

**Thursday, January 15, 2026  
Work Session  
Minutes**

**The West Mifflin Area School District Work Session was held in the West Mifflin Area Middle School Cafeteria, 81 Commonwealth Avenue, West Mifflin, PA. Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.**

**1. OPENING EXERCISES**

- A. Pledge to the Flag
- B. Roll Call

Members Present: Kevin Squires, Anthony DiCenzo, Judith Ahern, Nicholas Alexandroff, Matthew Blazeovich, Mark Donahoe, Gina Englert, and Janelle Kopay

Officials Present: Jeffrey Soles, Jeffrey Solomon, Edward Wehrer, Mark Zidek and Russell Lucas

**2. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Student Board Representative Report (Regular Board Meeting)
- B. January is School Director Recognition Month. We'd like to thank these elected school directors for the time, dedication, and effort they give year-round to do what is necessary to ensure our schools remain a pathway to a promising future and for making the success of our children their priority.

**3. ADDENDUM (Regular Board Meeting)**

**4. HEARING OF CITIZENS**

- A. Public Comment

In order to speak at this time, the following must be met:

- Must be a West Mifflin, Whitaker, or Duquesne Resident; current employee; or taxpayer
- Matter must have been discussed through the proper education channels
- Direct comments to the Board President and/or Superintendent
- Remarks limited to three (3) minutes per person
  - None

**5. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Policy #610 (Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation), Policy #611 (Purchases Budgeted), and Policy #626 (Federal Fiscal Compliance-Procurement attachment) have been updated to reflect the new pricing thresholds for purchases subject to bid/quotation that became effective January 1, 2026. The new amount for purchases subject to public bid is \$24,500 and the new amount for purchases subject to written or telephonic price quotation is \$13,200.

**6. BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- A. Board of Directors  
*Board action to approve/ratify\* items under Board of Directors, as listed/presented.*

1. Executive Sessions
  - a. November 13, 2025 – Discussed Personnel and Legal Issues
  - b. November 20, 2025 – Discussed Personnel and Legal Issues
  - c. December 4, 2025 – Discussed Personnel and Legal Issues
  
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a. November 13, 2025 – Work Session
  - b. November 20, 2025 – Regular Board Meeting
  - c. December 4, 2025 – Re-Organization Meeting
  - d. December 4, 2025 – Regular Board Meeting
  
3. Resolution 2026-01 certifying that the Board of Directors of the West Mifflin Area School District will not raise property taxes for the fiscal year 2026-2027 above the Act 1 referendum limit of 4.9%.
  
4. Resolution 2026-02 declaring the intent of the Board of Directors of the West Mifflin Area School District to receive and use available money of the 2025-2026 Tax Equity Supplement pursuant to Act 55 of 2024 and Section 2599.6 of the Pennsylvania School Code.

**7. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS' REPORT**

A. Finance

*Board action to approve/ratify\* items under Finance, as listed/presented.*

1. December real estate tax refunds due for 2025 to specified property owners of West Mifflin Borough and Whitaker Borough in the amount of \$7,319.70 as presented by the respective tax collectors. The refunds are the result of changes in real estate tax assessment values established by Allegheny County.
  
2. Mileage rate reimbursement to be in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate of 72.5 cents per mile for 2026, effective January 1, 2026.
  
3. Authorization for the Solicitor's office to settle the tax appeal docketed at BV-24-3469 at an assessed value amount of \$600,000.00 for 2024, \$594,800.00 for 2025, and \$565,900.00 for 2026.
  
4. Authorization for the Solicitor's office to settle the tax appeal docketed at BV-24-3466 at an assessed value amount of \$571,900.00 for 2024, \$580,700.00 for 2025, and \$552,500.00 for 2026.
  
5. Authorization for the Solicitor's office to settle the tax appeal docketed at BV-24-3467 at an assessed value amount of \$628,300.00 for 2024, \$607,500.00 for 2025, and \$578,000.00 for 2026.
  
6. Authorization for the Solicitor's office to settle the tax appeal docketed at BV-24-3471 at an assessed value amount of \$635,500.00 for 2024, \$614,500.00 for 2025, and \$584,600.00 for 2026.
  
7. Authorization for the Solicitor's office to settle the tax appeal docketed at BV-24-3465 at an assessed value amount of \$609,100.00 for 2024, \$589,000.00 for 2025, and \$560,400.00 for 2026.

