Board Minutes October 7, 2026

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

The regular meeting of the Western Wayne Board of Education was held on October 7, 2026 at the Western Wayne Administration Building located at 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436.

The meeting was advertised in the legal section of the October 3, 2026 edition of the Tri-County Independent.

President William Gershey called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Mr. Gershey offered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Miss Emmett took roll call. (7) Board Members were present and are listed as follows:

Board President - William Gershey
Board Vice President – Joseph Gombita
Board Treasurer – Dana DeSiato
Board Member – James Collins
Board Member – Christina Hinz
Board Member – Matthew Nied
Board Member - Ethan Wood

Board members Angela Booths and Kerin Weinberger were excused.

Solicitor Ellis was present.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Dr. Matthew Barrett, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cindy LaRosa, Rose Emmett, Business Manager/Board Secretary, Jennifer DeNike, Ed.D., Dir. of Special Education, Kerrie Fitzsimmons, EverGreen Assistant Principal, Elizabeth Gregory, Early Intervention Supervisor, Paul Gregorski, High School Principal, 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, Elizabeth Watson, Ed.D., Robert D. Wilson Principal and Curt Yenchick, Middle School Ass't Principal.

Robert Black, Assistant HS Principal, and Tyler Jakes, Athletic Director were excused.

5. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Nied to accept the minutes generated from the work session and Regular Board meeting September 2, 2026.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

6. Treasurer's Reports

A motion was made by Mrs. DeSiato and seconded by Mrs. Hinz to accept the Treasurer's Reports generated from the General Account and the Food Service Account.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

7. Approval of Bills

A motion was made by Mrs. DeSiato and seconded by Mr. Gombita to approve the payment of bills generated from the General Account, the Food Service Account and the Construction Account.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

8. Student Recognition

Students were recognized at the work session.

9. The Nutrition Group – Presentation to the Board at the work session.

10. Recognition of visitors and comments on agenda items only – 15 minutes

None

11. Enrollment Report:

ENROLLMENT - DAY # 24 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

GRADE	EG	RDW	MS	HS	TOTAL
EARLY INT.	10	4			14
PRE-K	54	31			85
KDG	61	58			119
GR. 1	66	63			129
GR. 2	82	57			139
GR. 3	71	42			113
GR. 4	83	52			135
GR. 5	71	46			117
GR. 6			128		128
GR. 7			136		136
GR. 8			123		123
GR. 9				117	117
GR. 10				126	126
GR. 11				124	124
GR. 12				145	145
TOTAL	498	353	387	512	1750

Totals: EverGreen – 498; RDW – 353; MS – 387; HS – 512; TOTAL:1750
September Total: 1770

A motion was made by Mrs. DeSiato and seconded by Mr. Wood to approve a consent block motion for items 12 through 23k(23h updated)with two recusals Mr. Gombita for item 23d and Mr. Nied for item 23k.

The motion carried with all affirmatives accept as noted above.

12. **District Organizational Chart**

The Board of Education approved the District Organizational Chart for the 2026-2027 school year. **Attachment I**

13. **Transportation Drivers and Substitutes**

The Board of Education approved the following list of Western Wayne School District Transportation Drivers and Substitutes for the listed contractors for the 2026-2027 school year:

a. Richard Smith – Bus Driver – Cavage Transit, Contractor
b. Shari Fabiani – Van Driver – Kruetz, Contractor
c. Matthew Johnson – Van Driver – Kreutz, Contractor
d. Crystal Hohl – Van Driver – Kreutz, Contractor
e. Valerie Flyte – Van Driver – S.Swingle Jr., Contractor
f. Robert Neve – Van Driver – JD Transportation, Contractor

14. **Transportation – Extracurricular**

The Board of Education awarded contractors Cavage Transit, Inc., Caruth Bus Lines, Inc., and Utegg Transportation, LLC., the extracurricular transportation runs for the 2026-2027 school year at the following rates: Rate per mile $4.46 with a minimum for mileage of $118.99 and a waiting time at the hourly rate of $15.81 per hour. This is a 2.7% increase. Additionally, to meet the needs of the district if we are unable to secure transportation with Cavage Transit, Inc., Caruth Bus Lines, Inc., or Utegg Transportation, LLC. for extracurricular transportation, we reserve the right to make provisional awards as needed.

