

**WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR SEPTEMBER BOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2026
In Person and Zoom**

The Regular September 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 7:09 p.m. by President Kamus. The following Board members answered present to roll call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Bellio, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto, Kobusky, Cussatt, and Kamus. Superintendent Suppon, 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 the Act 93 Contract.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD – Isla Carrozza and Rhiley Castro

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Good evening, Spartans. As we begin another school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has already been an incredibly positive and exciting start. There is an energy across our schools that is both inspiring and contagious, and I could not be more proud of our students, our staff, and our entire community. Our students have come back ready to learn, ready to grow, and ready to make this year their own. Our teachers and staff have welcomed them with enthusiasm, dedication, and a commitment to helping every student reach their potential. Once again, our community has demonstrated what makes Wyoming Valley West such a special place; people who care deeply about our schools, our children, and one another. That sense of teamwork is what makes me so optimistic about the year ahead. I also want to take a moment to address transportation, because I know this continues to be an important concern for many of our families. Due to the ongoing school bus driver shortage, we are continuing to work closely with our transportation providers to adjust routes and bus schedules. We sincerely appreciate the patience and understanding of our families and what they have shown so far, and we ask that you please continue to be patient as we work through these adjustments and changes. The district was placed in an extremely difficult situation with the short notice it was given regarding one of our contractors' choice not to return. Our goal is simple, to provide safe, reliable, and consistent transportation for every student who utilizes our bus services. We understand that double runs are currently causing delays with some morning pick-ups and afternoon drop-offs. Please know that our new transportation provider, Spartan Venture, is working diligently to recruit, hire, and onboard additional bus drivers as quickly as possible. We are working together to improve the situation and return our schedules to a more consistent routine. I want to thank our families for their continued patience and cooperation. We recognize the inconvenience these changes can cause, and we are committed to doing everything we can to improve the situation, while always keeping our students' safety at the forefront. Holly Evans, I want to thank you too. For our kindergarten families, I also want to offer an important reminder, at the end of the school day, a parent, guardian, or another responsible adult who is known to the bus driver must be present at the bus stop to receive your child. If no responsible adult is present, the student will be returned to the school, and a parent or guardian will be required to pick them up. Thank you again for your patience, understanding, and continued support. Tonight, I also have the privilege of recognizing and congratulating two outstanding members of the Wyoming Valley West family, seniors Matthew Cooper and Ava Shaffer. Tomorrow, September 9th, Matthew and Ava will have the tremendous honor of representing Wyoming Valley West at a special legislative session in Philadelphia celebrating America's 250th birthday. This is a truly historic and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This special session is being held specifically as part of the commemoration of America's 250th anniversary, and Matthew and Ava were selected through an essay competition centered on this incredible milestone in our

nation's history. They will be honored and given the opportunity to participate in a House session at Congress Hall in Philadelphia, the very location where our nation's founders gathered during the founding of our country in 1776, what an incredible honor. Matthew was sponsored by Alec Ryncavage, and Ava was sponsored by Brenda Pugh and they both have earned this opportunity through their hard work, their accomplishments, and their commitment to their school and community. Being selected through an essay contest focused on America's 250th birthday is a tremendous accomplishment and is a direct reflection of their academic, civic, and extracurricular achievements. Matthew and Ava, we are incredibly proud of you. Tomorrow, you will not only represent yourselves and your families; you will represent every student, teacher, staff member, and community member who make up Wyoming Valley West. We hope you recognize just how special this opportunity is, and we hope you take a moment to appreciate the history that surrounds you. You are walking into a place where important conversations about our nation took place nearly 250 years ago. Congratulations, Matthew and Ava, we are proud to call you Spartans and we cannot wait to see all that you accomplish in the future. As exciting as this beginning has been, I believe the best is still ahead. We have an entire school year in front of us filled with opportunities to learn, to compete, to create, to serve, and to grow. We have opportunities to build on the successes of the past and more importantly, to create new successes together. The word together is so important. Our students need our teachers, our teachers need our families, our schools need our community, and our community needs our schools. When we work as one team, there is no limit to what we can accomplish. So, as we move forward, let's continue to celebrate our students, support our staff, engage our families, and strengthen our partnerships that make Wyoming Valley West such a special place to learn and grow. I am excited about where we are going. I am proud of where we are today and I am optimistic about what we will accomplish together throughout this school year. Our goal is not simply to educate students. Our goal is to create opportunities for every student and every stakeholder to succeed. We will continue building on what has already been accomplished so that Wyoming Valley West remains a leader in education, a place where opportunity is created, achievement is celebrated, and every student is encouraged to reach higher. I also want to take an opportunity to congratulate our High School Social Studies Teacher, Ms. Katie Finnegan, for being selected as the recipient of the Community Resilience Award for her investment in her students, presented by the Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Finnegan was honored at an awards dinner this summer in recognition of her commitment to her students and her continued efforts to make a positive impact on the Wyoming Valley West community. We are and will continue to be a destination district. Thank you for believing in our students. Thank you for supporting our schools and thank you for being part of the Wyoming Valley West family. Let's make this an incredible year and as always, Go Spartans!

