



West Plains School District Board Update

November 27th, 2018

Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the board of education.

Academic Update

New Commissioner

Margie Vandeven has been hired to return to her role as Missouri commissioner for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Missouri Board of Education. Vandeven will begin her duties on Jan. 2, 2019.

New Computer Science Bill

Gov. Mike Parson signed HB 3 into law on Tuesday, October 30, 2018, to expand STEM opportunities.

A "STEM Career Awareness Program" for middle school students — Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has until Jan. 1, 2019, to solicit proposals for the online program's provider, and must select a provider by March 1. A state treasury fund set up for the program will collect appropriations from state government, as well as public and private donations.

DESE has until July 1, 2019, to develop a high school graduation policy that will allow students to substitute one unit of science, math or practical arts academic credit for a computer science course. Practical arts refers to courses such as agriculture or business.

DESE shall also convene a work group to develop "rigorous academic performance standards" for computer science for K-12 students, and the State Board of Education shall adopt and implement computer science standards for the 2019-20 school year. Dr. Williams has been selected by Dr. Blaine Henningsen, Assistant Commissioner in the office of Career and Technical Education to serve as one of the writers for the grade 3-5 computer science standards.

Pathways for Teachers Grant

The West Plains School District has been awarded a Pathways for Teachers Grant which will provide professional development and curriculum authoring opportunities for district faculty and staff.

The district is implementing the grant in the form of an externship program through the South Central Career Center (SCCC) to provide career awareness as professional development for district teachers and counselors.

The district seeks to eliminate any stigma for students attached with programs housed in the SCCC. Educating district counselors and middle/high school instructors to reduce the expectation that low-performing students excel in technical programs because they believe it will be easy for them to complete and acquire a credential. The SCCC externship will educate participants through presentations, field experiences and hands on demonstrations, that CTE programs require an in-depth knowledge of communication arts, math and science. It is the district's hope, to educate instructors and counselors of the requirements and job potential for technical programs so each may encourage and enroll high performing students in SCCC courses.

The district teams of West Plains Middle School and West Plains High School teachers

spend professional development days observing and training at the SCCC and other area businesses. The trainings will cover CTE indicators, industry needs and high demand careers in the area. After the initial training, participants will engage in hands-on activities with instructors in SCCC technical labs to illustrate the type of preparation provided by the district which will lead toward seamless post-secondary transitions and promote on-going personal and professional growth, based on current industry standards and best practices.

Next, teams will tour business and industries that serve our students and communities to demonstrate what these careers look like in practice. The facilitator will bring the objective together on their final day by moderating a panel of human resource personnel and participant presentations. Participants will make a final presentation to the board of education. The grant pays for substitutes and stipend for curriculum revision. (\$19,296.00)

Board Candidate Filings

Board candidate election filing opens 8:00 a.m. on December 11th and runs through 5:00 p.m. January 15th, 2018. Sam Riggs & Cindy Tyree are in their final year of a three year term. Both seats will be up for election in April.

2018 Annual Audit Review

Bill Wood from Shultz, Wood, & Rapp presented the findings of the annual district audit to the School Board. Mr. Wood reported that the district remains in compliance with the state budgeting and finance requirements. All Missouri school districts are required to have an independent audit conducted each year. The board unanimously approved the report from Shultz, Wood, & Rapp.

MSBA Policy Update

MSBA has provided the district with some additional policy recommendations that align to legislative changes. The board approved the policy recommendations.

Budget Amendment

During the fall of each fiscal year, the district reviews revenues and expenditures and adjusts the budget accordingly. The board approved the budget amendments as presented.

Food Service Update

Last month, Dr. Davis collected over 150 responses from the staff concerning our food program. He is now using the information to begin the bidding process and food selection. Bidding packets were mailed out to possible bidders on November 20th. The bids are due January 7th and the board will take action on January 15th.

Parents as Teachers Update

A parent educator works with families with children from prenatal to kindergarten entry using skills in partnering, facilitating and reflecting with parents. Parent educators provide parent education and family support to enhance the quality of parenting, increase a parent's understanding of child development and work with parents to help their child learn, grow and develop to meet their full potential. The district plans to hire a part time Parent Educator at the December board meeting. More information on the position can be found [HERE](#).

Memorandum of Understanding with Launch

A memorandum of understanding has been established between the West Plains School District and Springfield Public Schools to begin a Launch partnership. Launch is a program developed to provide students access to online courses. Online courses provide students access to courses not available in their school district, additional flexibility in scheduling and credit recovery opportunities. This partnership is being created to expand these opportunities for students across Missouri with high quality online learning environments developed by Missouri teachers and taught by highly qualified Missouri teachers.

Hires:

Keyarra Smith – Bus Driver
Stephen Cook – Custodian

Resignations:

Stephanie Wood (Retirement) – WPHS Special Education
Anna Mayberry (Retirement) – WPMS Computer/Title I/Yearbook
Antonia De La Torre – WPHS Science Instructor
Steve Balough – WPHS ZPA
RaDonna Henry (Retirement) – WPHS Math
Mick Price – WPMS Social Studies
Stacy Kerly – WPMS Secretary
Debra Head – WPE Officer Manager

The next board meeting is scheduled for December 18th, at 5:00 p.m. – West Plains High School.

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.