

February 18, 2025

A regular voting meeting of the Washington School Board was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 in the high school cafeteria.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by President Sparks-Gatling followed by the pledge of allegiance, mission statement and audio/vision statement.

Roll Call:

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

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

Present: Mr. Richard Mancini, Director of District Operations
Mrs. Kelly Perkovich, 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.

Questions on the Agenda: The Board reviewed the agenda.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Mr. Jones moved and Mrs. Barnes seconded that the minutes of the January 21, 2025 regular voting meeting be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

	<u>January 31, 2025</u>
General Fund	\$ 272,711.71
Payroll Account	\$ 29,828.39
Cafeteria Account	\$ 11,923.37
WHS Athletic Account	\$ 9,482.07
WHS Activities Account	\$ 82,720.65

WPS Activities Account	\$ 24,997.18
WSD PSDLAF-Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 63,021.00
WSD-PSDLAF-Expendable Benefit Trust	\$ 88,244.07

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Recommend **Nicole Naumoff** as an elementary special education teacher, Bachelor's +15 degree, Step 1, \$48,010, effective February 19, 2025. *(Filling the position left open by the resignation of Jennifer Davis.)*

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Recommend **Arrianna McCracken** as a full-time paraprofessional, 186 days a year, 7 hours a day, contractual rate, effective February 19, 2025.

-Retirement of **Toni Stewart**, elementary school teacher, after 31 years of service in the district, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

-Intermittent Family Medical Leave for **Employee #1316**, retroactive to January 30, 2025. *(Per the Family and Medical Leave Act and District Policy No. 410, eligible employees are entitled to take up to 60 unpaid days during a 12-month period for the specific type of FMLA leave requested by this employee.)*

-Long-Term Assignment (90 days) of **Mercedes Conner** as a secondary math teacher, Master's Degree, Step 1, pro-rated, retroactive to January 27, 2025 through the end of the school year. This long-term assignment is for the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year. Ms. Conner will start on Step 1 of the salary scale, receive fringe benefits, medical, dental and vision insurance and must attend Act 80 and/or Inservice Days. *(This vacancy is due to the resignation of Kasey Scears.)*

-Temporary Assignment (46-89 days) of **Morgan McMurdy** as an elementary school teacher, Bachelor's Degree, Step 1, pro-rated, retroactive to January 28, 2025 through April 28, 2025. Ms. McMurdy will start on Step 1 of the salary scale, receive fringe benefits, medical, dental and vision insurance and must attend Act 80 and/or Inservice Days. *(This vacancy is due to the medical leave of Sarah Laslo.)*

-Addition of **Brian Pest** to the list of substitute nurses.

-Addition of **Darci Debos** and **Kara Johnson** to the list of WSD Emergency substitute teachers.

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

a. **Tiffany Morris**

-HIVE Conference
July 14-16, 2025 – Orlando, FL
Estimated cost – \$2,200

b. **Nicole Bockstoe**
Megan Sikes

-PAFPC Annual Conference
May 11-14, 2025 – Hershey, PA
Estimated cost per person - \$1,260
(paid with federal program funds)

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-A child will be considered eligible for admission into kindergarten if she/he has attained the age of five (5) years old by August 1st of the current school year. (Current cut-off date is June 1st)

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Recommend **Kyle Cline** as Wrestling Head Coach for the 2024-2025 season, Step 1-3, Stipend 7,129.

-Recommend **Bill Simpson** as Wrestling Assistant Coach for the 2024-2025 season, Step 1-3, Stipend \$5,104.

-Recommend **Eric Bird** as a Volunteer Baseball Coach for the 2024-2025 season.

-Recommend **Greg Papon** and **Nick Mandich** as Volunteer Coaches for Girls Middle School Basketball.

-Resignation of **Keri Griffith** as the Jr. High Volleyball Coach, retroactive to February 10, 2025.

-Wash High Girls' Basketball Booster Club By-Laws.

Motion carried, Mr. Bird abstained from voting; all other members voted "yes",

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

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

Policy #003 – Organization

Policy #014 – Volunteers (includes AR1 and AR2)

Policy #211 – Employment Contract Board Resolution

Policy #501 – Admission of Beginners

Policy #502 – Eligibility of Nonresident Students

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-National Purchasing Cooperative Inter-local Participation Agreement between the National Purchasing Cooperative (**BuyBoard**) and Washington School District, at no cost to the district, effective on the date approved by both parties and shall automatically renew for successive one-year terms unless terminated in accordance to the Agreement.

-Contracted employment of **Bryce Graham** as a part-time school police officer, at a stipend of \$28 per hour.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-The 2025-2026 Intermediate Unit 1 Budget as presented. Their budget will remain constant for the 28th year at \$549,522. Washington School District's estimated contribution is \$12,318.

