WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR OCTOBER BOARD MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2026
In Person and Zoom

The Regular October 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 7:13 p.m. by President Kamus. The following Board members answered present to roll call: Wilson, Bellio, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto (phone), Kobusky, and Kamus. Mr. Dubaskas and Mrs. Cussatt were absent. 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 a personnel contract.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD – Isla Carrozza

ICS gave a brief update on the feasibility study.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Good evening, Spartans. It is an exciting time to be part of the Wyoming Valley West School District, and I want to take a moment to highlight something that should always remain at the heart of everything we do; unity, opportunity, and what it truly means to be a Spartan. When we come together as a community, focused on a common goal, there is nothing we cannot accomplish. We may not always agree on every issue, but we must always remember that we share the same mission, doing what is best for our students. Our strength comes from working together, supporting one another, and putting the future of our children first. There is so much positive momentum happening throughout our district, and the progress of the Spartan Learning Academy is an exciting example of what that future can look like. We are creating opportunities, investing in our students, and positioning our district for long-term success. Those efforts are about more than buildings or programs; they are about creating meaningful pathways for our students while generating millions of dollars in fiscal inflow that can benefit our schools, our children, and our greater community. When we make thoughtful decisions that strengthen our district financially and academically, we are investing in generations of Spartans to come. I want to thank Mrs. Baratta for all her hard work with this extremely exciting district project. While we continue to focus on the big picture, we must also celebrate the everyday opportunities that bring our community together. Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 27th from 4:00–9:00 p.m., when Angry Chickz will host a fundraiser supporting the Wyoming Valley West School District. Fifteen percent of all sales during the fundraiser will be donated directly to our district. It is another great opportunity to support our schools while enjoying a meal and giving back to our community. Before that, we have a spooktacular community tradition to look forward to. Join us at State Street Elementary School on Saturday, October 17th, from 12:00–2:00 p.m., or until the candy runs out, for our 4th Annual Trunk or Treat. Bring the kids, wear your favorite costumes, and enjoy an afternoon filled with Halloween fun, treats, and Spartan community spirit. Events like these remind us that a school district is about so much more than classrooms. It is about families, relationships, traditions, and a community that shows up for one another. I am proud to share this exciting new partnership between Wyoming Valley West School District and The Food Dignity® Movement, made possible in part by a $78,000 state investment with the support of Representative Brenda Pugh. This initiative will connect our local farmers, students, and families with fresh, Pennsylvania grown produce while creating new opportunities for local farms to supply our school cafeterias. Through free produce stands, support for families in our Prosper program, and a long-term plan to bring locally grown food into our schools, we are

investing in the health of our community and the future of local agriculture. A special thank you to Abby Singh for your support and commitment in helping make meaningful community partnerships like this possible. When we work together, we can build a stronger, healthier community for our children and families. I would like to take a moment to congratulate our Wyoming Valley West Lady Spartans Softball team on an outstanding academic achievement. Eight of our Lady Spartan softball players have earned the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-American Scholar-Athlete Award in recognition of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence both in the classroom and on the softball field. This accomplishment is a wonderful reflection of their determination, discipline, and perseverance, and we are incredibly proud of each of these student athletes. Congratulations to Isabella Sobieski, Avery Duden, Aniyah Davis, Sanai Williams, Ella Frazier, Reese McGlynn, Alirose McGee, Janaee Fattorusso on this well-deserved honor. You represent our school and our community with pride, and we wish you continued success in both your academic and athletic endeavors. Also, congratulations to Alessandra Montalto who advanced all the way to the PIAA District 2 quarterfinals at the individual district tournament in tennis. We are very proud of you and keep up the great work. She is also this week's Soaring Spartan. So, what does it mean to be a Spartan? It means showing up, standing together, lifting one another up, and taking pride in our schools and our community. It means celebrating our successes, facing challenges with determination, and always remembering that our students deserve our very best. Being a Spartan is not simply about the school we attend or the colors we wear. It is about the pride we carry, the support we give, and the legacy we leave behind. Let's continue moving forward together, celebrating our progress, supporting our students, and building a district where every child has the opportunity to succeed. We are and will continue to be a destination district and as always, Go Spartans!