15. **Overnight Field Trip**

The Board of Education approved the following overnight field trip and chaperones for the 2026-2027 school year:

a. FBLA State Leadership Workshop – November 1-2, 2026 – Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, Pocono Mountains, PA. Chaperones: Christine McClure, Timothy McClure and Megan Rush.

16. **Memorandum of Understanding**

The Board of Education approved the following Memorandums of Understanding between Western Wayne School District and the Western Wayne Education Association for the 2026-2027 school year:

a. Virtual/On-Line Learning
b. Flexible Instruction Days (FID)
c. Act 48/Continuing Professional Education Committee

17. **Resolution – Motley Rice**

The Board of Education approved the resolution to use Motley Rice as the Attorneys to represent the District in the Social Media Harm Litigation.

18. **Change Order – Sewer Plant Renovations**

The Board of Education approved the following Change Orders related to the Sewer Plant Renovations and approve payment of these from budgeted debt service and/or capital reserve funds once work is completed:

a. Pioneer Construction Company - Structural steel repairs, sandblasting and air drop in EQ tank beyond the scope of our current agreement for an additional sum of $268,106.70.

b. G.R. Noto Electrical Construction, Inc. – Furnish and install new stainless steel EQ pump control panel and projected Backwash Filter Panel replacement allowance exceeded the scope of our original agreement for an additional sum of $10,449.39.

19. **Agreement – Independent Educational Consulting**

The Board of Education approved an agreement between Western Wayne School District and Eliza Vagni, Independent Educational Consultant to provide support to district and building administrators through a structured implementation process including training, systems development, and coaching support funded through Title IV 2026-2027.

20. **Agreement – Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers**

The Board of Education approved an agreement between Western Wayne School District and Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers to provide the required medical doctor review of the IEP students who are eligible for the Medical Access Program, confirming that services are needed, and further that they are being provided, at the rate of $15.00 per IEP effective August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027.

21. **Agreement – Jennifer Barillo, OT**

The Board of Education approved an agreement with Jennifer Barillo for independent Occupational Therapy services for our Early Intervention program during the 2026-2027 school year at a per session rate of $130.00 and a travel rate of $65.00 per hour for home-based students.

22. **Settlement and Release Agreement**

The Board of Education approved settlement and release agreement between Western Wayne School District and the following:

a. S#04-26-27

3. **Personnel**

a. **Superintendent**

The Board of Education, in accordance with Section 1073 of the Pennsylvania School Code, notified Dr. Matthew Barrett of its intention to retain him as Superintendent of the School District for a third term of three to five years, as shall be negotiated and subject to subsequent Board approval.

b. **Assistant Superintendent**

The Board of Education, in accordance with Section 1077 of the Pennsylvania School Code, notified Dr. Cynthia LaRosa of its intention to retain her as Assistant Superintendent of the School District for a second term of three to five years, as shall be negotiated and subject to subsequent Board approval.

c. **Appointment – Computer Science**

The Board of Education approved the recommendation of the Superintendent and District Administrators in the appointment of Travis Toth, Professional Employee – Computer Science Teacher – Step 1M+48 – at the salary listed in the Professional Employees Contract of $85,136.00 pro-rated, with applicable fringe benefits, effective upon release of current employment and receipt of employment paperwork.

d. **Appointment – Long Term Substitute**

The Board of Education approved the recommendation of the Superintendent and District Administrators in the appointment of Nicholas Gombita, Temporary Professional Employee – Social Studies Long Term Substitute – Step 1B, $67,836.00 pro-rated, effective October 8, 2026 for 90 days.

