

April 22, 2025

A regular voting meeting of the Washington School Board was held on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 in the high school cafeteria.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by President Sparks-Gatling followed by the pledge of allegiance, mission statement and audio/vision statement.

Roll Call:

Members Present:	Mrs. Rhonda Barnes	Mr. Rodney Jones
	Mr. Eric Bird	Mrs. Kimberly Kelley
	Mr. John Campbell, Sr.	Mrs. Pamela Kilgore
	Mrs. Jennifer Ewing	Mrs. Amy Roberts
		Mrs. Tara Sparks-Gatlin

Non-Voting Member Present: Mr. George Lammay, Superintendent

Present: Mr. Richard Mancini, Director of District Operations
Mrs. Rebecca Heaton-Hall, Solicitor

Executive Session: The Board met in executive session prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel issues. No action was taken.

President Welcomes Visitors: Mrs. Sparks-Gatling extended a welcome to the public and stated the following, “In accordance with Washington School District Policy No. 005 entitled “Public Participation at Meetings”, this public participation session shall not exceed 20 minutes. Any individual resident may make comments not to exceed three minutes. Any resident who wishes to address the Board should have submitted to the President of the Board or to the Board’s Secretary a written statement including their name and address, the name of the group the speaker is representing, if any, and the general nature of the topic and comments to be made. Any resident who has not submitted a written request shall have the right to speak, time permitting by raising his or her hand so that they may be recognized. No one having any desire to speak, the meeting continued.

Recognitions:

Teacher Retirements

Jay Huss	34 Years	(1991 – 2025)
Toni Stewart	31 Years	(1994 – 2025)

Congratulations to Mr. Jeff Devenney for receiving a grant from Intermediate Unit I for attending the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience Workshop. The grant is for the MVEE Capstone Project in the amount of \$500.

Hometown HQ Playoff

Maya Kilgore, Bella Gillott and James McCarter participated on KDKA’s Hometown HQ game on April 19th. What an incredible, hard-fought battle. The match was tight, the energy was high, and every player gave their all. It was a true test of determination, teamwork, and skill.

American Legion Award Winners

Congratulations to the 2025 Eighth Grade American Legion Award Winners. The students were honored at the American Legion Post 175 on April 7th.

AJ Belcastro	Chessa Henderson	Amaya Malone
Isaac Mayen	Erik Price	Piper Roberts

7th Annual Mock Interview Session – March 21, 2025

Sincerest thanks to the administration, board, faculty, and students at Washington High School for their ongoing support of this interview session.

Special thanks are given to the eight Human Resource experts who imparted their knowledge and volunteered their time. They are as follows: Mrs. Teresa Burroughs, Mr. John Campbell, Sr., Mr. Kameron Donaldson, Mr. Ryan Hamlin, Ms. Samantha McCarren, Dr. Kevin Monaghan, Mrs. Patricia Robinson, and Ms. Jennifer Yellitz.

Together with the "Getting to Graduation" workshops that are conducted by Mrs. Ester Barnes of Southwest Training Services, Inc., the Mock Interview Session provides seniors with an invaluable opportunity to sharpen their personal and professional skills, as they pursue a life outside of the brick and mortar of Washington High.

Our students received glowing remarks from the interviewers about their preparedness; and, due to their stellar performance during the Mock Interview Session, Mrs. Burroughs and Mrs. Robinson of the LeMoyne Community Center presented 10 seniors with scholarships that totaled \$2,250. Their generosity is greatly appreciated and is not taken for granted!

The recipients of the LeMoyne Community Center scholarships are as follows:

Brayan Chacon	Tayez Durant	Zahara Evanovich
Lily Ewing	Nevaeh Hagan	Sydney (Kalon) Levith
Alaina Nielsen	Zakaiya Ramos	Landi Smith
Lynzi Smith		

Thanks is extended to the Jr. High/Sr. High faculty for their flexibility and to the following individuals for their participation in the process: Mrs. Ester Barnes, Ms. Eric Ola, Mr. Roylin Petties, the Board of Directors, cafeteria staff, custodial staff, physical education teachers, secretarial staff and high school staff.