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 Bellio, seconded by Wilson, that the Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the **Regular September 9, 2026** Board Meeting.
Voice vote. **Motion Carried.**

GENERAL RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved revised **Policy 102**, Academic Standards. (Second Reading)
2. Approved revised **Policy 105**, Curriculum. (Second Reading)
3. Approved **Policy 204.1**, Virtual Attendance and Wellness Checks. (Second Reading)
4. Approved revised **Policy 209**, Health Examinations/Screenings. (Second Reading)
5. Approved revised **Policy 246**, School Wellness. (Second Reading)
6. Approved revised **Policy 249**, Bullying/Cyberbullying. (Second Reading)
7. Approved revised **Policy 704**, Maintenance. (Second Reading)
8. Approved revised **Policy 803**, School Calendar. (Second Reading)
9. Approved revised **Policy 805.2**, School Security Personnel. (Second Reading)
10. Approved revised **Policy 822**, Automated External Defibrillator (AED)/Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). (Second Reading)

11. Approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United Way of Wyoming Valley and Wyoming Valley West School District to establish the **Nurse's Pantry** for the 2026/2027 school year.
12. Accepted donation of a new **Bass Xylophone** for Ms. Vito's classroom at State Street Elementary Center through DonorsChoose.org.
13. Accepted monetary donation to purchase **books** for the Dana Street Elementary Center Library through Amazing People.
14. Amended the **Wyoming Valley West School District Handbooks** to adjust the 1st offense violation of Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia up to ninety (90) days mandatory change of placement, effective immediately.
15. Approved 6th grade **CCA student** to participate in Middle School Orchestra Class and Middle School extra-curricular Orchestra, contingent on approved fee and student registering in the district.
16. Approved Agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District and **Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems** for services during the 2026/2027 school year.
17. Approved **Change Order #1** from **Penn State Mechanical** for the Dana St. Modulars Project, $7,824.
18. Approved **Change Order #2** from **Penn State Mechanical** for the Dana St. Modulars Project, $4,342.
19. Approved **Change Order #1** from **Mobile Modular** for the Dana St. Modulars Project, $15,315.
20. Approved **Change Order #2** from **Mobile Modular** for the Dana St. Modulars Project, $401,630.60.
21. Approved **Deductive Change Order** from **Mobile Modular** for the Dana St. Modulars Project, $-145,000.
22. Approved **Change Order #1** from **Advanced Electrical** for the Dana St. Modulars Project, $14,300.86.
23. Approved **Change Order #1** from **D&M Construction** for the Dana St. Modulars Project, $69,000.
24. Approved **Change Order #1** from **Alloy5** for the Dana St. Modulars Project, $6,358.
25. Approved **Invoice #80183** Green Valley Landscaping, Inc. repairs to lawn areas, $1,291.25.
26. Approved donating decommissioned **smartboards** to Good Shepherd Academy.
27. Amended the existing contract with **WVW Transport** to adjust the fuel cap and contractual cost per route for the runs currently being covered by WVW Transport, aligning the rates and fuel cap with those established under the **Spartan Transit Ventures Contract**.

