



West Plains Schools Board Update

October 17, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by West Plains Elementary 4th grade students and the high school Z-Caps program.

The West Plains Elementary fourth grade classes are focusing on problem based learning, a student-centered approach in which students learn about a subject by working in groups to solve an open-ended problem. So far this fall the students have been involved in an Invention Shark Tank, Heart Hurricanes, a Kindness Challenge and Reading Buddies. The classes are also planning to host a food drive for the Bridges program, a St. Jude Penny Drive and writing to soldiers overseas.

GoCaps is a new program to the West Plains High School this year. The program focuses on allowing juniors and seniors to test drive their future career options by partnering with area business and professionals with an emphasis in engineering and manufacturing, entrepreneurship, health care or technology. Current partners include Ozarks Medical Center and the West Plains Elementary. Students attend a morning session three times per week throughout the year. The students are spending the first semester exploring all possible careers in their fields. During the second semester students will be able to choose their favorite areas and participate in an internship with the business partner.

MSBA Fall Conference Recap

The board of education attended the Missouri School Board Association conference on October 5th – October 8th, 2017. The conference was in cooperation with the Missouri Association of School Administrators and focused on engaging, learning and connecting.

Leave Policy Update

The district has been working with the salary committee to amend the sick leave buyback policy. The amendment will replace the need for an early separation incentive in future years and provide a higher rate for those who give ample notice for separation. The amendment is also designed to encourage staff to use leave sparingly, the classroom is much more effective with regular teacher instruction. The board read through the policy update last month and unanimously approved the policy this month.

Zizzers In Action (ZiA) Innovation Classroom, 6th grade proposal

Dr. Davis presented to the board a 6th grade innovation proposal for the 2018-2019 school year. The primary idea is to create an academy for 40-50 6th grade students. The academy will focus on innovative ideas, problem based learning, technology, and onsite learning experiences for students. The proposal is a result of increased enrollment in the district and the pursuit of creating a problem based learning environment. The board approved the proposal.

Early Degree Program MOU, 1st Read

The South Central Career Center has been working with the Missouri State University – West Plains to develop an additional degree path related to the current Early Degree Program. The SCCC early degree program will align with career and technical education while dually enrolled in SCCC and MSU-WP.

Hires:

Teresa Ehrhart – Paraprofessional

Resignations:

Cody McKee - Paraprofessional

Pamela Shamblin – Paraprofessional

The next board meeting is scheduled for November 21st 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.