

January 21, 2025

A regular voting meeting of the Washington School Board was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 in the high school media center.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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.

-Donald Richard Bennett, 255 North Franklin Street, commented on suspension from sporting events and girls’ sports teams not getting the same recognition as the boy’s teams.

Recognitions

Retirement Recognitions

| | | |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|
| Jodie Ward | August 1999 to January 2025 | 25½ Years of Service |
| Colleen Shrontz | January 2010 to April 2025 | 15 Years of Service |
| Richard Mancini | August 1980 to June 1984 August 1999 to June 2025 | 30 Years of Service |

School Director Recognition

January is “School Director” recognition month. School directors were presented with a token of appreciation for volunteering their time and efforts on making sure the students in Washington School District receive an outstanding education.

Special Education Compliance

All areas of noncompliance from the monitoring visit on April 8, 2024 have been corrected as of January 9, 2025. PDE commends Mr. Lammay and our special education staff for their efforts made in achieving resolution of the noncompliance areas.

Grant Money for School Cafeterias

Congratulations to Kim Smith and Karen Tarentino for receiving \$44,843 from the “Local Food for Schools” grant. They also received \$3,200 from the “Farm to School” grant.

LifeChanger of the Year Recognition

Kurt Mahan and Amy Phillips have been nominated for National Life Group’s 2024-25 LifeChanger of the Year award. Sponsored by the National Life Group Foundation, LifeChanger of the Year recognizes and rewards the very best K-12 educators and school district employees across the United States who are making a difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence, and leadership. Winners will be announced early in 2025.

Each school year, LifeChanger of the Year receives hundreds of nominations from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Seventeen individual LifeChanger of the Year awards will be given during the 2024-2025 school year.

- (1) Grand Prize Winner – will receive \$10,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- (4) Grand Prize Finalists – will receive \$5,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- (10) LifeChanger Award Winners – will receive \$3,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- (1) Spirit Award Winner – This award is given to the nominee whose community demonstrates the most support for their nomination. The winner will receive \$5,000 to be shared with their school or district.
- (1) Spotlight Award Winner – This award is given to a nominee in a specific discipline each year. The winner will receive \$5,000 to be shared with their school or district.

Special Presentation: – Andreas Dometakis, architect from HHSDR, gave a presentation on the high school’s exterior construction project.

Questions on the Agenda: The Board reviewed the agenda.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Mrs. Barnes moved and Mrs. Ewing seconded that the minutes of the December 2, 2024 reorganization meeting and the December 2, 2024 worksession meeting be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: Mrs. Ewing moved and Mrs. Roberts seconded that the November 30, 2024 and December 31, 2024 Treasurer’s Reports be accepted as information, said report showing the following book balances:

| | <u>November 30, 2024</u> | <u>December 31, 2024</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 428,605.33 | \$ 147,432.79 |
| Payroll Account | \$ 48,224.75 | \$ 17,708.03 |
| Cafeteria Account | \$ 169,996.96 | \$ 125,958.21 |
| WHS Athletic Account | \$ 18,022.71 | \$ 13,297.33 |
| WHS Activities Account | \$ 74,717.02 | \$ 83,251.49 |
| WPS Activities Account | \$ 24,058.16 | \$ 24,149.52 |
| WSD PSDLAF-Capital Reserve Fund | \$ 395,622.89 | \$1,246,753.34 |
| WSD-PSDLAF-Expendable Benefit Trust | \$ 87,600.69 | \$ 87,927.71 |

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Recommend **Christopher Nagel** as a secondary science teacher, Master's degree, Step 6, \$49,960, effective February 10, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Retirement of **Jodie Ward**, full-time custodian, after 25½ years of service in the district. Ms. Ward's last day of work will be January 31, 2025.

-Retirement of **Colleen Shrontz**, part-time cafeteria worker, after 15 years of service in the district. Ms. Shrontz's last day of work will be April 4, 2025.

-Retirement of **Richard Mancini**, Director of District Operations, after 30 years of service in the district, effective June 30, 2025.

-Resignation **Kasey Scears**, secondary math teacher, after 1½ years of service in the district. Ms. Scears last day of work will be January 24, 2025.

-Resignation **Jennifer Davis**, elementary special education teacher, after 6 months of service in the district. Ms. Davis last day of work was January 17, 2025.

-Addition of **Jennifer Davis** to the list certified substitute teachers (*Special Ed and Elementary*)

-Resignation of **Isaiah Robinson**, full-time paraprofessional, after 1 year of service in the district. Mr. Robinson last day of work was December 20, 2024.

-Addition of **Isaiah Robinson** to the list of substitute paraprofessionals.

-Addition of **Patricia Patterson** to the list of substitute cafeteria workers.

-Addition of **Krystal Fields** to the list of substitute cafeteria workers and substitute paraprofessionals.

