



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY  
AMERICAS

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT  
WEST POINT SCHOOLS  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY  
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996-1196

June 7, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of West Point School Board Meeting, June 7, 2017

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the West Point School Board was called to order by Mrs. Evangelista, on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, at 4:40 PM in the West Point MS Information Center.

2. **Members Present were:**

Christine DeGregory, Board Member  
Heather Evangelista, President  
Tim Viles, Board Member

Helen Balilo, Community Superintendent  
Rebecca Hyleman, Vice President

**Others Present:**

Sue Kerns  
Denise Cochenour, ES Principal  
Maura DuMoulin  
Gala Edgar, Union Representative

Denise Eves, School Board Clerk (VTC)  
Miles Shea, MS Principal  
Edgar Perry, Admin Officer  
Michi Carl

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was amended to include the following: Lunch, Climate Change and Recess Playground and Wellness Policy. Mrs. Hyleman made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. DeGregory seconded the motion. By unanimous vote the agenda was approved.
4. **APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES:** The minutes from the May 3, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Mrs. DeGregory motioned approval of the past minutes. Mrs. Hyleman seconded the motion. By unanimous vote the minutes were approved.
5. **MILCON Report:** Trees are down.  
    ✚ Blasting Plan – Blasting will begin in June or July will last about 10 -12 weeks. Notification to the community will be sent via One Call.  
    ✚ Playground: Family Church of Middleburg will start picking up the playground equipment.  
    ✚ Access road.
6. **INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE SCHOOL BOARD:** Mr. Michael Kirney voiced concerns about the Pre-K classes for his special needs child. WPES offers an integrated Pre-K/PSCD program for students. Mr. Kirney expressed concerns about the class size for his child. His child is projected to be in a class with 10-12 students but the family's preference is to have the child in a smaller classroom with smaller numbers. There was also concern expressed that his child is scheduled to attend the PM session and the family preference is for the child to attend the AM session.

Other parents in attendance voiced suggestions, concerns and appreciation for the SPED services their children receive including the following topics and suggestions.

- Placement: more age appropriate and have an aide for the child.
- How can the community provide information to the schools in order to project the number of inbound of families with special needs children.
- Suggested a summit with the schools and the agencies on post to discuss the issues and what programs are available and to bring the parents together and talk to them about their concerns.

Mrs. Balilo discussed the CSC process. She will schedule an Open Forum in September to discuss the process for Special Education with Mrs. LaVenuta, Special Education ISS in attendance.

Mr. Viles voiced a concern that this is the second year in a row that we have had concerns about the SPED program raised in this venue. What steps have we taken? Do these issues need to go above the Principals and the Community Superintendent?

Mrs. Balilo stated that this is an inappropriate setting for any staff member or administrator to discuss specific needs of students. What can be assured is that if we have the data to support the need, we set up an appropriate program for the student. We must have the data to support the decisions for the classroom. She stated that if we don't have the resources, we go outside and bring the resources in when necessary. We strive to work in partnership with every family that comes through our doors, however at times parents come to us to request accommodations without the data to support the request.

Mr. Viles asked how the Board could review our programs. How do we look and are we being proactive instead of being reactive?

Mrs. Balilo stated that it would be inappropriate to share IEPs with the Board but she can assure that the SPED department is very proactive.

One parent praised the West Point Schools community. She stated that prior the family PCS she met with Mrs. LaVenuta from Quantico to ensure a smooth transition for her student. She further State that that documents were faxed from Quantico to West Point to ensure a smooth transition to West Point. Important thing is if you have any idea that you are moving to another DoDEA school, the schools are willing to work with you.

Mrs. Evangelist stated that we need to move forward and that will allow the board to gain more information.

Mr. Kirney stated that this issue is everyone's problem from management of the facilities and staff, USMA, Keller, and DoDEA.

Sue Kerns: Updated the board on the 100 Centuries of Learning. A decision was made on the commemorative coin via a surveyed conducted with the staff. The cost for the coin is \$10. The PTO needs to say yes and figure out the ordering process.