Special Presentation: Diana McKinney, CEO and Melissa Gardner, Chief Operating Officer from AMI, Inc. gave a presentation on providing mental health support for seventh and eighth grade students beginning next school year.

Questions on the Agenda: The Board reviewed the agenda.

Agenda: Mrs. Kelley moved and Mr. Jones seconded that the agenda be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Mrs. Kelley moved and Mrs. Ewing seconded that the minutes of the March 17, 2025 regular voting meeting be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Ewing moved and Mrs. Kelley seconded that the March 31, 2025 Treasurer's Report be accepted as information, said report showing the following book balances:

	<u>March 31, 2025</u>
General Fund	\$ 142,286.31
Payroll Account	\$ 19,390.23
Cafeteria Account	\$ 140,415.14
WHS Athletic Account	\$ 10,448.23

WHS Activities Account	\$ 77,718.83
WPS Activities Account	\$ 23,848.11
WSD PSDLAF-Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 145,530.33
WSD-PSDLAF-Expendable Benefit Trust	\$ 88,845.09

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Mrs. Ewing moved and Mrs. Kilgore seconded that the Board approve the following:

- Recommend **Emily DiNardo** as Business Manager, at a salary of \$100,000, effective July 1, 2025. Mrs. DiNardo may work on a per diem basis prior to July 1, 2025.

The Board discussed the contract for Mrs. DiNardo. Mrs. Heaton-Hall stated that she would have Mrs. DiNardo's contract ready for the Board to review in the next several days. The Board took the following action to amend the previous motion above.

Mrs. Barnes moved and Mrs. Roberts seconded that the Board approve the following:

- Recommend **Emily DiNardo** as Business Manager, at a salary of \$100,000, effective July 1, 2025, pending final review and approval of her five-year contract by the Board of Directors. (*The Board will review the contract and they scheduled a Special meeting via Zoom on Monday, April 28, 2025 at noon to vote on hiring Mrs. DiNardo.*)

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Roberts moved and Mrs. Barnes seconded that the Board approve the following:

- Resignation of **Mary Palmer**, full-time paraprofessional, after 8½ years of service in the district, retroactive to April 2, 2025.
- Resignation of **Saleena McElroy**, full-time paraprofessional, after 7 months of service in the district, retroactive to March 28, 2025.
- Resignation of **Dominic Petrocco**, full-time custodian, after 2 days of service in the district, retroactive to March 26, 2025.
- Addition of **Morgan Pattison** to the list of certified substitute teachers, effective April 25, 2025. (*PreK-4 Certification*)
- Addition of **Abigail Mahan** to the list of substitute paraprofessionals, effective April 23, 2025.
- Addition of **Virginia Williams** to the list of substitute cafeteria workers, retroactive to April 1, 2025 through April 22, 2025.
- Recommend **Virginia Williams** as a part-time cafeteria worker, 177-181 days a year, 5 hours a day, contractual rate, effective April 23, 2025.
- Recommend **Ruthe McKinley** as a full-time paraprofessional, 186 days a year, 7 hours a day, contractual rate, effective April 23, 2025.
- Recommend **Adrianna Williams** as a full-time paraprofessional, 186 days a year, 7 hours a day, contractual rate, effective April 23, 2025.