-Addition of **Roberta Bostic** to the list of certified substitute teachers. (*Early Childhood N-3*)

-Place **Employee #135** on unpaid leave effective January 21, 2025 through the end of the school year, with terms and conditions approved by the Solicitor.

-Extend the Temporary Long-Term Assignment of **Riley Carter** as a secondary science teacher, Bachelor's Degree, Step 1, \$45,860, effective January 22, 2025 through the end of the school year. This long-term assignment is for the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year. Ms. Riley 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 unpaid leave of Employee #135.*)

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

a. **Shelly Digon**

-Data Summit

March 24-26, 2025 – Hershey Lodge

Estimated cost – \$1,636

b. **Rebecca Myers-Matson**

-PaTTAN Autism Initiative Training
February 24-26, 2025 – PaTTAN West
Estimated cost - \$514

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Appoint **Mike Bosnic** as the Fall 2025-2026 Football Head Coach (Step 13+, \$12,379). The head coach for football may appoint 4 paid varsity assistant coaches, 1 paid junior high head coach, 3 paid junior high assistant coaches, 1 paid equipment manager and unlimited volunteer coaches, If student participation increases, the district will add additional coaches and/or event workers.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Appoint **Joe Blickenderfer** as the Fall 2025-2026 Girls Soccer Head Coach (Step 1-3, \$5,551). The head coach for soccer may appoint 1 paid varsity assistant coach and unlimited volunteer coaches. If student participation increases, the district will add additional coaches and/or event workers.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Appoint of **Jessica Ott** as the Fall 2025-2026 Cross Country Head Coach (Step 13+, \$5,470). The head coach for cross country may appoint 1 paid junior high head coach (payment formula per Rick Mancini) and unlimited volunteer coaches, If student participation increases, the district will add additional coaches and/or event workers.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Appoint of **Teresa Booker** as the Fall 2025-2026 Girls Volleyball Head Coach (Step 13+, \$5,470). The head coach for volleyball may appoint 1 paid varsity assistant coach and unlimited volunteer coaches, If student participation increases, the district will add additional coaches and/or event workers.

Motion carried, Mrs. Kelley and Mrs. Sparks-Gatling voted “no”; all other members voted “yes”.

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

-Appoint **Antoinette Dirda** as the Fall 2025-2026 Girls Tennis Head Coach (Step 1-3, \$4,362). The head coach for girls tennis may appoint unlimited volunteer coaches, If student participation increases, the district will add additional coaches and/or event workers.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Appoint **Michael McCort** as the Spring 2024-2025 Girls Softball Head Coach (Step 1-3, \$5442). The head coach for softball may appoint 1 paid varsity assistant coach and unlimited volunteer

coaches, If student participation increases, the district will add additional coaches and/or event workers.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Appoint **Josh Wise** as the Jr. High Girls Basketball Coach, Step 1-3, Stipend \$5,104.
- Appoint **Kyleigh Felio** as one of the Girls Middle School Volleyball Coaches, at a stipend of \$2,833.
- Appoint **Kathie Bosnic** as a Volunteer Middle School Volleyball Coach.
- Appoint **Nick Mandich** as a Girls Varsity Basketball Volunteer Coach.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Track Assistant Coaches and Volunteers

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|-----------------|-------------------------|----------|---------|
| Rich Barnes | Varsity Assistant Coach | Step 13+ | \$6,190 |
| Isaiah Robinson | Varsity Assistant Coach | Step 1-3 | \$4,564 |
| Derek Hull | Jr High Assistant Coach | Step 1-3 | \$4,564 |
| Malik Mitchell | Jr High Assistant Coach | Step 1-3 | \$4,564 |
| Susie Kohler | Jr High Assistant Coach | Step 13+ | \$6,190 |

Motion carried, Mrs. Barnes abstained; all other members voted “yes”.

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

-Baseball Assistant Coaches and Volunteers

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|--------------|--------------------|----------|---------|
| Ron Todd | Assistant Coach | Step 4-6 | \$4,967 |
| Tim Witenske | MS Assistant Coach | Step 1-3 | \$3,484 |
| Shawn Hughes | Volunteer | | |
| Kyle Winters | Volunteer | | |

Motion carried, Mrs. Sparks-Gatling voted “no”; all other members voted “yes”.

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

-Softball Assistant Coaches and Volunteers

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|-------------------|-----------------|----------|---------|
| Brandon Pape | Assistant Coach | Step 1-3 | \$4,564 |
| Anthony Belcastro | Volunteer | | |
| Kasey Scears | Volunteer | | |

Motion carried unanimously.