7. **BOARD PRESIDENT COMMENTS:** Focus on the following:

- Last year didn't feel like a united whole. Now we are.
- Parent feedback
- Communicating better
- Musical
- Earth day everyday
- Senior walk

8. **REPORTS:**

9. PTO Report: No report

10. SLO Report: report given by Michi Carl

- With You All The Way USO TOUR was very successful! There were 10 shows (3 school districts) covering issues youth face (i.e. bullying, cliques, homework) as well as unique challenges military kids face (i.e. moving, making friend, deployment). The USO Comfort Crew has penciled in James I. O'Neill HS as the pilot location for their new high school curriculum, October 2017).
- The Community Relations Council for Education held on 6 June included an informative presentation by our NYS Commissioner for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

- See the Point, tours of West Point MWR facilities and WPMS, are scheduled for July 13th, 20th, 27th and August 3rd. This year we plan to invite current WPES 4th graders on a space available basis to assist with the transition from WPES to WPMS. In addition the current WP youth can talk to incoming youth about school and community happenings.
- The Summer Boat Ride for all rising 9th graders and new students to James. I. O'Neill HS will be held on 23 August from 2:00-4:00. Flyers will go out via WPMS as well as James I. O'Neill HS to local rising 9th graders.
- Future Initiative: I am looking to bring Tutor.com to West Point Schools and the CYS YS and SAC, this fall. They will work with students 3rd grade and above, staff, parents - all stakeholders. This will help students, parents and staff with hands on familiarity of tutor.com.

**Superintendent's Reports:** Mrs. Balilo presented the certificate to Mrs. Hyleman. She presented Edgar Perry with a gift as he is living to go to Germany. Mrs. Balilo presented Maura DeMoulin with flowers in honor of her upcoming retirement.

**11. School Updates:** Each school gave a staffing report. Mrs. Balilo announced the West Point ES Assistant Principal selection. There are no RIFs happening at the schools. Hiring is taking place for those who are retiring or moving.

## **12. CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

- Lunch Room – Wellness Policy
  - There is no cake due to nut free zone and the types of cake that could be brought in.
  - Wellness policy is very broad. It was stated by a parent that the lunch program was in arrears. Mr. Perry stated that it wasn't and wasn't sure where that information came from. There is a vending machine in the school. A decision was made not to give students the alternate lunch. There is a process and procedure to contact the sponsor to claim the funds. Our concern is with the child and that the child receives a lunch. The question was asked if there was a Cafeteria Manager selected. Mrs. Balilo stated that the person was selected for the position and that Fort Bragg manages that selection. If there is a delay in the person arriving to West Point, Mr. Roberson would travel to West Point to get the program going.
- Wellness Policy – Mrs. Balilo stated that the policy is being review for the the final approvals. Once it is approved, it will be placed on the schools website.
- Survey: Deadline was extended. A parent stated that the children thought the teachers were going to see their answers. That is not the case. The students could take the survey at home.
- Suggestion boxes: consistent and making it private on the website. Can suggestions come to the board?
- The goal is to have the minutes posted by Friday.

## **13. NEW BUSINESS:**


- Cyber Bullying: presentation. Will there be more from the survey? Feedback for the presentation.
- Suggestion box for students: Can this be in a digital format? Are the boxes in the classrooms and the hallways?
- Lunch Recess Order: Elementary School always has lunch and then recess. Mr. Shea explained the lunch schedule for the Middle School as the following: during the quarters it switches between who eats lunch first and plays first and vice versa.
- Special Ed Open Forum: Thursday during the day.

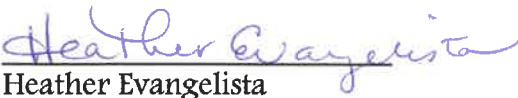
Swearing in the New Board members: Mrs. Balilo swore in Sarah Gardner-Cox.

**14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the West Point School Board will be held on August 2, 2017, 4:30 PM, in the Middle School Information Center. School Board training will be August 2, 2017 during the day. Executive Session on August 2, 2017.

September 6, 2017. Alternate between schools during the meetings. 1 club only for 5-10 mins each. Specific topics for the Superintendent instead of the Superintendent's Report. Suggestion by Mr. Viles is to do more online instead of at the meeting. A vote will be brought to the board. Information in an email is better. Enrollment report.

15. **ADJOURN MEETING:** Mrs. Hylman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. DeGregory seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 PM.

Approved by:   
Helen Balilo  
Community Superintendent

  
Heather Evangelista  
President, West Point School Board