

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR AUGUST BOARD MINUTES
AUGUST 12, 2026
In Person and Zoom**

The Regular August 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 7:07 p.m. by President Kamus. The following Board Members answered present to roll call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Bellio, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus. 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 personnel and a contract.

Motion by Dubaskas, seconded by Cussatt to add the name **Matthew Stitzer** to **Item #13** under Staff Recommended Action.

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

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.

Yoseph Janowski, Kingston, asked the Board for a policy to allow a moment of silence daily for the students.

Yoel Chazan, Kingston, Principal of the Jewish School supports the moment of silence daily and spoke about the educational impact it would have on the students.

MINUTES APPROVED

Moved by Cussatt, seconded by Dubaskas, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Regular **June 10, 2026** Board Meeting; **Special Meeting July 10, 2026** for General Purposes, and **Special Meeting August 7, 2026** for General Purposes.

Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved revised **Policy 716**, Integrated Pest Management. (Second Reading)
2. Approved **Real Estate Property Tax Exemption** through the Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission to the following:
 - ❖ Joyce M Barber
 - ❖ Justin Cancel
 - ❖ John A Dinoski
 - ❖ Asa B Emel
 - ❖ Horst D Prapoelenis
 - ❖ David Williams

3. Requested Boroughs and/or their Educational Service Agencies or equivalent agencies to place school **crossing guards** at locations for the 2026/2027 school year; school district to pay 60% of the borough's hourly rate paid to each crossing guard, for up to 3 hours per day while school is in session.
4. Approved the positions of **Head School Physician (Dr. Almecky)**, **School Physician (Dr. Mangino)**, and **School Dentist (Dr. Hughes)** and establish salaries, hours, and rates for the 2026/2027 fiscal year.
5. Approved Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and **Luzerne County Juvenile Probation Department** for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
6. Approved proposal from **Barry Isett & Associates, Inc.** for environmental services.
7. Approved **School Health Services Regulations and Procedure Handbook**.
8. Approved Affiliation Agreement between **Robert Morris University** and Wyoming Valley West School District.
9. Approved Resolution authorizing submission of a **Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Application**.
10. Approved Resolution requesting a **Public School Facility Improvement Grant** for the renovation of the Third Avenue Educational Center.
11. Awarded **bids** which were received and opened on Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. for the following:
 - ❖ **Paper and General Supplies**
12. Accepted an \$8,000 donation from **Vertical Bridge**.
13. Approved the High School, Middle School, and Elementary **Student Handbooks** for the 2026/2027 school year.
14. Approved and reviewed the **2026/2027 High School A-TSI Plan** (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Plan).
15. Approved and reviewed the **2026/2027 Dana Street Elementary Center Title I TSI Plan** (Targeted Support and Improvement Plan).
16. Approved and reviewed the **2026/2027 Middle School A-TSI Plan** (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Plan).
17. Approved **Land Lease Agreement** between Wyoming Valley West School District and Northeast Pennsylvania SMSA Limited Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, pending solicitor approval.
18. Approved **Settlement Agreement #33334-25-26-KE**.
19. Approved **Settlement Agreement #29589-23-24 AF**.
20. Approved **Wyoming Valley West School District Facilities Usage Form**, effective August 13, 2026.
21. Approved **Wyoming Valley West High School STEM Endorsement Program**.
22. Approved **Agreement for Consulting Services** between Wyoming Valley West School District and Deborah Troy. (as needed basis)
23. Accepted donation of new clothing for Wyoming Valley West Elementary Students from the **Forty Fort United Methodist Church**.

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

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Motion by Cussatt, seconded by Dubaskas to TABLE **Item #12 (d.)** and **Item #18** and under Staff Recommended Action and that the Board of School Directors act on the following Staff Recommended Items:

1. Approved **excused absences** June 1, 2026 – July 31, 2026.
2. Accepted the following **resignations**:
 - ❖ **Angelica Rosario**, Cleaner, State Street, effective June 2, 2026.
 - ❖ **Shawn Temarantz**, Emotional Support Classroom Aide, State Street, effective June 30, 2026.
 - ❖ **Arianna Remish**, Emotional Support Classroom Aide, High School, effective July 22, 2026.
 - ❖ **Autumn Gaylord**, PCA, Chester Street, effective August 22, 2026.
3. Rescinded the following appointment, **Ashley Hernandez**, Nurse Assistant, effective TBD, \$160/day.
4. Appointed the following **new hires**; \$16.50/hour:
 - ❖ **Donna Wynn**, Autistic Support Classroom Aide, State Street, effective September 2, 2026.
 - ❖ **Hilari Shehwen**, Autistic Support Classroom Aide, State Street, effective September 2, 2026.
 - ❖ **Jordan Hodle**, Emotional Support Classroom Aide, Middle School, effective September 2, 2026.
 - ❖ **Ashley Parr**, General Duty Aide, State Street, effective August 24, 2026.
 - ❖ **Kelsey Cunningham**, Computer Aide, Dana Street, effective September 2, 2026.
5. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Anthony Dicton**, Director of Transportation/Director of Safety & Security, effective TBD.
6. Approved Sabbatical Leave, **Emp. #598283**, effective the 2026/2027 school year.
7. Approved Child Rearing Leave, **Emp. #412628**, effective the 2026/2027 school year.
8. Approved Medical Leave, **Emp. #325323**, effective the 2026/2027 school year.
9. Approved to adjust the salary column placement, **Emp. #483884**, from B+18, Step 1 to B+18, Step 2, consistent with Article 26 of the CBA.
10. Appointed the following **Mentors** for 2026/2027: (High School)

