



## West Plains Schools Board Update

February 21st, 2017

**Pledge of Allegiance** - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the West Plains Elementary 4th Grade Choir, directed by Mrs. Patti Kelly. The choir is an extra-curricular group of 26 auditioned singers in fourth grade. The group focuses on singing techniques, learning repertoire, and performing as an ensemble. The students perform carols around town, lead the school-wide caroling, perform the national anthem at a Grizzly game, and culminate the year with a spring concert in March.

### **2017-2018 Calendar - 2nd Read & Approval**

Last month the board conducted a first read of the 2017-2018 district calendar. The calendar is very similar to the current year calendar using corresponding dates. The board approved the calendar as presented. The 2017-2018 calendar will be available soon online at [www.zizzers.org](http://www.zizzers.org) under Quick Links.

### **Ballot Issue Discussion**

Last month, the board voted to place an issue on the ballot in August of 2017 with the scope to be determined. An open discussion was held among board members and Dr. Mulford during the February board meeting. The board unanimously approved a phased-in model that would increase the levy by 25 cents for three consecutive years, for a total of 75 cents over the three year period. The scope of project will remain the same as presented to voters during the April 2016 election.

Dr. Mulford, superintendent of the West Plains School District, shared, "We are going back to the voters because we have a need for additional space. Our enrollment continues to grow and our existing elementary and middle school spaces simply weren't designed to accommodate our current enrollment needs. The school board, staff, and administration are continuing to find temporary solutions, but we need to continue working toward a long-term answer for the benefit of our kids." Mulford went on to note, "the total amount we are asking for is 20 cents lower than the previous proposal. In addition, it will be phased in over a three year period so that our patrons don't have a sharp spike in property tax all in one year. We will set out to complete the whole project as presented in April 2016, but there is a chance that the 75 cent increase will not cover the entire cost associated with the scope of the facility expansion plan. If this is the case, we will have to narrow down the project with the focus being on additional classroom spaces."

With voter approval in August, the projected timeline for completion of the project would be between August of 2019 to January of 2020.

### **Opaa! Food Management Contract Extension**

Each year the district reevaluates the food service contract with Opaa! Food Management. The district is pleased with the service and quality of food. The board approved the contract for an additional year.

### **Set Tuition for 2017-2018**

Each year, the board establishes a tuition rate to be charged for non-resident students attending the school district (primarily the high school). As a reminder, tuition is charged for these students because the funding for non-resident students is actually sent to the school district in which they reside rather than the West Plains School District that they attend. Tuition billing is how the district recoups the costs associated with educating non-resident students. The district uses a formula to calculate tuition that is based on actual cost per student as identified in the Annual Secretary of the Board Report. The tuition rate for the 2017-18 school year has been set at \$7,880.95 per student. This reflects an \$8.21 decrease per student over the current year.

### **Purchase of Additional Trailer at Elementary**

Dr. Boyer recently solicited bids for an additional trailer at the West Plains Elementary, which will provide 2 additional classroom spaces for the 2017-18 school year and a total of 6 classes that will be served in mobile classrooms. Missouri Leasing Equipment had the best proposal at \$28,500. The board approved the bid and the trailer will be put in place for the 2017-2018 school year. Other site prep costs are estimated to be approximately \$25,000.

### **Hires for the current year**

Melissa Collins –Custodian

Robert Howell – Custodian

### **Hires for the 2017-18 school year**

Jennifer Coffey – Elem. Teacher

Antonio De La Torre – High School Science

Tammy Heiney – Elem. Teacher

Kim Mathews – Elem. Teacher

Tori Richardson – Elem. Teacher

Alesa Schoelles – Special Ed. Teacher

Dianne Popp – Physical Ed. Teacher/Coach

### **Resignations**

Austin Riggs - Paraprofessional

Matthew Asher – Paraprofessional

Kelsey Temple – Secretary

### **Resignations** (effective at the end of the school year):

Anna Hulsey – Elem. Teacher

### **Retirements** (effective at the end of the school year):

Ruby Collins – FACS Teacher

Ramona Talburt - P.E. Teacher

Sandy Ross - Business & Computer Instructor

Patty Kelly - Elementary Music Teacher

Rebecca Adkisson - Elementary Secretary

Rhonda Loring - Middle School English Teacher

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 21st, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

*School board meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday of each month at the West Plains School of Education Office, 305 Valley View Drive, unless otherwise posted.*