



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY
AMERICAS
MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT
WEST POINT SCHOOLS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996-1196

1 February 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of West Point School Board Meeting, 1 February 2017

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the West Point School Board was called to order by Mrs. Evangelista, on Wednesday, 1 February 2017, at 4:34 PM in the West Point MS Information Center.

2. **Members Present were:**

Christine DeGregory, Board Member
Heather Evangelista, President
Rebecca Hyleman, Vice President

Helen Balilo, Community Superintendent
David Morrow, Board Member
Tim Viles, Board Member

Others Present:

Sue Kerns
Denise Cochenour, ES Principal
Corey Algood, ES Assist Principal
Edgar Perry, Admin Officer
Gala Edgar, Union Representative

Denise Eves, School Board Clerk (VTC)
Miles Shea, MS Principal
Maura DuMoulin
Rebecca Tiffany
Michi Carl

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** 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 November 30, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Mrs. Hyleman motioned approval of the past minutes. Mr. Morrow seconded the motion. By unanimous vote the December minutes were approved.

5. **INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE SCHOOL BOARD:** Sue Kerns – ET at WPES shared the progress of the Two Centuries of Learning Committee. The celebrations will be supported through music concerts and coordination with the STEAM Week in April. There is a plan to have a timeline running thru the ES. Smithsonian group is also working with the schools.

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

- Thank you to Mr. Algood for your service to our community.
- Move to Learn Program
- New ISS to the community is a positive asset to the schools.

7. **REPORTS:**

a. **PTO Report:** Mrs. Mitchell gave the report.

- Thank you to NJHS for helping with Jingle Bell Run in December
- Shakespeare assembly
- Year book forms will be going out
- Spring Book fair

b. **SLO Report:** report given by Michi Carl

- USCC Company E4 resumed tutoring youth (grades 6-12) at the WP Youth Center. They have been tutoring on Wednesdays (1600-1700 or 1500-1600) since January 18th. We have nominated the four fall volunteers for a Black and Gold award, to be presented March 2nd.

- West Point Schools continue to support our community with student Art. Outstanding pieces were provided to the USMA MLK observance; they will also be featured at the Black History Month observance. WPS student art was also displayed at the CYSS Fine Arts Forum.
- WPS Jingle Bell Run was once again a success, supported by USMA Band and USMC and the Toys 4 Tots program.
- WPES held the second Recycle Mania event, brainchild of USCC Company G4 and CIC CDT Caughey. CDT Caughey brought 5 cadets to assist in the presentation as well as USMA Dirtman and the G4 Guppy mascot.
- There was a mid-year See the Point tour for new WPMS students that arrived over the holiday break, we took 7 new students along with Ms. Marsteller (WPMS guidance) and WPMS peer student ambassadors. It was a great success, highlighted by complimentary hot chocolate at the Ski Lodge!
- Upcoming Meet/Greet (Superintendents) will be held on February 28th at the WPC Pierce Dining Room from 1130-1300.

c. Superintendent's Reports: Mr. Shea gave a presentation on the following:

- Coding Club – February 21 is the first meeting. This will be a weekly club for all ages
- Mr. Shea shared the Terra Nova scores for WPMS. Although all scores are well above the national average Reading is a relative weakness for the school. To support the implementation of the DoDEA College and Career Ready Standards the school will be implementing Close reading which includes– reading a difficult short passage, find evidence and marking the text.
- Ms. Cochenour discussed the following:
- Green Ribbon Award – Wellness Committee – highlight wellness for the staff.
 - Green Smoothie Challenge with 4th grade classes
 - Partnering with BPE
 - Tracking the movement minutes
 - Fitness gram
 - Pizza Garden
- Recycling Program at WPES
- STEM – April

Mrs. Balilo gave her report:

- Sponsors for Club – The EDAs for WPMS are closed. The EDAs for WPES still have some clubs open. Volunteers would not be able to receive payment for sponsoring a club. If a volunteer is interested in leading a club the appropriate out of line of sight background clearance would need to be completed. The question was asked if funds could be transferred from one school to the other.
Mrs. Balilo stated that the funds cannot be transferred to another school. Each school has their own EDA budget which is separate from the budget for the schools. Mrs. Balilo will send a copy of the budget to the board. Principals will share a copy of the EDA spreadsheet with the board. An announcement will be made to recruit for subs.
- MILCON – The contractor hired to cut down the trees had difficulty obtaining base access. The trees need to be cut down by March 1st in order to avoid an issue with the bats as they are an endangered species. The anticipated contract award date is 2 February. Notice to proceed date is anticipated for the middle of February. Major milestones will come after the contract is given. Information will go out to the community when a decision is made on the haul road. Target opening for the new WPES is August 2018.
- Lunches – how can the middle school students be more involved? Mr. Shea will do a survey with the kids. Rank the meals with write in options. Combining both lunch programs is not an option. District Wellness discourages bringing food from outside

sources into the schools. It was suggested that information be sent as a reminder to the parents.

- Elementary School – Staffing is based on enrollment. The enrollment is down. As of today, we have taken care of all known shortfalls. PTR has been low in 2nd grade. We potentially could lose a .5 teacher position at the elementary school. It is important to note that we are very early in the process and these situations are often resolved through retirements, resignations or PCS moves. The teachers were given the information in advance.
- Suggestion box – no suggestions were in the box. Located at the front door of both schools.
- Student Feedback Forms: We will make it part of the EXL class per Mr. Shea. Speak up Survey was sent out multiple times. It was on all DoDEA webpages. Customer Survey will be sent out via One Call when it comes available.

d. **School Updates:**

- Student Council Government - Mr. Shea introduced the students. The students shared what the Student Council does and what they plan to do. Discussed fund raising opportunities.
- Teacher presentation
- Dignity Act – Youth Center New York State rule. Cyber Bullying – never had to deal with that situation in West Point as it is handled on a case by case situation. If something happens, the parents need to report to the school so it can be dealt with immediately.

8. **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**


9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- School Calendars: Highland Falls – DoDEA Calendar Teachers report on Aug 22nd. Our Calendar will align with the DoDDS calendar. August 28th students report to school. Once the school calendar is completed, Mrs. Balilo will send it to the board.
- Media Arts Club will present next month
- WPES student leadership club will present next month
- Update on volunteers for clubs will be provided via email

10. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the West Point School Board will be held on March 1, 2017, 4:30 PM, in the Middle School Information Center.

11. **ADJOURN MEETING:** Mrs. Hylman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. DeGregory seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 PM.

Approved by:



Helen Balilo
Community Superintendent



Heather Evangelista
President, West Point School Board