e. **Resignations**

The Board of Education accepted the following resignations:

1. Stephanie Hess – Paraprofessional, effective September 25, 2026
2. Jaclyn Williams – 12-Month Secretary, effective September 25, 2026

f. **Appointment – Winter Coaching**

The Board of Education approved the following to the listed coaching position for the 2026-2027 school year at the salary listed in the Professional Employees Contract:

1.	Brian Hodorawis – Jr. High (7,8,9) Girls Basketball – 19th Year	$5,356.67
2.	Brianna Smith – Jr. High (7,8,9) Girls Basketball – 1st Year	$5,126.00
3.	Brian Morcom – Boys Wrestling Assistant – 8th Year	$5,714.44

g. **Appointment – Unified Champions**

The Board of Education approved participation in the Unified Champions (Special Olympics/Bocce Ball) program. Sienna Cardamone will be the Western Wayne 2026-2027 Co-Ed Unified Champions Advisor at a rate of $1,000.00. Unified Champions (Special Olympics) will provide funding and resources for this program.

h. **Appointment - Advisor**

The Board of Education appointed the following to the listed advisor position for the 2025-2026 school year at the salary listed in the Professional Employees Contract:

1. Gillian Groom – MS Student Government – 4th Year $2,678.52

i. **Appointment - Advisor**

The Board of Education appointed the following to the listed advisor position for the 2026-2027 school year at the salary listed in the Professional Employees Contract:

1. Gillian Groom – MS Student Government – 5th Year $2,765.22

j. **Appointment – Mentor**

The Board of Education appointed the following Mentor for the 2026-2027 school year at the salary listed in the Professional Employees Contract:

1. Ryan Onder – 1st Year mentor for Nicholas Gombita $1,943.00/pro-rated

k. **Appointment – Volunteers**

The Board of Education approved the following Volunteers for the 2026-2027 school year. Attendance by request of the building principal:

1. Gianna Austin – RDW PTA – RDW Elementary
2. Gianna Bagnick – RDW PTA – RDW Elementary/MS
3. Robert Benedict – EG PTA – EG Elementary
4. Alicia Boguski – RDW PTA – RDW Elementary
5. Coty Calvanese – EG PTA – EG Elementary
6. Amy Cellar – EG PTA – EG Elementary
7. Autumn Chapman – EG PTA – EG Elementary
8. Kayla Dixon – RDW PTA; Girls Wrestling – RDW Elementary/HS
9. Erika Dolph – EG PTA – EG Elementary
10. Jessica Glasser – EG PTA – EG Elementary
11. Gayle Hemmler – Classroom Helper – EG Elementary
12. Kenneth Hineline – Color Guard; Marching Band; Drama; EG PTA; Robotics Club; Baseball and Boys Basketball Athletics Helper – EG Elementary/HS/MS
13. Joshua Hoch – Volunteer Coach, Boys Volleyball – HS
14. Christina Jenkins – RDW PTA – RDW Elementary
15. Caitlin Johnson-Nied – EG PTA – EG Elementary
16. Amanda Laskowski – EG PTA – EG Elementary
17. Jenna Polachek – EG PTA – EG Elementary
18. Bridget Revello-Slezak – EG PTA – EG Elementary
19. Alyssa Salak – RDW PTA – RDW Elementary
20. Alexa Schamberger – EG PTA – EG Elementary
21. Jessica Schumaker – RDW PTA – RDW Elementary
22. Jamie Seymour – RDW PTA – RDW Elementary
23. Amy Scott – RDW PTA – RDW Elementary

24. Ashley Sparrow – RDW PTA – RDW Elementary
25. Kirsten Stratton – Marching Band; RDW PTA – HS/RDW Elementary
26. Robin Sylvestri – EG PTA – EG Elementary
27. Kathryn Tyler – RDW PTA – RDW Elementary
28. Shelby Vanorden – RDW PTA – RDW Elementary
29. Kimberly Wasco – RDW PTA – RDW Elementary