-Purchase the OPENGATE screening detection system, through the BuyBoard Cooperative Agreement, at a cost of \$34,826. *Purchased with Safe Schools grant money.*

Motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Operations Plans: Mr. Jones moved and Mrs. Kelley seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Washington School District's Emergency Operations Plan, as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Ratification and payment of bills in the amount of \$1,048,899.29.

Motion carried unanimously.

Board Discussion Items

-Hot Breakfast Options for Elementary School – Amy Phillips and Andy Bergman from The Nutrition Group, discussed different options for serving elementary students breakfast. They currently get a bagged breakfast off of a cart and take it to their classroom to eat. Students in grades 3-6 have options and students in grades K-2 get a pre-packed bag. They are working through details to see if it would be better to move all students to the cafeteria to serve breakfast, or if they can improve the bagged breakfasts for the classrooms. Mr. Lammay stated that they will continue working through this process and have something in place for the start of next school year.

-Bus Monitors – Mrs. Sparks-Gatling asked if it would be possible to get monitors for the school buses. Mr. Lammay stated that Mr. Love has ridden the bus on occasions when students have been misbehaving. They can look at the budget to see if there is some money to hire a couple of bus monitors and work out the details with GG&C.

-Use of Outdoor Spaces at the Elementary School – Mrs. Kilgore asked if the district can use any of the LSA grant money to build a playground in the courtyard. Mr. Lammay stated that the LSA money was designated for STEAM. However, he can apply again next year for the LSA grant and target the money for playground equipment. Mrs. Kilgore has been working with the elementary school principals and First Energy Green Team on improving the grounds behind the school. First Energy will purchase thousands of dollars' worth of shrubs and tree seedlings to plant in that area.

-Board members will sponsor a \$25 award for one student in 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade for Awards Day.

-Unfinished Business and New Business – Mr. Campbell asked why these items were removed from the agenda. Mr. Lammay stated that the Board Discussion item took the place of those two items. Board members can add items they wish to speak about at the meeting to this section of the agenda. Mr. Campbell stated that he didn't want to give his items prior to the meeting and Mr. Lammay stated that all items to be discussed must be submitted 24 hours prior to the meeting.

-OneDrive Items – Mr. Campbell asked why the public cannot see the items on OneDrive. Mr. Lammay stated that the Board discusses those items prior to the start of the meeting and they might decide to not approve an item. He does not want to share items that may not be approved.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Lammay reported on an LSA grant from Washington County Commissioners in the amount of \$59,597, negotiations with the support staff, Targeted Support & Intervention (TSI) designation for the high school, continued discussions with AMI to use their building on Jefferson Avenue as a possible site for the SESI program, student scheduling at the high school, complaints concerning noise and dirt from the high school brick project, part-time social worker from IU1, bus behavior, student attendance and transient students.

Solicitor's Report: Attorney Perkovich had no report.

Special Representative Reports

-Western Area Career & Technology Center – Mrs. Sparks-Gatling stated that Wash High's 9th grade students toured their facility last week. They also offer adult education programs, including omissions testing, vehicle safety, welding and a CDL course.

-PSBA – Mrs. Kilgore reported on Governor Shapiro's proposed budget, a webinar on the budget that she will share with Board members and changes at the federal level of the education department.

-Parking Authority – Mr. Jones stated that they discussed repairs on the parking garage, the City looked at repair costs and the County offered to help with repairs at not cost.

-Citywide Development Corporation (CDC) – No Report

-Updates from Activities, Education and Policy Committee Representatives:

Activities Committee (Mr. Bird) – The committee discussed the following items: team sports' pictures, more recognition for alumni athletes, the junior high soccer program, Spring sports' schedules and coaching positions.

Education Committee (Mrs. Roberts) – The committee focused on summer school programs. They will be similar to past years, run four days a week, end before July 4th, and possibly be mandatory for some students. They are still working out the details.

Policy Committee (Mrs. Ewing) – The committee met and discussed the five policies that were approved as First Reads at tonight's meeting. These policies will be recommended for adoption at the March 17th Board meeting.

Information

A. **March Board Meeting** – Monday, March 17, 2025 at 6:30 pm **at WACTC**

- B. Intermediate Unit 1's Convention and Student Showcase** at PennWest California
Convocation Center located at 250 University Avenue, California, PA 15419
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
Student Showcase and voting will take place from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Dinner is at 6:30 pm
RSVP to Lisa if you plan on attending. Deadline to RSVP is Friday, February 28th

- C. 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

Job Conference Reports for High School Exterior Improvement Project

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

Motion carried unanimously. 7:36 pm

/s/ Lisa Coffield
Lisa Coffield, Board Secretary