Contracts, Agreements and Grants: Mrs. Kilgore moved and Mrs. Kelley seconded that the Board approve the following:

- Lease agreement between Washington School District and Intermediate Unit 1 for the rental of one (1) classroom during the 2024-2025 school year, at a cost of \$1,500, payable in two (2) semi-annual installments of \$750.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Purchase of athletic supplies for Spring sports for the 2025-2026 school year in the total amount of \$14,273.29.
- Addition of Frank Donley to the list of drivers for GG&C Bus Company, retroactive to January 9, 2025.
- Award the following E-Rate contracts for the 2025-2026 school year, with the option to renew to an additional two years:
 - a. Award the contract for 10 Gbps of WAN, which is the fiber connection between the high school and elementary school buildings, to DQE Communications, at a cost of \$1,700.00 per month. (*School District share of the cost is 10%*)
 - b. Award the contract for 5 Gbps internet service, with accompanying DDOS service, to DQE Communications, at a cost of \$1,653.75 per month. (*School District share of the cost is 10%*)
- The following two change orders:
 - a. Change order with Mariani & Richards, Inc. for the demolition and reconstruction of the masonry veneer on the high school 1963 addition, at a cost of \$268,817.
 - b. Change order with AB Specialties for an additional 12 window openings on the high school 1963 addition, at a cost of \$42,943.

Motion carried unanimously.

Act 1 Resolution: Mrs. Ewing moved and Mr. Jones seconded that the Board approve the following:

- Adopt the Act 1 Resolution indicating that Washington School District will not raise its tax rate for the 2025-2026 school year more than the allowable index.

Motion carried unanimously.

School Calendar: Mrs. Barnes moved and Mrs. Ewing seconded that the Board approve the following:

- Approve the School Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Course Curriculum Guide: Mrs. Ewing moved and Mrs. Kilgore seconded that the Board approve the following:

- Washington High School's 2025-2026 Course Curriculum Guide.

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 \$1,892,164.43.

Motion carried unanimously.

Board Discussion Items

-Graduation Location – The Board had a lengthy discussion on the sound system at the football stadium and whether to have the graduation ceremony at the stadium or in the high school gymnasium. The majority of Board members want graduation to take place at the stadium and fix the issues with the sound system.

-Update on District Grants – Board members were given a list of all current grants.

-Metal Detectors at Jr/Sr High School (for security and vaping devices) –The district is getting proposals to review and if finances permit, the Board will take action on purchasing the detectors.

-Enrollment Birthdate Cutoff – The Board discussed the cutoff date for Kindergarten enrollment. After the discussion, it was decided to change the cutoff date from June 1st to August 1st.

-Board Committee Meetings Scheduled for Days When School is Canceled – The Board discussed what to do when Board committee meetings are scheduled on flexible instruction days or cancellation days. It was decided that any committee meetings scheduled on flexible instruction days or cancellation days will be reschedule to another day so that everyone can meet in person. The exemption is the Policy Committee, which always meets via Zoom.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Lammay reported on the district's recognition for its exceptional third grade reading program, he reviewed last year's PSSA and Keystone data, AMI is going to be coming in a couple days a week to work with secondary students, starting a district alternative ed / special ed program that would be located in a local building close to the high school, and local meetings he has attended.

Solicitor's Report: Attorney Perkovich had no report.

Special Representative Reports

-Western Area Career & Technology Center – Mrs. Sparks-Gatling stated that they have a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, they are working with participating districts on expanding programs, HHSDR was awarded the contract for their new automotive building, a lot of their programs are at maximum enrollment and their new director and principal are doing an awesome job.

-PSBA – Mrs. Kilgore reminded the Board to watch for continuing education emails, she will be sending out a list of in-person workshops that are being offered and maybe they can plan a workshop for Board members, and she gave an update on their scheduled trip to Germany in March.

-Parking Authority – Mr. Jones stated that they did not have a meeting last month and since Mr. Mancini is retiring, Mr. Jones will be the new chairman of the committee.

-Citywide Development Corporation (CDC) – No Report

-Updates from Activities, Education and Policy Committee Representatives:

Activities Committee (Mr. Bird) – The committee discussed the following items: possibly partnering with McGuffey for a boys' soccer team, volleyball getting new pools and netting, the Huddle tv system, the quote for new weight room equipment, metal/vape detectors, behavior at games, academics/attendance being used for participation in the youth program, and the possibility of having a baseball/softball field at the football stadium.

Education Committee (Mrs. Roberts) – The committee's last two meetings have been postponed due to flexible instruction days.

Policy Committee (Mrs. Ewing) – The committee did not meet in December or January. They will be meeting the first Wednesday of February.

Information

- A. **February Board Meeting – Tuesday**, February 18, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the high school cafeteria
- B. **Presidents Day** – NO SCHOOL – Monday, February 17, 2025
- C. **Job Conference Reports for High School Exterior Improvement Project**-*Uploaded on OneDrive*
- D. **Health Insurance Rate Increase** – *Uploaded on OneDrive*
- E. **Portnoff Delinquent Tax Information** – *Uploaded on OneDrive*
- F. **Ethics “Statement of Financial Interests” Forms** – These forms were emailed and mailed to your home addresses. Please complete and return them as soon as possible.

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

Motion carried unanimously. 8:10 pm

/s/ Lisa Coffield
Lisa Coffield, Board Secretary