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Mentor</u>
Angela Fanielli	Suzanne Aboutanos-Fellerman
Kaitlyn Finnerty	Lauren Jaimes
Margaret Jockel	Christina Cawthern
11. Appointed the following recommended **2026 Fall Coaches**:

<u>SPORT/POSITION</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
<u>GIRLS TENNIS</u>	
VARSITY 9-12 Laura Thompson	\$3071
<u>GIRLS VOLLEYBALL</u>	
VARSITY 9-12 Ashley Temarantz	\$4765
ASSISTANT 9-12 Damion Pick	\$3071
MIDDLE SCHOOL COED Kristen Kaminski	\$3071

FIELD HOCKEY

VARSITY 10-12	Lois Krause	\$4451
ASSISTANT 10-12	Callie Edwards	\$3099
ASSISTANT 7-9	Olivia Gayoski	\$3099
ASSISTANT 7-9	Irelynd Sullivan	\$3099

CROSS COUNTRY (BOYS & GIRLS)

VARSITY 10-12	Elizabeth Kane	\$3099
ASSISTANT 7-9	Mallory Urbanski	\$2149
ASSISTANT 7-9	Jacob Weston	\$2149

SOCCER

BOYS VARSITY 9-12	Gerry Kasuda	\$3857
BOYS ASSISTANT VARSITY 9-12	Augustine Gomez	\$2157
ASSISTANT (BOYS) 7-9	Antonio Sosa	\$2157
GIRLS VARSITY 9-12	Stephanie Gover	\$3857
GIRLS ASSISTANT VARSITY 9-12	Kennedi Josefowicz	\$2157
ASSISTANT (GIRLS) 7-9	Olivia Riviello	\$2157

GOLF

VARSITY 9-12	Nick Kuscavage	\$3070
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FOOTBALL

VARSITY 10-12	Brydon Rukstalis	\$9524
ASSISTANT 10-12	Paul Patara	\$4903
ASSISTANT 10-12	Jack Baranski	\$4903
ASSISTANT 10-12	John Karazia	\$4903
ASSISTANT 10-12	Bill Halenda	\$4903
ASSISTANT 9 (HEAD)	Matt Yekel	\$4295
ASSISTANT 9	PJ Cwalina	\$3813
ASSISTANT 7-8	Dillon Ryman	\$3813
ASSISTANT 7-8	Marques Cooley	\$3813

WEIGHT LIFTING

9-12	Brydon Rukstalis	\$8150
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CHEERLEADER

VARSITY 10-12	Julia Jonelunas	\$3579
JR. VARSITY 9-12	Avery Zdancewicz	\$2617
JR. HIGH 7-9	Abby Schaal	\$2045

ESPORTS

FALL COACH	Robert Perrin	\$3135
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12. Appointed the following **Mentors** for 2026/2027: (Middle School)

	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Mentor</u>
	Margaret Barilla	Erica Drako
	Thomas Federici	Lennae Thompson-Pellam
	Ashley Gregorowicz	Kristen Stuffick
(TABLED)	~~William McClure IV~~	Lynn Shymanski
	Jenna Vallo	Donna Maxwell

13. Appointed **Matthew Stitzer**, Director of Safety and Security, effective TBD, \$75,000. Pending receipt of all state mandated clearances, human resource paperwork, and proper certification.

14. Appointed **Kirsten Rosentel**, long-term substitute, effective August 31, 2026. Pending receipt of all state mandated clearances, human resource paperwork, and proper certification.
15. Appointed **Maeve McAvoy**, long-term substitute, effective August 31, 2026. Pending receipt of all state mandated clearances, human resource paperwork, and proper certification.
16. Appointed **Kiara Serrano**, Autistic Support Teacher, Middle School, effective August 31, 2026, \$53,556. Pending receipt of all state mandated clearances, human resource paperwork, and proper certification.
17. Appointed **Arielle Thompson**, Autistic Support Teacher, Dana Street, effective August 31, 2026, \$60,530. Pending receipt of all state mandated clearances, human resource paperwork, and proper certification.
- TABLED 18. ~~Appoint **William McClure IV**, Math Teacher, 6th Grade Middle School, effective August 31, 2026, \$73,908. Pending receipt of all state mandated clearances, human resource paperwork, and proper certification.~~

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

FINANCE RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by Wilson, seconded by Bellio, 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, Bellio, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Janet Cussatt wished everyone a good school year.

Attorney Wendolowski "Go Spartans".

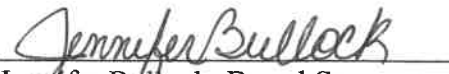
President Kamus announced the September Work Session, Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. and the Regular September Meeting, Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Adjourned: 7:22 p.m.


Jennifer Bullock, Board Secretary