Dr. Suppon presented PSBA Honor Certificates to Mrs. Cussatt and Mr. Perfetto for their five years of service as a school board member.

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.

(none)

MINUTES APPROVED

Moved by Wilson, seconded by Cussatt, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the Regular **August 12, 2026** Board Meeting.

Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved revised **Policy 102**, Academic Standards. (First Reading)
2. Approved revised **Policy 105**, Curriculum. (First Reading)
3. Approved **Policy 204.1**, Virtual Attendance and Wellness Checks. (First Reading)
4. Approved revised **Policy 209**, Health Examinations/Screenings. (First Reading)
5. Approved revised **Policy 246**, School Wellness. (First Reading)
6. Approved revised **Policy 249**, Bullying/Cyberbullying. (First Reading)
7. Approved revised **Policy 704**, Maintenance. (First Reading)
8. Approved revised **Policy 803**, School Calendar. (First Reading)
9. Approved revised **Policy 805.2**, School Security Personnel. (First Reading)
10. Approved revised **Policy 822**, Automated External Defibrillator (AED)/Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). (First Reading)
11. Approved **Real Estate Property Tax Exemption** through the Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission to the following:
 - ❖ Mark Chamberlain
 - ❖ Keith Collins
 - ❖ Richard K Wilkens Sr
12. Approved **Professional Services Agreement and Individual Work Order (IWO)** between Wyoming Valley West School District and ICS Consulting, LLC DBA CMTA for Professional Services for the Third Ave. Renovation Project.
13. Approved proposal for design services from **Alloy5 Architecture** for the Third Ave. Renovation Project.
14. Approved Agreement with **Daktronics** for a Softball Scoreboard, \$19,832. (fully funded through donations/sponsors)
15. Approved Placement Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and **Crestwood School District** for education and related services provided to a non-resident student. (tuition paid)
16. Approved (5) year Affiliation Agreement between **Delaware Valley University** and Wyoming Valley West School District.
17. Approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United Way of Wyoming Valley and Wyoming Valley West School District to partner in the **See to Succeed Program** for the 2026-2027 school year.
18. Approved Partnership Agreement between **Keystone/Red Rock Job Corps** and Wyoming Valley West School District effective August 10, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
19. Approved **PSBA Policy Services Member Agreement** for services through June 30, 2027.
20. Accepted \$10,000 donation from **Aramark** for the Softball Scoreboard.
21. Accepted \$10,000 donation from **Ollies** to sponsor the Softball Scoreboard.
22. Accepted \$15,000 donation from **Bonner Chevrolet** to sponsor the stadium sound system upgrades at the football and baseball fields.
23. Accepted donation of **124 backpacks with school supplies plus extra school supplies** to State Street Elementary Center, from Jamielynn Taylor. (State Street Student)
24. Approved Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and **Kishbaugh Behavior Services** for services during the 2026-2027 school year.

25. Approved Intergovernmental Agreement between the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 and Wyoming Valley West School District for the **2026-27 IDEA Allocation** based on the December 1, 2025 IDEA Child Count of 1,355.
26. Approved Proposal from **Barry Isett** for Survey and Civil Engineering Services for the Third Ave. Renovation Project.
27. Approved Proposal from **Barry Isett** for Special Inspections and Construction Materials Testing Services for the Third Ave. Renovation Project.
28. Approved payment to **Apollo Group** for construction management services rendered through September 4, 2026, \$70,186.82.
29. Approved **Intergovernmental Agreement for Network Equipment Colocation** between Wyoming Valley West School District and the Luzerne Intermediate Unit effective June 1, 2027 through July 1, 2032.
30. Approved Agreement with **Sunbelt Staffing, LLC** and Wyoming Valley West School District for continuation of services for the 2026/2027 school year.

