

Board Work Session Minutes February 4, 2026

WESTERN WAYNE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
1970C Easton Turnpike
LAKE ARIEL, PA 18436

The work session of the Western Wayne Board of Education was held on February 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Western Wayne Administration Building located at 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436 in preparation for the February 4, 2026 board meeting to be held immediately following the work session.

The meeting was advertised in the legal section of the January 31, 2026 edition of the Tri-County Independent.

Board President - William Gershey
Board Vice President – Joseph Gombita
Board Member – Angela Booths
Board Member - James Collins
Board Member – Christina Hinz
Board Member – Matthew Nied
Board Member – Kerin Weinberger
Board Member - Ethan Wood

Board Treasurer – Dana DeSiato was excused.

Solicitor Ellis was present.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Dr. Matthew Barrett, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cindy LaRosa, Rose Emmett, Business Manager/Board Secretary, Matthew Barr, Assistant MS Principal, Robert Black, Assistant HS Principal, Jennifer DeNike, Ed.D., Dir. of Special Education, Kerrie Fitzsimmons, EverGreen Assistant Principal, Paul Gregorski, High School Principal, Elizabeth Gregory, Early Intervention Supervisor, Mary Hoover, TNG Food Service Director, Michael Motsko, Ass't Director of Special Education, Casey Newcomer, Middle School Principal, Justin Pidgeon, EverGreen Principal, Brian Seaman, Technology Director, and Elizabeth Watson, Ed.D., Robert D. Wilson Principal.

Tyler Jakes, Athletic Director was excused.

Dr. Barrett announced that the Board met in executive session prior to the work session for legal and personnel matters.

Student Recognition:

Middle School Principal Newcomer recognized several students who participated in the Pennsylvania Farm Show last month:

Hailey Wasman- 12th Grade

4-H Animals

Junior Market Steer- All Other Purebred Class-6th

Junior Market Lamb- Hampshire Breed- 5th

Junior Market Swine- Crossbred Class 2- 7th

Abigail Wasman- 10th Grade

4-H Animals

Junior Market Meat Goat- Weight Division 7-4th

Junior Market Swine- Crossbred Class 12- 7th

Benjamin Wasman-7th Grade

4-H Animals

Junior Market Meat Goat- Weight Division 8- 8th

Everly Zablocky

4-H Entries

Animal Poster (Cat) beginner- 1st

Gardening Poster- 1st Place & Best of Show

Rabbit Skillathon- 9th Place

Open Entries-

Blueberry Muffins- 2nd Place

Black & White Photo- Domestic Animal- 4th Place

Truly Zablocky

4-H Entries

Peanut Butter Cookies- 1st

Gardening Poster- 2nd

Rabbit Skillathon- 7th

Open Entries-

Oatmeal Cookies- 2nd

Peanut Butter Cookies- 3rd

Black & White Photo- Still Life- 5th place

Jam & Jelly Bar Contest- 2nd place

High School Principal Gregorski recognized high school band director, Elaine Ort, who recently participated in the 2026 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California as a member of the Band Directors' Marching Band. This year's band consisted of 270 band directors representing 47 states and Mexico. Elaine had the pleasure of participating with two of her former students who are band directors at local schools. This was Elaine's third year participating with the Band Directors' Marching Band, having previously marched in the Tournament of Roses Parade and the New York City Macy's Thanksgiving Parade with them.

On Tuesday, January 13, Elaine hosted County Band here at Western Wayne. Six schools were represented by their band students and were conducted by Peabody Conservative doctoral student Sarah Culp-Abrams. The festival was well-organized and the evening's concert was extraordinary. Our food service department catered a delicious banquet and transformed our cafeteria into a beautiful

banquet hall. We want to congratulate Elaine on a job well-done organizing and executing this successful festival here at Western Wayne.

High School Art Teacher Justin Hayden was also recognized for his work with art students who have their art on the cover of Happenings Magazine. Currently Bella Hayden is the cover artist. Mr. Hayden has had numerous students in the past who were featured cover artists, some of whom were honored in the latest addition of the magazine.

Mr. Gershey thanked the staff and students for all they have accomplished.

Public Recognition:

None

Dr. Barrett reviewed the agenda for the Board Meeting and Dr. LaRosa reviewed Policy 903 public comment that was recently implemented. She is working with President Gershey and Solicitor Ellis to work out the details of the public comment sections of the meetings. Prior to the meeting, members of the public can comment on agenda items and then at the end of the meeting there will be another opportunity for public comment on any other topics.

The work session concluded at 6:36 PM. At this time, the Board of Education started the Regular Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rose E. Emmett
Board Secretary

ATTEST:

