

August 18, 2025

A regular voting meeting of the Washington School Board was held on Monday, August 18, 2025 in the high school media center.

The meeting was called to order at 6:43 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-Gatling

Non-Voting Member Present: Mr. Robert Mihelcic, Acting Superintendent

Present: Mrs. Rebecca Heaton-Hall, Solicitor
Mrs. Emily DiNardo, Business Manager

Executive Session: The Board met in executive session prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel. 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.

Questions on the Agenda: The Board reviewed the agenda.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Mrs. Ewing moved and Mr. Campbell seconded that the minutes of the July 21, 2025 regular voting meeting be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

	<u>July 31, 2025</u>
General Fund	\$1,275,178.41
Payroll Account	\$ 33,597.24
Cafeteria Account	\$ 23,164.11
WHS Athletic Account	\$ 19,070.08
WHS Activities Account	\$ 81,075.28
WPS Activities Account	\$ 26,296.54

WSD PSDLAF-Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 998,095.46
WSD-PSDLAF-Expendable Benefit Trust	\$ 5,435.36

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Appointment of **Robert Mihelcic** as Acting Superintendent, effective August 18, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Resignation of **Joshua O'Brien**, secondary special education teacher, after 2 years of service in the district, retroactive to August 8, 2025.

-Resignation of **Brenda Himmel**, elementary school teacher, after 8 years of service in the district, retroactive to August 11, 2025.

-Resignation of **Shawn Hughes-Ankrom**, technology ed teacher, after 5½ years of service in the district, effective upon release from Washington School District.

-Resignation of **Zyan Wallace**, full-time paraprofessional, after 2 years of service in the district, retroactive to August 13, 2025.

-Resignation of **Sherry Correll**, secondary special education teacher. *(Ms. Correll was approved as a new teacher at the July 21st board meeting. She has accepted a position at another district.)*

-Resignation of **Mikaela Malobabich**, secondary special education teacher. *(Ms. Malobabich was approved as a new teacher at the July 21st board meeting. She has accepted a position at another district.)*

-Appointment of **Emily DiNardo** as a representative for the Parking Authority. *(This vacancy is due to Mr. Mancini's retirement.)*

-Recommend **Ashley Larkin** as a secondary math teacher, master's degree, step 12, \$57,685, effective August 18, 2025, pending receipt of all required employment documents. *(Vacancy from Shawn Hughes-Ankrom's resignation.) – Resume uploaded on OneDrive*

-Recommend **Chelsea Prescott-Porfilio** as an elementary school teacher, master's degree, step 1, \$50,185, effective August 18, 2025, pending receipt of all required employment documents. *(Vacancy from Brenda Himmel's resignation.) – Resume uploaded on OneDrive*

-Recommend **Andrea Tannehill** as a secondary special education teacher, master's degree, step 3, \$50,685, effective August 18, 2025, pending receipt of all required employment documents. *(Vacancy from Joshua O'Brian's resignation.) – Resume uploaded on OneDrive*

-Recommend **Giovanni Waters** as a full-time custodian, 260 days a year, 8 hours a day, \$17.10 per hour, effective August 18, 2025.

-Recommend **Vickie Simons** as a part-time cafeteria worker, 177-181 days a year, 3 hours a day, \$14.88 per hour, effective August 21, 2025.

- Recommend **Shaina Rohr** as a part-time cafeteria worker, 177-181 days a year, 3 hours a day, \$14.88 per hour, effective August 21, 2025.
- Reclassification of **Samantha Washington** from a part-time cafeteria worker to a full-time paraprofessional, 186 days a year, 7½ hours a day, \$17.14 per hour, effective August 21, 2025.
- Recommend **Ashlea Presto** as a full-time paraprofessional, 186 days a year, 7½ hours a day, \$16.50 per hour, effective August 21, 2025.
- Recommend **Wendy Harris** as a full-time personal care assistant (PCA), 186 days a year, 7½ hours a day, \$17.29 per hour, effective August 21, 2025.
- Substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Athletics: Mr. Campbell moved and Mrs. Ewing seconded that the Board approve the following:

- Recommend **Jason Henry** as a Volunteer Soccer Coach.
- Recommend **Amara Kennedy** as a Volunteer Cheerleading Coach.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Three-year contract for **Matthew Novak** to serve as Athletic Trainer at the following rates:

2025-2026 school year	\$56,000
2026-2027 school year	\$57,680
2027-2028 school year	\$59,410

- The Partial Hospitalization Program Service Agreement with Intermediate Unit 1 for the 2025-2026 school year.