Roll Call: Wilson, Dubaskas, Bellio, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto, Kobusky (No #12 and #13), Cussatt, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.**

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Moved by Bellio, seconded by Dubaskas, to amend the starting salary in **Item #10** under Staff Recommended Action to \$97,687.

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

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

1. Approved **excused absences** August 1, 2026 – August 31, 2026.
2. Accepted the following **resignations**:
 - ❖ **Susan Carey**, Financial Clerk, High School, effective August 24, 2026.
 - ❖ **Clarissa Astwood**, Autistic Support Aide, State Street, effective August 24, 2026.
 - ❖ **Ana Crisostomo-Guzman**, Cleaner, State Street, effective August 11, 2026.
 - ❖ **Kathryn Benn**, Nurse Assistant, High School, effective August 26, 2026.
 - ❖ **Myliesha Johnson**, Classroom Aide, Chester Street, effective August 4, 2026.
 - ❖ **Sierra Karsko**, Autistic Support Aide, Dana St, effective August 31, 2026.
 - ❖ **Paul Reese**, Utility, State Street, effective September 7, 2026.
 - ❖ **Bianca Ramirez**, Clerk, Middle School, effective September 1, 2026.
3. Appointed the following **new hires**; \$16.50/hour:
 - ❖ **Haylie Anderson**, Autistic Support Classroom Aide, State Street, effective September 2, 2026.
 - ❖ **Yajaira Cortes**, Autistic Support Classroom Aide, Dana Street, effective September 2, 2026.
 - ❖ **Amber Webb**, PCA, Middle School, effective September 3, 2026.
 - ❖ **Margaret Sitler**, Emotional Support Classroom Aide, State Street, effective September 8, 2026.
 - ❖ **Tyisha Timmons**, Emotional Support Classroom Aide, High School, effective September 8, 2026.
 - ❖ **Jennifer Waters**, Nurse Assistant, District Floater, \$160.00/per day, effective TBD.

4. Appointed the following **Mentor** for 2026/2027: (High School)

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Mentor</u>
Maeve McAvoy	Lynn Anderson
5. Appointed the following **Mentor** for 2026/2027: (Middle School)

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Mentor</u>
Kiara Serrano	Stephen Zapoticky
6. Appointed the following **Mentors** for 2026/2027: (Dana Street)

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Mentor</u>
Emma Bealla	Jennifer Lahr
Sophia Pabst	Jeneive Michalek
Arielle Thompson	Jessica Preiman
7. Approved Childbearing Leave **Emp. #473567**, effective October 8, 2026–January 4, 2027.
8. Approved Childbearing Leave **Emp. #371826**, effective September 1, 2026–November 24, 2026.
9. Appointed the following **Student Representatives to the School Board** for the 2026/2027 school year:
 - ❖ **Senior Liaison** – Isla Carrozza
 - ❖ **Senior Liaison** – Rhiley Castro
10. Appointed **Michelle Harden**, Math Teacher, 6th Grade, Middle School, effective TBD, \$97,687. ~~\$73,908~~.
11. Amended appointment of **Angela Fanelli**, French Teacher, High School, to long-term substitute, effective August 31, 2026.
12. Approved Medical Leave, Intermittent FMLA, **Emp. #778896**, effective September 1, 2026.
13. Approved Medical Leave, **Emp. #588493**, effective August 31, 2026.
14. Approved **Professional Contract Status** (Tenure) to the following Teachers:

Abigail Baur	Caroline Novrocki
Ashley Bednar	Morgan Racemus
Katherine DePrimo	Mark Senchak
Elizabeth Ferenchick	Gabrielle Shemanski
Aaron Littzi	Kaitlyn Takacs
Colby Michaels	Ryleigh White
15. Accepted resignation, with regret, **Joseph Jarski**, Assistant Principal, High School effective September 18, 2026.
16. Approved the following **Co-Curricular Position** for the 2026/2027 school year:
Interim Advisor 9-12 – **Karin Ulitchney**
17. Granted **diplomas** to high school students who completed the necessary requirements for graduation upon the recommendation of Tara Carey, High School Principal:
 - ❖ **Darius Case**
 - ❖ **Mohannad Barqawi**

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

FINANCE RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dubaskas congratulated Dr. Suppon on the smooth opening this school year with everything that has been going on in the District.

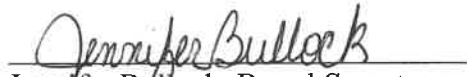
President Kamus announced the October Work Session, Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. and the Regular October Meeting, Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Adjourned: 7:25 p.m.


Jennifer Bullock, Board Secretary