West Plains R-VII Board Meeting
October 12, 2026

Opening Items - 5:00 PM

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

Open Session - 5:15 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
- 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
        - Miriam Montalvo - Paraprofessional
        - Audrey Bressler - Paraprofessional
        - Daniel Davis - Paraprofessional
        - Aynsley Acklin - WPE Office Manager
        - Jordan Jennings - Full Time Route Driver
        - Cassidy Bingham - Paraprofessional

    - **Transfers – Board Action Required**
        - None at this time

    - **Volunteers - Board Action Required**
        - Thom Hoglen
        - Michael Emerick
        - Brittany Bryant
        - Shelley Martin - (Choir Only)
        - Lisa Riggs
        - Christian Martin

    - **Resignations – Board Action Required**
        - Brian Hodges - Custodian - (Effective 10-2-26)
        - Shayla Brazeal - Paraprofessional (Effective 10-5-26)
        - Mark Dillion - Facility and Grounds Maintenance (Effective 9-30-26)

        - Dray Henry - Paraprofessional (Effective 10-9-26)
        - Kendra Vreeland - Special Education Teacher (EOY)
        - Drew Crawford - Physical Education Teacher, Middle School Football, and Boys Basketball (Effective 10-12-26)

    - **Retirements - Board Action Required**
        - Whitney Orchard - WPMS Counselor (EOY)
        - Donald "Mick" Price - WPHS Social Studies (EOY)

    - **Terminations - Board Action Required**
        - Jarrod Girdley (Effective 9-22-26)

- Approval of Program Evaluation(s)
- Approval of CSIP Update(s)

Previous Business

- None at this time

Regular Agenda

- Payment of Bills - Approved 6-0
- Payment of Buro Bill - Approved 6-0

New Business

- Declare items Surplus Property - Approved 6-0
    - 2001 EZ Go Golf Cart - Shuttle 6 passenger, Gas, Status: Not Running (Unknown issue), Soft rain cover.
    - 2009 Blue Bird School Bus #66, 1BAKGCPH69F255354, Odometer showing 147,417 as of 10/12/2026

Updates & Reports to the Board

- Student School Board Member Report - Abigail Freidt
    - Abigail Freidt provided an update on recent student activities and initiatives at West Plains High School. She shared results from a student survey regarding Homecoming Week, including students' favorite activities, feedback on the half-day schedule change, and suggestions for traditions or activities they would like to see continued in future years. The pep assembly was identified as a favorite among many students. She also reviewed highlights from Homecoming Week and the recent school-day volleyball game.
    - Abigail discussed the Portrait of a Zizzer nomination process, which received approximately 90 nominations. The plan is to continue recognizing students each quarter. She also shared plans for a future Portrait of a Zizzer recognition assembly at West Plains Middle School.
- Administrative Reports
    - Amy Ross - Special Ed/Federal Programs

        - Dr. Amy Ross shared appreciation from special education teachers for the dedicated workdays provided during the school year, allowing them time to complete IEPs and collaborate with colleagues. She noted that the Inclusion Banner presentation will be rescheduled to allow for a more comprehensive presentation. Dr. Ross also reported continued growth in business partnerships supporting the SWAT program, with efforts underway to recruit additional businesses. Additionally, preparations are being made to distribute the School Climate and Culture Survey, which is administered every two years.
    - Briana Link - Communications
        - Briana Link highlighted the September recipients of Teacher Proud Tuesday and Zizzer Champion. Teacher Proud recipients included Blaine Rybolt of West Plains Elementary and Cherry Robertson of West Plains Middle School. Zizzer Champion recipients included JJ Speake of West Plains Middle School and Mary Roark, District Lead Nurse.
        - She also shared the launch of the district's first Zizzer Leadership Month in October, which features individual spotlights on members of the district's administrative team through social media.
        - Additionally, Briana reported continued growth in the district's social media presence, with the district's Facebook page reaching 13,009 followers, compared to 11,427 on the same date last year. This represents an increase of 1,582 followers, or approximately 13.8%, over the past year.
    - Matthew Orchard - Operations/Facilities/Safety
        - Mr. Orchard provided an update on the state's A-F school grading system, noting that the first round of grades has reportedly been prepared and provided to the State Board. He shared that the next State Board of Education meeting will take place Tuesday, October 20, when additional information and updates regarding the grading system are expected. The District will be represented at the State Board meeting.
        - Mr. Orchard discussed the district's efforts to highlight its tagline, “Every Zizzer. Every Opportunity. Every Day.” throughout the school year on social media. These posts will provide the community with a transparent look at the district's ongoing efforts toward assessment and improvement, while also showcasing successes and opportunities across the district.
        - Mr. Orchard gave an update from the state level funding formula modernization task force. The task force has narrowed the future funding formula to two options. Once decided, it will likely be a 4 year phase in of the new funding formula.
        - Lastly, Mr. Orchard updated the Board of Education on current state funding. The State Adequacy Target for 26-27 is $7,145. However, in July, August, and September state funding was below that mark at roughly $6,750, down about 2% from the same time last year.

