



**West Plains R-VII School District  
Board of Education Update  
February 25, 2025  
Regular Session Meeting  
West Plains High School Library**

**Open Session**

- President Tyree called the meeting to order. (Grigsby absent)
- The West Plains R-VII School District Board of Education led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Student/Staff Spotlight**

- Dr. Seth Huddleston featured the students from South Fork Elementary School during the student spotlight. The faculty, staff, and students raised over \$23,000 for the children at St. Jude.



**Consent Agenda**

- Before approving previous board meeting minutes, the board approved the following:
  - Financial report



- **Resignations – Board Action Required**
  - Keegan Hoopes - WPHS Teacher/Paraprofessional/Coach (EOY)
  - Eva Benine - WPHS Counselor (EOY)
  - Keeli Holden - WPES 2nd Grade Teacher (EOY)
  - Raegan Fox - WPHS Asst. Principal & Asst. Wrestling Coach (EOY)
  - Jordan McLaurin - WPHS Social Studies Teacher (EOY)
  - Seth Huddleston - WPMS 7/8 Grade Head Boys Basketball Coach
  - Faith Knehans - WPES 2nd Grade Teacher (EOY)
  - Brady Dean - WPHS Assistant Baseball Coach (Spring 2025 Season)
  
- **Retirements - Board Action Required**
  - Stacy Davis - Activities Department Administrative Assistant (10/1/25)
  
- **Terminations - Board Action Required**
  - Jason Bowen - Maintenance
  - Montana Morse - Maintenance
  - Christopher Baldrige - Custodian
  
- Approval of CSIP Update (CSIP S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, & S9)

### **Previous Business**

- Second Read: The 3rd and 5th Grade ELA Curriculum (CSIP S8) The board approved 6-0.

### **Regular Agenda**

- The monthly bills were paid and approved. The board approved 6-0. January [Bills](#)
- Payment of Buro Invoice (CSIP S7). The board approved 6-0. (RG absent) [Buro Invoice](#)

### **New Business**

- MSBA Policy Updates - 1st Read
- Seated Requirements for Participation - 1st Read (CSIP S8 & S9) - Dr. Davis reviewed the results of the survey. The board will vote on this next month. He did share that the school attorney mentioned this is a board decision; but Dr. Davis also mentioned that with possible legislation, this might be changed for the 2026-27 school year.
- Declare Positions Critical Shortage (CSIP S5) - Mr. Orchard presented the following for board approval. He mentioned some will not be used while others could be presented before August. The district is allowed 5 certified and 5 non-certified positions each year.
  - **PSRS (Certified)**
  - 7-12 Mathematics
  - 7-12 English
  - 7-12 Science
  - 7-12 Social Studies

- K-12 Physical Education
- K-12 Special Education
- **PEERS (Non-Certified)**
- Parents as Teachers
- Paraprofessional
- Declare Surplus Property (CSIP S7) - The board approved a 2003 bus with 156,000 miles as surplus property.

### **Updates/Reports to the Board of Education**

Administrators reported on current events, projects, and plans in their respective buildings or departments.

- Federal Programs and Special Education - Dr. Ross submitted payment requests totaling \$157,941.94 for January expenses, including IDEA funds for special services staff salaries, Title program allocations, and Parents as Teachers activities, all of which will be processed in the next DESE payment cycle. Additionally, updates include 355 homeschool enrollments, completion of English Learner assessments, preparation for April CSIP revisions, and the launch of a school-based Special Olympics team for the 2025–2026 school year per Dr. Davis’ request, promoting inclusivity and athletic opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities. Dr. Davis thanked Dr. Ross, Mr. Smith, Dr. Cooley, Mrs. Peterson, and Mrs. Larson for taking the initiative to work on this as he felt this was something the district needed to pursue.
- Zizzer Pride Academy currently enrolls 62 students, with 14 in IEPs and 13 in the MO Option Program, while staff continue to focus on curriculum improvement and student engagement through service learning projects and daily responsibilities. Recent highlights include two MO Option program completions, participation in the Volunteer Expo, and Layne Richardson being named January Student of the Month, with the Zizzer Clinic set to expand services next month.
- West Plains Middle School is tackling MAP preparation through test strategies, scheduling adjustments, and incentives despite recent attendance challenges due to widespread illness among students and staff. This month's highlight includes 7th grader Mya Cook, who won the advanced art t-shirt fundraiser with her creative design.
- SoMoTech students in practical nursing, electric line, health science, and other CTE programs actively engage in hands-on training, including clinicals, OSHA certifications, and industry-recognized credentials, supporting MSIP 6 goals for graduate follow-up and career readiness. Recent highlights include SkillsUSA district competitions and the building safety committee’s ongoing efforts, culminating in staff-led emergency preparedness exercises during the February 14th Professional Development Day.
- Public Relations & Communications - The communications office is preparing for School Board Appreciation Week (March 2–8) with individual spotlights on board members and organizing the Faculty & Staff Awards Banquet on May 14 to honor staff achievements.