-The following Summer School programs:

Summer Learning Academy – Grades K-6

June 9, 2025 through July 3, 2025

Monday through Thursday

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Washington Park Elementary School

\$28 per hour

1 Program Coordinator (not to exceed 80 hours)

7 Teachers

1 Special Education Teacher

Junior High Summer Learning Academy – Grades 7-8

June 9, 2025 through July 3, 2025

Monday through Thursday

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Washington Junior/Senior High School

\$28 per hour

4 Teachers (2 ELA and 2 Math)

1 Special Education Teacher

1 Substitute

Summer Learning Academy – Grades 9-12

June 9, 2025 through July 3, 2025

Monday through Thursday

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Washington Junior/Senior High School

\$28 per hour

2 Teachers (ELA)

1 Special Education Teacher

1 Substitute

Extended School Year (ESY)

July 7, 2025 through August 1, 2025

Monday through Thursday

8:15 am to 12:45 pm

Washington Park Elementary School

\$28 per hour (teachers)

Contractual rate (paraprofessionals)

1 Coordinator/Speech Therapist

6 Special Education Teachers

9 Paraprofessionals

-Conference requests, in accordance with the policy of the District as follows:

- a. **Alexandra Cottom** -Open Sci Ed High School Curriculum Launch (*Chemistry*)
July 28-31, 2025 - Virtual
Estimated cost – \$1,000
- b. **Jeff Devenney** -Open Sci Ed High School Curriculum Launch (*Biology*)
June 23-26, 2025 - Virtual
Estimated cost – \$1,000

- c. **Christopher Nagel** -Open Sci Ed Middle School Curriculum Launch
June 9-12, 2025 – Virtual
Estimated cost - \$1,250
- d. **Dale Hamilton** -SPAC Title I Parent Conference
June 30 – July 2, 2025 – Seven Springs Resort
Estimated cost – \$700 (*paid with Title I parent and family engagement funds*)

Motion carried, Mrs. Kelley abstained from voting on the recommendation of Adrianna Williams and voted “yes” on all other items. Mr. Campbell voted “no” on the Summer School programs and “yes” on all other items. All other members voted “yes” on all items.

Students: Mr. Jones moved and Mrs. Barnes seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Expulsion of student #2024-2025-01, an elementary school student, as a result of violation of school district policies No. 516 (Student Discipline) and No. 551 (Weapons and Dangerous Instruments), effective for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. The parent may submit a written request to the superintendent for readmission into the district for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Athletics: Mrs. Roberts moved and Mrs. Barnes seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Recommend **Josh Wise** as the Girls Basketball Head Coach, Step 4-6, Stipend \$8,031.

-Recommend **Joyce Eisiminger** as the COED Rifle Head Coach, Step 13+, Stipend \$5,054.

-Recommend **Ron Todd** as the Unified Bocce Head Coach, set stipend of \$1,000.

-Recommend **Kyle Cline** as Boys Varsity Wrestling Head Coach, Step 1-3, Stipend \$7,272.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Barnes moved and Mrs. Kelley seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Have the Athletic Director look further into starting a middle school soccer team.

-Replace the wall mural in the high school entrance, at a cost of \$2,467.22.

-Replace the wall decal/wrap in the high school gymnasium, at cost of \$7,041.77.

-Purchase 1000pt accolade banners for boys and girls basketball club, at a cost of \$355.

-Upgrade the weight room equipment for all students, at a cost of \$73,139.76.

Motion carried, Mr. Campbell voted “no” on the upgrade to the weight room equipment and “yes” on all other items. All other members voted “yes” on all items.

Board Policy: Mrs. Ewing moved and Mrs. Kilgore seconded that the Board approve the following:

-First reading, pursuant to Washington School District Policy No. 001, of the following policy:

Policy #823 – Conflict of Interest

Motion carried unanimously.

Contracts, Agreements and Grants: Mrs. Ewing moved and Mrs. Barnes seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Renewal of The Nutrition Group Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year. *(On April 19, 2022, the Board entered into a five-year option agreement with The Nutrition Group to manage the food service operations of Washington School District. The district and The Nutrition Group are now entering the fourth year of the five year option agreement.)*

-Contractual employment of Jay Huss to provide sound system reinforcements for the graduation ceremony in June, at a cost of \$1,250.