B. Purchasing/Contracting

*Board action to approve/ratify\* items under Purchasing/Contracting, as listed/presented.*

1. Agreement with Adelphoi Education Inc. and the Clairton City School District regarding the Nonresident Student Placement in the Partial Program at the High School for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, as presented.

**8. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

*Board action to approve Financial Reports, as listed/presented*

A. Secretary Receipts

1. November - \$6,225,910.74
2. December - \$5,139,698.48

B. Student Activities

1. November - \$224,599.64
2. December - \$231,826.57

C. Treasurer's Report

1. November - \$23,599,036.54

D. Refunds Subtracted from Expenditures

1. November

Account Description	Received From	Amount
State Subsidy Receivable	Social Security	\$276,323.85
State Subsidy Receivable	SD Transportation	\$207,396.00
State Subsidy Receivable	Retirement	\$1,338,551.82
Federal Subsidy Receivable	Title Funds	\$400,294.67
Federal Subsidy Receivable	Access – AIU	\$124,176.00
Federal Subsidy Receivable	Title IV	\$5,391.42
Other Accounts Receivable	Adelphoi	\$155,132.64
Early Retirement Benefits	AMCA	\$20,946.58
Regular Programs – Professional Dev	Lancaster Lebanon IU3	\$210.00
Tuition – Cyber/Charter School	Urban Pathways	\$764.26
Custodian/Maintenance OT	Central Catholic	\$425.00
Repairs & Maintenance – Stadium	Light Pole	\$280.00
Police Officers – HS	Central Catholic	\$315.00
Technology – Repairs & Maintenance	Upcycle USA	\$190.00
Technology – Repairs & Maintenance	Student Obligations – MS	\$80.00
Technology – Repairs & Maintenance	Student Obligations – HS	\$230.00
Game Workers	Central Catholic	\$500.00
Safety/Security Services – District	Central Catholic	\$1,934.00

2. December

Account Description	Received From	Amount
Insurance Copay	Pay Date – 11/28/25	\$42,248.48
Early Retirement Benefits	AMCA	\$20,946.58
Supplies – HS	Student Obligations	\$30.00

Classroom Grant	Freiermuth Fund	\$1,000.00
Tuition – Steel Center	Duquesne SD	\$40,058.28
Technology – Repairs & Maintenance	Student Obligation	\$30.00
Intramural Activities	Intramurals	\$400.00
Game Workers	WPIAL	\$1,050.00
Other Professional Svc – EMS	WPIAL	\$535.61
Safety/Security Services – District	WPIAL	\$1,014.24

## E. Tax Collector's Report

## 1. November

Tax Type	Received From	Amount	Commission
Property Tax – West Mifflin	Jonathan Hess	\$969,868.19	N/A
Property Tax – Whitaker	Patty Pasquantonio	\$60,404.16	N/A
Earned Income Tax – West Mifflin	Jordan Tax Service	\$407,970.14	\$5,404.98
Earned Income Tax – Whitaker	Jordan Tax Service	\$19,266.72	\$266.29
Realty Transfer Tax – West Mifflin	Allegheny County	\$23,957.00	\$479.14
Realty Transfer Tax – Whitaker	Allegheny County	\$1,920.00	\$38.40
Delinquent Realty Tax – West Mifflin	Legal Tax Service	\$21,081.11	\$4,092.83
Delinquent Realty Tax – Whitaker	Legal Tax Service	\$200.00	\$48.93
Del Mercantile Tax – West Mifflin	Legal Tax Service	\$1,951.01	\$105.33
Del Bus Privilege Tax – West Mifflin	Legal Tax Service	\$17,164.96	\$944.07
Del Realty Tax – Act 20 – West Mifflin	Legal Tax Service	\$625.67	N/A
Del Realty Tax – Act 20 – Whitaker	Legal Tax Service	\$.60	N/A
Del Realty Tax – Civil Action – WM	Legal Tax Service	\$34,740.84	N/A
Del Realty Tax – Civil Action – Whitaker	Legal Tax Service	\$329.40	N/A