Informational Items

Student Observers - University of Scranton

Molly Blakely – 3rd Grade with Brenda Queipo – EverGreen
Valentina LaPorta – 3rd Grade with Summer Klikus-Machiesky – EverGreen
Alexa Stabile – 5th Grade with Kathleen Swartz – EverGreen
Clodaugh Kenneally – 1st Grade with Alizabeth Takacs – RDW
Helen Socorso – Kindergarten with Anna Bonsick – RDW
Benjamin Kearney – Kindergarten with Anna Bonsick - RDW

Student Observer – East Stroudsburg University

Lexi DeSiato – Pre-K with Jennifer Hoch and Erin Schane - EverGreen

Upcoming Dates

October 1, 2026 RDW PTA Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – RDW Cafeteria
October 10, 2026 RDW PTA Fall Carnival
October 12, 2026 No School – Columbus Day
October 14, 2026 HS College & Career Fair – HS Gym – 1st through 4th periods
October 14, 2026 EG PTA Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
October 15, 2026 EG Picture Day
October 15, 2026 MS Halloween Dance – 6-8 p.m. – MS Cafeteria
October 16, 2026 Homecoming (vs. Riverside) – Sharkey Rosetti Stadium – 6:30 p.m.
October 17, 2026 Homecoming Dance – HS Cafeteria – 6:00-8:00 p.m. – WW Students only
October 17, 2026 Western Wayne Band Parents Assoc. Annual Craft Fair – 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
October 20, 2026 HS – PSAT testing
October 22, 2026 Jr. Wildcat Wrestling Sign-Up – 6-7 p.m. – MS Parking Lot
October 27, 2026 RDW Picture Retake Day
October 28, 2026 HS – ASVAB testing
October 29, 2026 Jr. Wildcat Wrestling Sign-Up – 6-7 p.m. – MS Parking Lot
October 30, 2026 Noon Dismissal for Students – Teacher Act 80 Day
October 31, 2026 EG Trunk or Treat – 1-3 p.m. – EG Parking Lot
October 31-November 2, 2026 FBLA State Leadership Workshop – Kalahari Resort, PA
November 2-6, 2026 EG Book Fair

Correspondence

None

Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Federal Programs Report

Currently working on comparability report and goal reports for the grants.

Other Business

None

Recognition of visitors and comments on Non-Agenda items only

Jenna Polachick requested the Board of Education consider an amendment to the current foreign exchange policy for half year options. Dr. Barrett thanked her for her comments and told her there is a process to this, with legal reviews and they take time.

Mollie Rath had concerns regarding the cheerleading coach and the interactions of the coach and Molly's daughter. She asked the Board of Education to hold the employees to the same standards as the students and spectators. Dr. Barrett told Molly he was sorry about the negative experience and assured her that the situation was being addressed.

Meetings Held:

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 – Work Session followed by Board meeting – 6:00 p.m., Administration Building, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436.

Thursday, September 17, 2026 – Executive Session for legal matters – 5:30 p.m., Administration Building, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436.

Monday, September 28, 2026 – Executive Session for Personnel – 5:00 p.m., Administration Building, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436.

Future Meeting:

Wednesday, November 04, 2026 - 6:00 p.m. Board Work Session with the Public Board Meeting to follow, Administration Building, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436. In the case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on the following day or when school resumes.

Mr. Gershey congratulated Nicholas Gombita on his appointment, Nicholas was in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Gershey congratulated Board Member Collins on his Five Year PBSA Recognition and presented him with a certificate.

Executive sessions for personnel were held prior to the work session and immediately following the public meeting. Also, an executive session for personnel was held on October 1, 2026.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Gombita and seconded by Mrs. DeSiato to adjourn the regularly scheduled meeting of the Western Wayne Board of Education at 6:54 p.m.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose E. Emmett
Board Secretary

ATTEST: _____