-Amend the PIMS Administrator’s vacation language to be consistent with the Act 93 agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

Business and Finance: Mrs. Roberts moved and Mrs. Ewing seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Change Order #GC-3 to provide all material and labor associated for replacement of the existing corroded Boiler room 1-Beam and restore the damaged concrete as outlined within the Mariani & Richards proposal titled: Change Order Request #4, dated March 17, 2025, in the amount of \$14,400.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ratification and Payment of Bills: Mrs. Ewing moved and Mrs. Barnes seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Ratification and payment of bills in the amount of \$1,689,314.52.

Motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

-Bus Monitors Update – Mr. Lammay stated that the fifth bus monitor will be starting by next Monday. They are seeing positive results with the monitors on the buses. If any monitor has a problem, they call Officer Molinaro directly. They will continue to work on getting all eight bus routes covered by a monitor.

New Business

-Preliminary Budget – Mr. Mancini reviewed the draft preliminary budget. He anticipates that there will not be a tax increase for next school year. The preliminary budget will be approved at the May meeting.

Superintendent’s Report – Mr. Lammay reported on the development and objectives with AMI, Inc. to provide a staff person to support junior high students several days a week, student attendance,

prevention program and policies and procedures to begin next school year. He also included information on recent meetings he'd attended and information on graduation.

Solicitor's Report: Attorney Heaton-Hall had no report.

Special Representative Reports

-Western Area Career & Technology Center – Mrs. Sparks-Gatling stated that they are working on their budget and their meeting is tomorrow. They offer a co-op program for students to go out and work with companies in the area and Washington is the only school district that doesn't have any students participating in the program. If transportation is a reason for our students not participating, maybe there is something the district can do to help.

-PSBA – Mrs. Kilgore will have information on her Germany trip next month. She gave the Board information on upcoming webinars and their Spring Advocacy Day.

-Parking Authority – Mr. Mancini reported that they discussed having car shows on the weekend in the parking garage, repairs to water lines and replacing the pay station and gate equipment. Mr. Jones will be resigning from the Parking Authority Board this month. Mr. Bird volunteered to replace Mr. Jones on the Board. The solicitor will make sure there is no conflict of interest.

-Citywide Development Corporation (CDC) – No Report

-Updates from Activities, Education and Policy Committee Representatives:

Activities Committee (Mr. Bird) – Mr. Bird had examples of the murals and banners that were approved earlier in the meeting. The committee also talked about various transportation options for after-school sporting events, scholarships for Awards Day, interviews for basketball head coach and guardian safety caps.

Education Committee (Mrs. Roberts) – Mrs. Roberts reported that Summer School was their big topic, technical resources with copiers and smart boards, building cleanliness, attendance, new Panorama System, positive behavior program, transportation, students transiting from in-school to cyber school, student recognition programs, reading program, career fair, credit recovery, ATSI plans, outdoor activities, public relations ideas, and Title I school-wide plan.

Policy Committee (Mrs. Ewing) – The committee reviewed the Conflict of Interest policy and Transportation policy.

Information

- A. **May Board Meeting** – Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the high school media center
- B. **Prom / Grand March – Friday, May 2nd**
 - 5:45 pm - Grand March at the high school gym
 - 6:30 to 10:30 pm - Prom at the George Washington Hotel
- C. **Job Conference Reports for High School Exterior Improvement Project**

D. Awards Day Programs

Elementary School (Grades 5 and 6) – Tuesday, June 3rd at 1:00 pm in the auditorium
Junior High School – Tuesday, June 3rd at 1:30 pm in the high school gym
High School – Tuesday, June 3rd at 9:00 pm in the high school gym

E. Kennywood Day – Washington School District’s Kennywood Day is Saturday, June 14th

Adjournment: Moved by Mrs. Kelley and seconded by Mr. Jones that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously. 8:16 pm

/s/ Lisa Coffield
Lisa Coffield, Board Secretary