## 2. December

Tax Type	Received From	Amount	Commission
Property Tax – West Mifflin	Jonathan Hess	\$472,225.07	N/A
Property Tax – Whitaker	Patty Pasquantonio	\$18,496.64	N/A
Earned Income Tax – West Mifflin	Jordan Tax Service	\$148,842.73	\$1,172.04
Earned Income Tax – Whitaker	Jordan Tax Service	\$8,588.05	\$77.52
Realty Transfer Tax – West Mifflin	Allegheny County	\$14,805.25	\$296.11
Realty Transfer Tax – Whitaker	Allegheny County	\$500.00	\$10.00
Delinquent Realty Tax – West Mifflin	Legal Tax Service	\$11,197.74	\$10,862.53
Delinquent Realty Tax – Whitaker	Legal Tax Service	\$1,160.00	\$633.64
Delinquent LST Tax – West Mifflin	Legal Tax Service	\$10.00	\$0.55
Delinquent Mercantile Tax – West Mifflin	Legal Tax Service	\$6,015.85	\$330.87
Del Bus Privilege Tax – West Mifflin	Legal Tax Service	\$15,934.87	\$876.42
Del Realty Tax – Act 20 – West Mifflin	Legal Tax Service	\$68.54	N/A
Del Realty Tax – Act 20 – Whitaker	Legal Tax Service	\$219.27	N/A
Del Realty Tax – Civil Action – West Mifflin	Legal Tax Service	\$152,712.89	N/A
Del Realty Tax – Civil Action – Whitaker	Legal Tax Service	\$8,084.74	N/A

## F. Online Sales

## 1. November

Intramural	\$1,550.00
Titan Shoppe	\$6,974.08
Titan Gear	\$280.00
Total	\$8,804.08

2. December

HS Semi-Formal	\$250.00
Titan Gear	\$592.50
Titan Shoppe	\$3,158.75
Total	\$4,001.25

**9. INVOICES/BILLS PAYABLE/PURCHASE ORDERS**

*Board Action to approve/ratify\* Invoices/Bills Payable/Purchase Orders, as listed/presented*

A. General Fund Invoice(s)

Payee	Invoice #	Description	Amount
1. Legal Tax Service	WSD-329	Filing, Notary and Bank Fees, and Postage	\$338.83
2. Legal Tax Services	WSD-330	Filing Fees	\$419.25
3. Legal Tax Services	WSD-331	Filing, Bank and Parking Fees and Postage	\$211.93
4. * Andrews and Price	15828, 16243, 17420	November Litigation	\$15,980.00
5. * Freeman Mathis and Gary	9160282681	November Litigation	\$9,270.00
6. Andrews and Price	17800	December Monthly Retainer	\$1,000.00
7. Andrews and Price	17801	December MS Construction Litigation	\$392.00
8. Andrews and Price	17807, 17802, 17803, 17794, 17798, 17797, 17796	December Real Estate Tax Appeals	\$2,996.00
9. Andrews and Price	17799, 17804, 17806, 17808, 17795, 17805	December Other Professional Services	\$2,320.10

B. All Bills, P-Cards, Purchase Orders and Cash Disbursement Reports

**10. DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

*Board Action to approve/ratify\* items under District Operations, as listed/presented.*

A. Request for High School Marching Band trip to Orlando, FL, April 16-20, 2026, as presented

B. Request for Junior High Wrestling team to attend a wrestling tournament in Waynesburg, PA, February 6-7, 2026, as presented

**11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

*Board Action to approve/ratify\* Superintendent's Reports, as listed/presented.*

A. Home & School Visitor's Report – November 2025 & December 2025

B. Student Services

1. None

C. Student Activities

ID	Staff/Bldg.	Activity/Location	#Students	Grade(s)	Date(s)
*1761820	Terry Whalen/CB	School Team Summit/AIU Waterfront	6	3	12/4/25
*1763395	Deana Wallace/HS	UPMC Magee Central Sterile Unit tour/Pittsburgh	3	12	1/8/26

