

October 20, 2025

A regular voting meeting of the Washington School Board was held on Monday, October 20, 2025 in the high school cafeteria.

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 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
	Mr. Robney Jones	Mrs. Tara Sparks-Gatling

Absent: Mrs. Jennifer Ewing

Non-Voting Member Present: Mrs. Alisa King, Superintendent

Present: Mr. Robert Mihelcic, Assistant to the Superintendent
Mrs. Rebecca Heaton-Hall, Solicitor
Mrs. Emily DiNardo, Business Manager

Executive Session: The Board met in executive session prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel items. 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.

Presentation: Diane Ambrose, Director, and Kathy Pienkowski, Operations Manager, thanked the Board for their continued support and gave a presentation on programs the Library has been offering over the past year.

Questions on the Agenda: The Board reviewed the agenda. There was one revision to the agenda item for the stipend for Robert Mihelcic needed to have the following wording added to the motion: Stipend amount of \$200 per day.

Agenda: Mrs. Roberts moved and Mr. Campbell seconded that the agenda be approved with the added wording.

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Mr. Jones moved and Mrs. Kelley seconded that the minutes of the September 15, 2025 regular voting meeting and September 25, 2025 special meeting be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Barnes moved and Mr. Campbell seconded that the September 30, 2025 Treasurer's Report be accepted as information, said report showing the following book balances:

	<u>September 30, 2025</u>
General Fund	\$ 504,275.59
Payroll Account	\$ 23,999.42
Cafeteria Account	\$ 13,648.59
WHS Athletic Account	\$ 12,837.99
WHS Activities Account	\$ 84,763.12
WPS Activities Account	\$ 20,938.36
WSD PSDLAF-Capital Reserve Fund	\$1,604,145.02
WSD-PSDLAF-Expendable Benefit Trust	\$ 620,478.26

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Stipend for **Robert Mihelcic** for the time he served as Acting Superintendent from August 18, 2025 through September 3, 2025, at an amount of \$200 per day.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Create and post for a kindergarten class size reduction teacher for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year. (*Position will be paid with Title I funds.*)

-Retirement of **Beth Ross**, payroll administrative assistant, after 25 years of service in the district. Mrs. Ross' last day of employment will be January 2, 2026.

-Resignation of **Jesse Miller** as a full-time maintenance worker, after 2½ years of service in the district. Mr. Miller's last day of employment was September 17, 2025.

-Resignation of **Cheryl Oliver**, part-time paraprofessional, after 1½ years of service in the. Ms. Oliver's last day of employment was November 15, 2024.

-Discharge **Employee #2104**, full-time custodian. Employee's last day of work was October 14, 2025. (*Employee was in their 45-day probationary period.*)

-Recommend **Nathan Rossman** as a secondary science teacher, master's degree, step 8, \$52,285 in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement, effective October 21, 2025.

-Recommend **Jaclyn Masco** as a special ed teacher, master's degree, step 3, \$50,685 in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement. Effective November 5, 2025, contingent upon receipt of required employment documents.

-Recommend **Lathan Elder** as a full-time paraprofessional, 186 days a year, 7½ hours a day, \$15.85 per hour, in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement, effective October 21, 2025.

-Supplemental employment of **Neil Freeze** as the Future Teachers of American sponsor, at the stipend of \$392 for the 2025-2026 school year.

- Addition of **Amber Thomas** to the list of certified substitute teachers for the 2025-2026 school year.
(*Grades PreK-4*)
- Addition of **Tiffany Carroll, Jennifer Cottrill** and **Jonathan Stout** as WSD Emergency substitute teachers for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Addition of **Linda Levers** to the list substitute cafeteria workers for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Unpaid leave for **Linda Chandler**, part-time cafeteria worker, effective November 14-20, 2025.
- Supplemental employment of the following teachers for after-school programs:

Jr/Sr High School After-School Tutoring

Grades 7-12

Monday-Thursday 3:00 – 4:00 pm

September 22, 2025 through June 4, 2026

\$28 per hour

Teacher: Jeff Devenney

Substitute: Shawn Hughes-Ankrom

Jr/Sr High School After-School and Saturday Detention

Grades 7-12

Monday-Thursday 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

September 8, 2025 through June 4, 2026

\$28 per hour

Teacher: Teresa Booker

Substitute: Erin Moore and Shawn Hughes-Ankrom

Homework and More

Location – Lemoyne Center

Grades K-6

Monday-Thursday

3:00 – 4:00 pm for Intermediate Teachers

4:00 – 5:00 pm for Primary Teachers

October 13, 2025 through April 10, 2026

\$28 per hour

Teachers: Tiffani Titler, Neil Freeze, Ashley Kern, Matthew Macek and Jordan Harshman

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Exclusive Field Trip** for band students to perform at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida on April 23-26, 2026. (*Volunteers must submit clearances prior to the trip.*)

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Recommend **Michele Engle** as the Unified Bocce Head Coach, at a stipend of \$1,020.
- Recommend **Katherine Correa** as a Volunteer Tennis Coach for the 2025-2026 season.
- Recommend the following assistant coaches and volunteers for the 2025-2026 Winter sports teams:

Boys Basketball

Anthony Belcastro	Head Jr High Coach	\$5,623
Eric Bird	Volunteer Middle School Assistant	
Bobby Russell	Volunteer	

Girls Basketball

Greg Papon	Varsity Assistant Coach	\$6,453
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Rifle

Charles Eisiminger	Assistant Coach	\$2,681
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Wrestling

Bill Simpson	Varsity Assistant Coach	\$5,623
Brandon Pape	Jr. High Head Coach	\$2,861
Wray Adams	Volunteer	

MS Girls Volleyball

Gretchen Battafarano	Middle School Coach	\$2,861
Teresa Booker	Middle School Coach	\$2,861

Cheerleading

Kevin Krause	Volunteer
Latora Carter	Volunteer Jr High
Amara Kennedy	Volunteer Jr High

Motion carried, all members present voting “yes”, with Mr. Bird “abstaining” from voting on himself as a volunteer middle school assistant basketball coach.