- Tiffany Young - Teaching/Learning
    - Dr. Tiffany Young shared STAR Math assessment data highlighting student growth in mathematics over the past year. At West Plains Elementary, three grade levels began the school year performing at higher levels than at the same point last year.
    - She also reported that 55 teachers participated in an optional curriculum workday on Monday, October 12, demonstrating their commitment to continued collaboration and instructional improvement.
    - Dr. Young announced that the district's Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program was awarded a grant from Missouri S&T.
    - Additionally, she highlighted the success of the West Plains Education Foundation's Community Homecoming event, which raised approximately $21,000 to support educational opportunities within the district. Tammy Lamb was a featured speaker at the event, sharing her experiences with the foundation's support.
- Virginia Uphaus - Human Resources
    - Mrs. Virginia Uphaus reported that the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) launched last month, with approximately 1,300 meals served to students participating in tutoring and after-school activities.
    - She also expressed appreciation to the Transportation Department for its efforts in coordinating transportation for the school-day volleyball game, noting the extensive planning and teamwork required to make the event possible.
    - Additionally, Virginia shared that therapy sessions have begun, with 11 sessions conducted in September. The Zizzer Clinic also recorded 148 medical visits during the month.

- Superintendent's Report
    - Financial Report
        - End of 1st Fiscal Quarter
            - Total Yearly Revenues - 15.27% of budget
            - Total Yearly Expenditures - 22.42% of budget
        - Dr. Davis reported that the August/September tuition invoices had gone out on October 2nd. The total was $637,036.46. This totaled approximately 15.88% of budgeted tuition collections for the year.
        - Dr. Davis reported that the former health insurance group, (MEUHP), was not going to have enough fund balances to pay the claims for the entire consortium. They have asked schools to pay another assessment. However, according to Dr. Davis, the West Plains School District does not intend to pay any further invoices or assessments until the previously requested, necessary, and required historical information is provided to OSBA. Mr. Orchard has notified MEUHP of this decision.

- Recent and Upcoming Events
    - On October 9th, Dr. Davis and Mr. Orchard attended the Southwest Missouri Missouri Association of School Administrators Meeting in which current senators and senatorial candidates from southwest Missouri spoke to superintendents. They discussed their views on state funding, the current state school board, and the A-F grading school.
    - On the afternoon of October 9th, a Legislative Financial Training for senators and representatives in Lebanon. Area legislators were provided the opportunity to meet with school administrators and learn about school funding. Schools represented were Joel E. Barber, Lebanon, Ozark, and West Plains. This was hosted by Representative Melissa Schimdt and Dr. Jim Cummins from Mizzou.
    - Dr. Davis informed the school board he would be attending the Junction Hill Board Meeting on 10/13/26 and the Glenwood Board Meeting on 10/20/26. Both districts had invited him to attend and present.
    - He also reminded the board of the upcoming MSBA Annual Conference on October 22nd - 24th in Kansas City. Board members expected to attend the conference along with Dr. Davis will include Brian Mitchell, Cindy Tyree, Jim Thompson, Sam Riggs, and Sheilia Harper.

Adjournment

- Adjournment from Open Session - Approved 6-0 - 5:40 pm