

HOME & SCHOOL

Washington Junior High School

Home & School Board Meeting

Approved Minutes

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 8:30am

1. Call to order at 8:34am by Melinda Watson
 - a. In attendance: Jon Vogel, Kathryn Pegorsch, Emily Kozlowski, Justin Kozlowski, Zareen Hassan, Melinda Watson (call in), Jepharya Badie, Karen Brown, Ashley Workman
2. President's Report: Melinda Watson
 - a. THANK YOU for Staff Holiday Brunch - community donations, staff was very appreciative.
 - b. THANK YOU to Lost and Found for constant attention. Donations were made. Committee can speak on the new system they put in place toward the end of the meeting; they have implemented a color coded system.
 - c. THANK YOU to Staff Appreciation for ongoing events, Raising Canes lunch on November 26th.
 - d. Intentions for next year: Nomination committee will start reaching out - are you continuing in your role?
 - i. [Committee Directory 2025-26](#) -please update with if you will be returning or not.
 - e. Budget planning: does your committee need any changes?
 - i. Executive Board presents in March: vote in April
 1. The Exec Board will meet in February to work on the budget.
3. General Home and School info
 - a. League of Women Voters Board of Education Candidate Forum and Voter Guide Info
 - i. Link to solicit feedback on general areas of interest and specific questions to cover **Responses are due 1/30/25**. [Form for topic and question suggestions](#)
 - ii. Every Board of Education election cycle, General Home & School partners with the League of Women Voters to host a Candidate Forum and publish a Voter Guide
 - iii. This year's zoom forum will be at **7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 4, 2025**. Please register when link comes out in Talk 203
 - b. The 2026-2027 Calendar has been approved. You can find it on the 203 website and in the November agenda.
 - c. Updates to the capital improvement process-
 - i. Additional needs at Kennedy so improvements are being postponed, pivoting to work on Madison.
 - d. NESPA (Naperville Educational Support Professionals Association) 3 year contract was approved
 - i. NESPA represents school support staff such as but not limited to secretarial and clerical, technology, assistants, aides and health technicians.
 - e. Vision 2030 - Resolution in support of the vision of 203 for 2030 was approved. Some of the concepts include but are not limited to:
 - i. keeping students safe, high quality educators, enhancing post secondary success, improving measurement of what is working. These are rolled into recommendations that could be presented to lawmakers in the upcoming legislative cycle. (More info on the district website and the board meeting docs.)
 - f. [December updates](#) from General Home & School
4. Upcoming dates
 - a. Jan 14 - Girls Basketball tryouts
 - b. Jan 15 - Incoming Freshman orientation at NNHS & NCHS

- c. Jan 20 - BOE Meeting 7pm
 - d. Jan 20 - No school MLK Day
 - e. February 3 - 203 Day
 - f. February is the "Month of Love" at WJHS, activities , hot chocolate cart, kindness weeks
5. Vice President's Report: Kathryn Pegorsch
- a. 8th Grade Celebrations
 - i. Zareen, Melinda, Carissa Letsch and Ashley Workman are the chairs.
6. Treasurer's Report: Justin Kozlowski
- a. Approval of [November 2024](#) Financials
 - i. 1st Motion: Zareen Hassan
 - ii. 2nd Motion: Kathryn Pegorsch
 - iii. Approved: Yes
 - iv. Bank balance: \$59,443.17 as of 11/30/24
 - b. Approval of [December 2024](#) Financials
 - i. 1st Motion: Kathryn Pegorsch
 - ii. 2nd Motion: Karen Brown
 - iii. Approved: Yes
 - iv. Bank balance: \$53,100.14 as of 12/31/24
 - c. Current bank balance: \$52,844.69 as of 1/15/25
 - d. Reminder to please submit digital expense reimbursement requests in a timely manner. Helps to accurately plan next year's budget and gets you paid more quickly.
 - i. If doing a physical form left at WJHS please send me a note so I know it's there and can get it more quickly.
 - e. Ice dispenser for the lounge—it is a recurring cost. Pam is working on getting quotes.
7. Secretary's Report: Emily Kozlowski
- a. Approval of [11/20/24 Unapproved Minutes.docx](#)
 - i. 1st Motion: Justin Kozlowski
 - ii. 2nd Motion: Karen Brown
 - iii. Approved: Yes
 - b. April 16th meeting time changed to 9:30am to accommodate those attending the NEF Building a Passion breakfast.
 - c. Correspondence
 - i. [Thank yous from Staff](#)
8. Principal's Report: Jon Vogel
- a. Focus 203: Community engagement opportunity regarding the school day initiative.
 - i. Junior High: We currently have the lowest number of minutes for math in the state, want to add to that, almost doubling math minutes and providing two electives instead of one, BCO (band, choir, orchestra) would have its own slot instead of pulling kids out of other classes. This would be more of a block schedule, both ELA and Math would be two periods, then Social Studies and Science would be one block that would alternate, so one day double Social Studies the next day Science.
 - 1. Looking at our comparable districts, D203 was still highest in ELA and Math scores.
 - ii. Equalizing teacher work minutes across the grades. They are entering negotiations with the union to work that out.
 - iii. Proposing to change start times at the different levels, which involves working out transportation with bus routes.

- iv. The idea is to start this for the 2025-26 school year, lots of things up in the air with regards to staffing, possibly needing more math teachers due to the increase in math minutes.
 - b. Open House: Wednesday, February 19th, 6:30pm-8pm. Kids and parents are able to attend together. Book Fair will be going on at that time.
 - c. Sports
 - i. Wrestling won A and AA overall, two seasons in a row. Mike Nutt and Tim Panega are the coaches
 - ii. Cross County won
 - iii. Flag football won
 - iv. We have great coaches.
 - d. Month of Love in February.
 - i. February is kind of a down month for staff and students so every week there are activities.
 - e. 8th Grade Dates
 - i. Boat trip is May 19th
 - ii. Moving on May 22nd
 - iii. Talent show May 23rd
- 9. Committee Reports
 - a. Verbal reports
 - i. **Lost and Found:** New system, blue and white. One week everything is tagged blue, next week new stuff is tagged white, third week anything blue is donated and so on.
 - 1. Found a new organization that will pick up the items, wash them and donate them to kids in need in the city.
 - b. Written reports
 - i. **Staff Appreciation:** We celebrated our SRO Neil Desmond on January 9th with a gift as well as donating to the Clay Carns Memorial Foundation in honor of his brother-in-law who passed away in December.
 - ii. **Winter Staff Gift Cards:** This was the first time we organized this before winter break and it was a big success. There was much positive feedback from the staff and families. We will be continuing this at the end of the school year. We do need a co-chair for this committee.

Adjourned at 9:40am by Melinda Watson

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 at 8:30am