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

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

Policy #506 – Dress Code and Grooming
 Policy #576 – Food Allergy Management
 Policy #801 – Transportation of Students

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Agreement with UPMC Washington Teen Outreach/Academy for Adolescent Health, Inc. to provide their SOS Presentation for students in grades 6 through 12 and their Respect Online training for students in grades 6 through 12, at no cost to the district.

-Proposal from HHSDR Architects to perform architectural and engineering services for a feasibility study of the field house, at a cost of \$9,500; and authorized HHSDR and administration to solicit proposals for geotechnical test borings, comprehensive site survey and asbestos inspection report.

Motion carried unanimously.

Business and Finance: Mr. Bird moved and Mrs. Kilgore seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Ala Carte prices for the 2025-2026 school year.

-Award bids for winter sports, in the amount of \$14,667.05.

-Change Order #GC-5 from Mariani & Richards to extend the Final Project Completion date from August 29, 2025 to January 7, 2026 and the Final Project Closeout Completion date from September 29, 2025 to February 6, 2026 for the exterior envelope improvements at the high school.

-Agreement between Washington School District and the City of Washington for the City's Treasurer's Office to collect the 2026 school district Mercantile and Business Privilege taxes, at a cost of \$33,000, to be paid in quarterly installments of \$8,250, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

-Addition of Amanda Lettich to the list of drivers for GG&C Bus Company.

-Memorandum of Understanding between Washington School District and John F. Kennedy Elementary School to utilize each other's facilities in the event of an emergency.

-Resolution appointing Emily DiNardo, Business Manager, as the Pennsylvania OPEB Trust Liaison for the District.

-Resolution authorizing Mrs. Alisa King, Superintendent, to sign any and all contracts, agreements, grants and /or licenses with the Department of Education. The use of electronic signatures by the above named individual and that no handwritten signature from the above named individual shall be required in order for any contract with the Department to be legally enforceable and that by affixing his/her electronic signature to an electronic file of the contract via the Department's e-grants system, the above designated authorized individual shall have effectively executed and delivered the contract, binding the Washington School District to comply with the terms of said contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ratification and Payment of Bills: Mr. Bird moved and Mr. Campbell seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Ratification and payment of bills in the amount of \$4,128,560.90.

Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

-The Board discussed the vacant Washington County IU1 Board seat from December 2025 to March 2026 and Mr. Bird expressed interest in filling the position.

-Mrs. Sparks-Gatling expressed interest in Zoom links being provided for upcoming Board meetings and asked the Board to consider providing this option for the public.

Superintendent's Report – Mrs. King stated that she received a letter from Mr. Uri Monson, PA's Secretary of the Budget, informing her that the Senate did not pass the proposed budget last week and in that budget Washington School District would have received 1.1 million dollars in funding and a reduction in cyber/charter school costs. He is asking that we contact our local senators and urge them to pass the budget.

Solicitor's Report: Attorney Heaton-Hall stated that the superintendent transition has been seamless; Mrs. King and Mr. Mihelcic make a great team. She has been working with the policy committee on revising policies.

Special Representative Reports

-Western Area Career & Technology Center – Mrs. Sparks-Gatling stated their meeting is this Wednesday. They have been discussing adding several new programs, they continue to look for funding opportunities, and Wasington currently has 79 students enrolled in the Center.

-PSBA – Mrs. Kilgore had no report.

-Parking Authority – Mrs. DiNardo stated that they are still working on replacing the payment kiosk, they are looking for grant opportunities and revenue is still coming into the garage.

-Updates from Activities, Education and Policy Committee Representatives:

Activities Committee (Mr. Bird) – They discussed the field house feasibility study, defects in the new wall wrap and coach stipends.

Education Committee (Mrs. Roberts) – They discussed adding a kindergarten teaching position for the remainder of this school year, K-2 report cards, benchmark assessments, safety training, the hot breakfast program, the high school's ATSI Plan, high school attendance, QR code for submitting excuses for absences, exploring different pathways for graduation, bus monitors, WACTC visit for 8th grade students, starting a boys/girls club or Big Brothers/Big Sisters program and a new pilot program for parent communication called "Parent Square", which will be free from now until June 2026.

Policy Committee (Mrs. Ewing) – They revised the Dress Code policy, and added wording to the Food Allergy policy to address the school being a "nut-free facility"; and added wording to the Transportation policy that will state all K-2 students must have an adult present at the bus stop when getting off the bus after school.

Information

A. **November Board Meeting** – Monday, November 17th at 6:30 pm in the high school cafeteria

B. **Parent/Teacher Conference Day** – Thursday, November 6th

C. **In-Service Day** – Friday, November 7th

D. **Fall Break** – Wednesday, November 26th through Friday, November 28th

- E. Cypher & Cypher's Fraud Risk Assessment Questionnaire** – These forms are at your board seat. Please complete them as soon as possible and mail back to Cypher & Cypher in the attached envelope.

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

Motion carried unanimously. 7:22 pm

/s/ Lisa Coffield
Lisa Coffield, Board Secretary