-Letter of Agreement with Outside In School of Experiential Learning to provide substance abuse treatment services for students identified by the Student Assistance Program through Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc. for the 2025-2026 school year. *(Each student referral for “in-school counseling services” must be initiated by the recommendation of the SAP Team and/or Liaison. The responsibility of payment for any services provided by Outside In rest with the participant’s (student’s) funding source, be it private insurance, health insurance, Health Choice or SAP funds.)*

Motion carried unanimously.

Business and Finance: Mr. Campbell moved and Mrs. Barnes seconded that the Board approve the following:

- Award the bid for backflow repairs at the high school to Gazco Mechanical Services, LLC, in the amount of \$10,880.

-Authorize the filing of annual tax assessment appeals, on terms and conditions authorized by the Superintendent, Business Manager and Solicitor.

-List of bus/van drivers for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

New Cyber Courses for High School Students: Mrs. Roberts moved and Mr. Bird seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Two new semester-long cyber courses to be added to our high school course curriculum guide for all students in grades 9 through 12:

- a. **Digital Literacy** - This course equips students with essential technology skills for success in school, work, and daily life. Students will explore topics including keyboarding, computer hardware and software, operating systems, file management, and networks. The curriculum also covers internet safety, cybersecurity, email and word processing, spreadsheets and databases, and digital media production. Emphasis is placed on responsible digital citizenship and practical applications of technology in academic and professional environments.

Rationale - Digital Literacy equips students with essential technology skills needed for academic, workplace, and daily success. Through instruction in keyboarding, file management, hardware/software basics, Microsoft Office tools, and cybersecurity, students gain practical, hands-on experience with digital tools widely used in education and industry. This course supports college and career readiness by ensuring students are proficient in the foundational skills required in today's technology-driven world.

- b. **Online Learning and Digital Citizenship** - This course prepares students to be responsible, effective digital learners and citizens. Students develop skills in online research, source evaluation, digital communication, study strategies, time management, and project planning. Emphasis is placed on digital citizenship topics such as netiquette, cyberbullying, internet safety, and understanding hardware and software. Through reading, writing, multimedia projects, and discussions, students build confidence in navigating digital tools and academic expectations in an online environment.

Rationale - Online Learning and Digital Citizenship prepares students to succeed in digital academic environments and participate responsibly in online communities. The course focuses on study strategies, time management, online research, citation, netiquette, and cyber safety, while also developing communication and collaboration skills. It fosters responsible digital behavior and supports students' success in both virtual learning and real-world digital interactions.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Ratification and payment of bills in the amount of \$2,566,126.40.

Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report – No Report

Solicitor's Report: Attorney Heaton-Hall participated in today's in-service day and gave a training on student/parent confidentiality and special education discipline to teachers and paraprofessionals.

Special Representative Reports

-Western Area Career & Technology Center – Mrs. Sparks-Gatling reported on the Center receiving grant money to be used for their electrical occupations class. Their meetings will resume this Wednesday.

-PSBA – Mrs. Kilgore shared that the group from their Germany trip will be presenting at the annual conference in October.

-Parking Authority – Mrs. DiNardo stated that they discussed an increase revenue and using that revenue to address items that need improvements, like the plumbing system. They also discussed the possibility of updating the ticketing system.

-Updates from Activities, Education and Policy Committee Representatives:

Activities Committee (Mr. Bird) – There was no meeting in August. They are still trying to fill the middle school soccer coach position and filling the team. It is possible they may not be able to participate in the co-op team this year.

Education Committee (Mrs. Roberts) – There was no meeting in August.

Policy Committee (Mrs. Ewing) – There was no meeting in July or August.

Information

A. **September Board Meeting** – Monday, September 15, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the high school media center

B. **In-Service Days** – Monday, August 18th and Tuesday, August 19th

C. **Clerical Day** – Wednesday, August 20th

D. **First Day of School** – Thursday, August 21st

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

Motion carried unanimously. 7:18 pm

Executive Session: The Board met in executive session after the meeting to discuss personnel. No action was taken.

/s/ Lisa Coffield
Lisa Coffield, Board Secretary