Roll Call: Wilson, Bellio, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto (phone), Kobusky, and Kamus voting yes. **Motion Carried.** Mr. Dubaskas and Mrs. Cussatt were absent.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

1. Approved **excused absences** September 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026.

2. Accepted the following **resignations**:
   - **Lexie Faux**, Autistic Support Aide, Third Ave., effective June 15, 2026.
   - **Emilyrose Berry**, General Office Aide/Attendance, High School, effective July 31, 2026.
   - **Christina Hayes**, Autistic Support Aide, State St., effective February 13, 2026.
   - **Stephanie Lawson**, Cleaner, Dana St., effective September 18, 2026.
   - **Tyisha Timmons**, Emotional Support Aide, High School, effective September 22, 2026.
   - **Patricia Cooper**, Nurse Assistant, Middle School, effective October 5, 2026.
   - **Katie Zawatski**, Autistic Support Classroom Aide, effective September 15, 2026.
3. Rescinded the following appointment, **Hilari Shehwen**, Autistic Support Classroom Aide, State Street, $16.50/hour, effective September 2, 2026.
4. Appointed the following **new hires**; $16.50/hour:
   - **Tiyana Small,** Autistic Support Classroom Aide, Chester St., effective September 16, 2026.
   - **Verinnique Freeman**, Attendance/General Duty Office Aide, High School, effective September 14, 2026.
   - **Yamali Encarnacion**, Emotional Support Classroom Aide, Middle School, effective September 28, 2026.
   - **Amara Rodriguez**, Autistic Support Classroom Aide, Dana St, effective September 28, 2026.
   - **Angelica Rosario**, Cleaner, Dana Street, effective September 28, 2026.
5. Appointed **Patricia Cooper**, substitute Nurse Assistant, effective October 6, 2026.
6. Approved the request from Christina Cawthern, **Mickey Mouse Club Advisor**, for club members of the Class of 2028 and 2029, to attend a trip to Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida in December 2027. (No cost to the district)
7. Granted **diploma** to high school student who completed the necessary requirements for graduation upon the recommendation of Tara Carey, High School Principal:
   - **Croix Hamersley**
8. Approved Medical Leave, Intermittent FMLA, **Emp. 251677**, effective September 10, 2026.
9. Approved Medical Leave, Intermittent FMLA, **Emp. 975999**, effective September 8, 2026.
10. Approved Medical Leave, Intermittent FMLA, **Emp. 559319**, effective October 1, 2026.
11. Approved Medical Leave, Intermittent FMLA, **Emp. 677423,** effective September 21, 2026.
12. Approved Childbearing Leave, **Emp. 416714**, effective November 12, 2026 – February 8, 2027.
13. Approved Sabbatical Leave, **Emp. 725469**, effective January 26, 2027 – June 11, 2027.
14. Appointed **Jeffrey Shook**, Assistant Principal, High School, effective TBD, $94,915.
15. Appointed **Cara Devine Post**, Assistant Special Education Director, effective TBD, $97,185.
16. Appointed **Rick Bell**, Family and Student Engagement Liaison, effective TBD, $50,000.
17. Granted **Compensation** to professional staff members, as presented:
   - 18 Credits Beyond Bachelor's Degree
   - 24 Credits Beyond Bachelor's Degree
   - Master's/Master's Equivalency
   - Beyond Master's/Master's Equivalency for courses approved by the Superintendent
18. Approved **Act 93 Contract** for the years July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2031.
19. Approved Resolution authorizing Statement of Charges and Notice of Right to a Hearing, **Emp. #643414.**
20. Approved **Professional Contract Status** (Tenure) to the following Teacher:
   - Shannon Danko

Roll Call: Wilson, Bellio, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto (phone), Kobusky, and Kamus voting yes.
Motion Carried. Mr. Dubaskas and Mrs. Cussatt were absent.

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, Bellio, Nicholson, Levesque, Perfetto (phone), Kobusky, and Kamus voting yes.
Motion Carried. Mr. Dubaskas and Mrs. Cussatt were absent.

NEW BUSINESS

President Kamus asked to have the ICS presentation put on the district website.
President Kamus announced the November Work Session/Regular November Meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Wilson, seconded by Perfetto, that the Board of School Directors adjourn this meeting.
Motion Carried.
Adjourned: 7:45 p.m.

Jennifer Bullock

Jennifer Bullock, Board Secretary