyed activities at Zizzer Stadium, while seventh and eighth grade students spent the morning at Zizzer Ballpark. Students participated in a variety of activities before having lunch and returning to school, where the fun continued with their teachers. This week, tutoring services began following the completion of STAR testing, with results being used to group students for RTI and additional tutoring support. WPMS is also preparing for a big Constitution Day celebration on Thursday, featuring a schoolwide assembly led by history teachers and activities centered around the Constitution and celebrating America. The day will conclude with a special Celebrating America football game for the seventh and eighth grade teams, along with a tailgate.

■ Amy Ross - Special Ed/Federal Programs

- Dr. Amy Ross shared that Reading Under the Lights is scheduled for October 8 and will serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade from South Fork Elementary, West Plains Elementary, and West Plains Middle School, with a goal of giving away 1,000 books during the event. She also reported that the district's preschool program is fully accredited. Special Education recently received results from its parent survey, which is distributed to all families receiving special education services, and the district scored above the state average for services provided to families. These results become part of the district and high school APR. The department also received a perfect score for tiered monitoring. Currently, approximately 400 students receive special education services across the district.

■ Briana Link - Communications

- Briana Link shared the latest edition of the district magazine, **#ZizzerNation**, which is distributed to students and families as well as businesses throughout the community. Ozark Marketing and Horse Trader create and print 5,000 copies of the magazine each year for distribution throughout West Plains. The magazine serves as a helpful resource for families and community members and provides an opportunity to learn more about the district, its schools, programs, students, and staff. Briana thanked Ozark Marketing and Horse Trader for their continued partnership and for making the publication possible each year.

■ Matthew Orchard - Facilities/Safety

- Matthew Orchard reported that district enrollment is currently down 78 students compared to last year, with 46.2% of students qualifying for free and reduced-price meals. He also shared information from the State Board of Education meeting he attended earlier that day (9/15) regarding the new A–F school grading framework, which was approved by the State Board of Education. The framework stems from an executive order from the Governor and is intended to provide families and community members with an easy-to-understand measure of school performance by assigning a letter grade to each school and district. Orchard emphasized that the district supports accountability but noted that many of the technical details of the new framework are still being developed. The current framework includes three separate scoring structures for K–8 schools, grades 9–12, and districts as a whole. Orchard updated on the details of each structure and will continue to update the Board as more information is released.

■ Ryan Smith - WPHS

- Ryan Smith shared that on the first Friday after returning to school, WPHS staff spent time analyzing student data, including spring EOC results. Additional data received since the initial review positively impacted the school's assessment results, with updated spring and fall EOC data reflecting a 10.9% increase. WPHS will hold its National Honor Society induction ceremony tomorrow at 8:15 a.m., followed by academic awards ceremonies recognizing students for their accomplishments during the previous school year. Based on a recommendation from student leadership, a new recognition category has been added this year to honor students who have earned above a 4.0 GPA. Ryan also shared that the Elite Zizzer Trophy tradition continues, with Erin Maupin serving as the most recent recipient.

■ Sarah Land WPES

- Sarah Land shared that WPES has a banner displayed in the lobby to track grade-level reading progress throughout the school year, shifting the focus toward celebrating accomplishments as a class and grade level in addition to individual student growth. At the end of last

school year, 49% of students were reading on grade level, and the school has set a goal of increasing that percentage by 5% each year. Students are currently beginning the year at 33%, with a goal of reaching 54% by the end of the school year. To celebrate reaching that goal, students will be rewarded with a special planetarium experience that will fill the entire gym. Staff and students are excited and ready to work toward reaching their goal together.

■ Seth Huddleston - SFES

- Dr. Seth Huddleston shared that there are many exciting things happening at South Fork, including several new teachers who are off to a great start. Students celebrated the end of the first week of school with Friday Fun Day, featuring a variety of games and activities. Tutoring and ALEKS Rewards will begin next week, and the school has stocked up on prizes, which continue to be a great motivator for students. Huddleston also reported that school safety procedures are going well. This year, South Fork is revamping its yearbook and working with a new vendor to create a more professional look. The school also celebrated Grandparents Day last Friday, with the gym packed with preschool and kindergarten students and their grandparents. Families enjoyed playing games and reading together, with several grandparents even taking the opportunity to read and spend time with children beyond their own grandchildren.

■ Tiffany Young - Teaching/Learning

- Dr. Tiffany Young shared several upcoming professional development opportunities for district staff. The Professional Development Committee will host three professional development trainings this year, with the first safety training on September 21, and two EdCamp dates that are scheduled for November 16 and February 12. Missouri Connections training will be provided for counselors serving students in grades 5–12, and WPHS staff will participate in ALEKS training this Friday to ensure the program is being used effectively. Dr. Young is also meeting with each building to review spring assessment data using a “Notice, Analyze, Reflect, Commit” process to help guide continued improvement. She also highlighted new teachers who

attended BTAP, the two-year support program designed to provide guidance and resources for new teachers.

■ Virginia Uphaus - Human Resources

- Virginia Uphaus shared that the district's new buses have arrived and are now on the road. Transportation routes have been approved, and Dr. Donnie Miller reported that the district's new mechanic is doing an excellent job. With tutoring beginning this week, the district's new after-school snack program has also started. OPAA! will prepare and deliver snack bags for students participating in after-school activities, with coaches returning the bags afterward. Ozarks Healthcare provided 106 student medical visits last month, including a number of student physicals. On the technology side, Chromebooks have been distributed, with kindergarten and first grade transitioning away from a one-to-one model this year and instead utilizing Chromebook carts in the classroom.

● Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Davis discussed an update from Mr. Bryant and the Zizzer Pride Academy. He was excited to report that nine students were currently enrolled at SMTI.
- Recently the school board, Dr. Davis, and Mr. Orchard attended a regional Missouri School Board Association meeting at Willow Springs. The workshop focused on upcoming financial hardships and working through these difficult situations. Board members C. Tyree, R. Grigsby, J. Thompson, S. Riggs, and S. Harper were all in attendance.



- The administration and board members Cindy Tyree, Jim Thompson, and Abigail Freidt assisted the Sunrise Rotary pack 1200 backpacks for SFES, WPES, WPMS, Fairview Elementary, Glenwood Elementary, Howell Valley Elementary, and Junction Hill Elementary. The Sunrise Rotary distributes these bags 3-4 times per year to help children grades K-8 in need.



- Dr. Davis asked to move the October board meeting to Monday, October 12th. The meeting will be as follows that evening.
 - Board Meeting
 - 5:00 pm Closed
 - 5:15 pm Open
 - No building level reports
 - No student spotlight
 - SMTI Accreditation Dinner - 6:00 pm
- Earlier in the day, Dr. Davis and some administration had traveled to Jefferson City to attend the Missouri State School Board Meeting. The initial visit was to show solidarity with other public schools concerning the A-F Grading Framework that was getting voted on by the state board. Dr. Davis informed the board that after they had left the meeting around 11:00; they had been notified that the state board had not supported the department in DESE's request for full funding of the Foundation Formula for the upcoming school year. Dr. Davis said he would discuss this in more detail at the October board meeting as this was an unprecedented move in Missouri.

- In October, SMTI will have an accreditation visit. As preparation for this, the administration and school board were provided a tour by Dr. Cotter and Mrs. Hatchcock of the facilities. Below are some of the pictures of the tour.



Adjournment

- Adjournment from Open Session - Approved 6-0 - 7:30 pm