Ongoing efforts include managing social media, the district app, website updates, community engagement, weekly radio shows, and media relations.

- Facility, Human Resources, Security, and Capital Projects - The district began an after-school meal program providing free dinners to students in afterschool activities, serving 130-150 students daily at West Plains Elementary, 10-15 at South Fork Elementary, and 40 at West Plains Middle School. Additionally, a pre-bid meeting for the WP Elementary Roof Project was held, safety agencies collaborated on emergency response plans, new security doors were ordered for WPHS, and the Zizzer Clinic saw 150 patient visits in January, while Ozarks Healthcare conducted 65 staff biometric screenings.
- West Plains High School reported strong first-semester honor roll achievements, with 717 students earning a GPA of 2.9 or higher, including 361 on the Principal's Honor Roll with a GPA of 3.8 or higher. Recent and upcoming events include the successful Parent/Guardian and Student Scheduling Night, monthly senior meetings on graduation readiness, participation in the High School Fair, and the upcoming Freshman Enrollment Night on March 4.
- The South Fork Elementary community service project is St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which raised \$23,000, surpassing last year's total of \$22,000. Additionally, progress reports were sent home as students improved reading and math despite weather and illness challenges. The school celebrated National School Counselor Appreciation Week, honoring Mrs. Heather Miller with an ice cream cake.
- Teaching & Learning—The 6th grade ELA team revised their curriculum to better utilize a new textbook series. At the same time, the February 14 EduCamp offered 29 professional development sessions led by district staff and guest presenters, including aspiring teachers from MSU-WP. Additionally, the instructional team is actively preparing for state assessments. All juniors and seniors are set to take the WorkKeys Assessment, which is funded by a \$19,500 grant.
- West Plains Elementary now offers a third meal to over 100 students three nights a week, providing extra nourishment before tutoring and club activities. Additionally, two 4th-grade classes visited the State Capitol on February 6, earning praise for their exemplary behavior. More classes are scheduled to visit soon.
- In the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Davis highlighted several topics:
  - Student Board Rep - The application process has closed and he is now narrowing down the search. Interviews will begin soon. He mentioned that there are fewer applications than the previous year, but some very high quality applicants.
  - Finance Report
    - YTD Budget 2.20.25
      - Total Revenues- \$23,609,506 - 71.27%
      - Total Expenditures - \$21,303,967 - 61.24%
    - Tax Collections as of 2.20.25
      - \$6,822,235 - 99.86%

- Total Tuition Collections 1.31.25
  - \$1,695,194 - 43.69% of budget
- Dr. Davis has scheduled a Legislation Forum Luncheon to be held at West Plains School on March 7th. Currently, he has 3 legislators, 3 state DESE supervisors, and over 35 school superintendents scheduled to attend. He hopes to make this a yearly event to help “bridge the gap” between DESE, the legislators, and area superintendents and help with the communication process. He mentioned he was overwhelmed by the large number of people planning to attend the initial event.
- Last fall, one of the pole lights at the Zizzer Stadium overheated and malfunctioned. It burnt up some of the fixtures and wires. The district is currently taking bids for replacements and upgrades to the fixtures (the existing poles will remain). Dr. Davis asked the board to consider a special board meeting next week to accept a bid if he receives an acceptable bid. He fears the timelines of getting the parts and installation before the upcoming school year and wants to move forward with this quickly. To date, five vendors have contacted him regarding this project. Bids are due Monday, March 3rd, at 12:00 pm.
- Dr. Davis finished his report discussing the recent meetings concerning Open Enrollment, state funding, required salary schedules and teacher pay, and various other state issues. He had planned on presenting a proposed salary schedule for the board to review but explained that with a recent release of information from the State Department last week concerning salary schedules, his salary schedule idea had to be discarded. He mentioned that he would be joining a meeting later in the week to discuss the steps to move forward redoing the salary schedule. He also informed the board that he anticipates the salary schedule could change numerous times before August this school year and asked for grace as districts navigate this process.
- Student School Board Member Report (CSIP S5) - Emma Arnold sent high school students an overview of the January board meeting. She discussed the survey results for school meals and end of course testing.

The next board meeting is Tuesday, March 18, 2025. *The Open Session will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the West Plains High School Library.*