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*1763475	Deana Wallace/HS	CCAC South Tour & Meeting/ West Mifflin	1	12	1/29/26
1764296	Tom Ruffing/HS	NACA National College Fair/ Pittsburgh	TBD	11	1/28/26
*1765674	Melissa Prutz/HS	Show Choir Performance for St. Elizabeth Senior Citizens/Baldwin	18	10-12	12/12/25
*1765688	Melissa Prutz/HS	Show Choir Performance for Grandview Estates Personal Care Home/Grandview Estates	18	10-12	12/18/25
*1765981	Lucas Krajack/HS	ACE Calculusolve/ Greensburg Salem MS	8	6-8	1/7/26
*1768154	Jeffrey Kesser/HS	PMEA District Orchestra/ Mt. Lebanon HS	2	10-12	1/22/26
1768158	Jeffrey Kesser/HS	PMEA District Orchestra/ Mt. Lebanon HS	2	10-12	1/23/26
1768162	Jeffrey Kesser/HS	PMEA District Orchestra/ Mt. Lebanon HS	2	10-12	1/24/26
1768165	Jeffrey Kesser/MS	PMEA Jr. High District Orchestra/ Hampton HS	3	7-9	3/13/26
1768168	Jeffrey Kesser/MS	PMEA Jr. High District Orchestra/ Hampton HS	3	7-9	3/14/26
1768170	Jeffrey Kesser/MS	Elementary String Fest/ Pine Richland HS	2	6	3/27/26
*1768522	Melissa Prutz/HS	Show Choir Performance for Sycamore Estates Personal Care Home/Duquesne	18	10-12	12/18/25
1768934	Jayson Monroe/HS	PMEA District 1 West Band Festival/South Park HS	4	10-12	2/5/26- 2/7/26
1769252	Tricia Hopchak/MS	Field Trip to Fun Fore All Family Park/Cranberry	161	6	5/15/26
1769594	Lauren Rowe/HS	Freshmen Steel Center Tour/ West Mifflin	150	9	2/5/26
1773123	Mia DiBello/MS	Field Trip to Urban Air/Waterfront	140	5	5/21/26
*1773499	Thomas Weir/HS	JROTC Ski Trip/Boyce Park	8	9-12	1/12/26
1776382	Jennifer Zitelli/CB	Field Trip to Children's Museum/Pittsburgh	60	1	4/10/26
1776642	Ericka Sanders/MS	Schoolltime Pittsburgh Symphony/Heinz Hall	30	6-8	1/29/26
1778442	Jayson Monroe/HS	TRWEA Competition/Deer Lakes HS	22	8-12	1/31/26
1778448	Jayson Monroe/HS	TRWEA Competition/Penn Trafford HS	22	8-12	2/21/26
1778452	Jayson Monroe/HS	TRWEA Competition/Penn Trafford HS	22	8-12	3/21/26
1778458	Jayson Monroe/HS	TRWEA Championships/Kiski Area HS	22	8-12	3/28/26
1781913 1781919	Alexis Zywan/HS	SciTech Day/Kamin Science Center	80	11-12	2/19/26 or 3/12/26

D. Student Fundraising Activities

ID	Club	Sponsor	Fundraiser	Use of Funds	Date(s)
1781043	HS Stage Crew	Kevin Kocher	Chick-Fil-A Fundraising Spirit Night	Club activities	2/3/26
1781236	MS Drama	Nina Ruffing	Pancake Breakfast	MS Musical	3/21/26

## E. Buildings and Grounds

ID	Location	Date(s)/Time	Purpose/Applicant	Amount Paid
*605	HS Pool	January 5, 6, 7, 14, 20, 21 (5:00 PM – 8:30 PM)	Family/Open Swim/WM Pool & Aquatics (Laura Dolton)	n/a
606	MS Auditorium, Band Rooms	April 24 (6:00 PM – 9:30 PM)	Musical Performance/MS Drama Club (Nina Ruffing)	n/a
607	MS Auditorium, Band Rooms	April 25 (12:00 PM – 10:00 PM)	Musical Performance/MS Drama Club (Nina Ruffing)	n/a

## F. Conferences

ID	Name/Building	Conference/Location	Date/#Days	Cost	Sub
*1760892	Kayla Axelson/HV	BPSC Site Visit/Shaler SD	12/5/25 1 day	\$0	Yes
*1761739	Mia Mackulin/HV	ECRI Intensification Training/ PaTTAN	12/1/25 1 Day	\$43.96	Yes
*1763106	Mary Bekavac/HV	BPSC Site Visit/Shaler SD	12/5/25 1 day	\$0	Yes
*1772124	Robert Campana/MS	PCCD Threat Assessment Training/AIU Waterfront	12/17/25 1 day	\$0	No
*1772757	Lisa McClafferty/HS	PDE Conference: Making a Difference: Educational Practices that Work/Hershey	2/25/26-2/27/26 3 days	\$660.00	No
1773505	Bethany Canavan/HV	Supporting Students with Dyslexia: Interventions & Accommodations/ AIU Waterfront	2/23/26 1 day	\$0	No
1773596	Dina Fouser/MS	PDE Conference: Making a Difference: Educational Practices that Work/Hershey	2/25/26-2/27/26 3 days	\$715.00	No
1773602	Tina Keller/MS	PDE Conference: Making a Difference: Educational Practices that Work/Hershey	2/25/26-2/27/26 3 days	\$1,062.00	No
1773792	Lisa Mariano/HV	Supporting Students with Dyslexia: Interventions & Accommodations/AIU Waterfront	2/23/26 1 day	\$0	No
1774556	Stephanie Didjunas/HV	Supporting Students with Dyslexia: Interventions & Accommodations/AIU Waterfront	2/23/26 1 day	\$0	Yes
*1776730	Jill Vecchio/HS	QBS Refresher/WMASD	1/6/26 1 day	\$0	Yes
1777701	Noelle Haney/Admin	2026 Stronger Connections Conference/King of Prussia	3/17/26-3/20/26 4 days	\$967.30	No
1777877	Brendan Vines/HS	AI for Absolute Beginners/ AIU Waterfront	1/28/26 1 day	\$0	No
1777878	Melissa Welsh/HS	AI for Absolute Beginners/AIU Waterfront	1/28/26 1 day	\$0	No
1777889	Brendan Vines/HS	Learn to Create with Canva/AIU Waterfront	1/29/26 1 day	\$0	No
1777891	Melissa Welsh/HS	Learn to Create with Canva/AIU Waterfront	1/29/26 1 day	\$0	No
1779464	Maranda Kotchman/CB	Supporting English Learners with Disabilities/AIU Waterfront	2/26/26 1 day	\$0	No

1779482	Maranda Kotchman/CB	Talk, Read, Talk, Write/AIU Waterfront	4/10/26 1 day	\$0	No
1779581	Heather Vidic/CB	PBSC Education/Ron Clark Cohort Meetings/Mon Valley Education Consortium	1/22/26, 3/5/26 5/26 (TBD) 3 days	\$0	Yes
1779603	Heather Vidic/CB	MTSS Navigating Dual Needs/AIU Waterfront	2/26/26 1 day	\$0	Yes
1780204	Amanda Monzak/CB	South Hills Area Gifted Consortium/Bethel Park	2/26/26 1 day	\$0	Yes
1780557	Christine O'Lare/HS	LIGHT Network Biannual Winter PD/Children's Museum	2/5/26 1 day	\$0	Yes

**12. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL**

**13. NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL**

**14. ATHLETIC PERSONNEL**

**15. BOARD PRESIDENT'S CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Squires had nothing for this meeting.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION DISCUSSION**

Mr. Squires stated that Executive Session was held prior to the Work Session to discuss litigation, personnel, and collective bargaining.

**17. BOARD REPORTS**

**A. Committees**

Building & Grounds – Mr. Soles spoke about getting a wind screen for around the tennis courts. Mr. Zidek spoke about getting a gate in the back of Homeville in the circle. Mr. Soles mentioned that Homeville may need to replace the black iron fencing. He also asked about hiring student summer workers for this year. Lastly, Mr. Zidek gave a High School auditorium update.

Safety & Transportation - Mr. Soles spoke about negotiations for our transportation service.

Finance – Mr. Wehrer spoke about notifying each vendor about expiring contracted services, putting together an RFP for cafeteria services, the Act 1 index, the rise in health care costs for next year, the end of ESSA monitoring, a recap of the bids for the Middle School kitchen kettles, and the disposal of some district equipment/materials. He also gave an update on the state budget amounts.

Athletics & Activities – Mr. Maha spoke about ordering football uniforms, the Tull Family grant for \$250,000 that the district received, the intramurals/empower programs for the younger students, and the possible purchase of indoor soccer goals. Mr. Soles mentioned the Jr. High Waynesburg Wrestling tournament.

Technology – Mr. Livingston from Ford gave an MDF update.

Education – Mr. Soles mentioned HISTuary, the proposed 2026-2027 school calendar, the band trip to Disney, an agreement between Adelphoi and the Clairton SD, and comprehensive planning.

Policy – Mr. Soles spoke about nine policies for first reading.

B. Steel Center

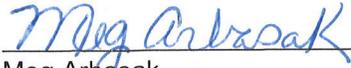
Mr. Donahoe will give his report at the Regular Meeting.

**18. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Lucas had no report for the Work Session.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



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Meg Arbasak  
Board Secretary

**PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE SIGN IN SHEET**

**VISITOR RECORD**

Work Session Meeting  
 Board of School Directors  
 West Mifflin Area School District

Name	Address	Organization Representing (If Any)
Barb Gregory	666 DeBaldo Dr, WM	
Zach Livingston		Ford office Tech
Sarah Pellis		MVI