



**WPS BOARD BRIEFS**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**May 11, 2026 ~ 6:00 PM**

WJH Science & Engineering  
Presentation:

Students from Madeline Juliot’s Wyoming Junior High School class presented their Engineering and Science Showcase, highlighting a year-long focus on conservation and community connections. Scholars explored topics such as the local watershed, native plants, and human impact on the environment through their science coursework. Building on a partnership with LGROW, students engaged in environmental engineering projects designed to deepen their understanding of stewardship and real-world applications. Through hands-on fieldwork, scholars collected and analyzed data from local watersheds, including Sand Creek and Buck Creek, and developed proposed solutions to improve watershed health. The presentation also emphasized the strength of community partnerships and outlined future plans which include projects such as planting native trees and gardens at Lemery Park, creating erosion-control gardens near school facilities, and launching a storm drain awareness campaign for both students and the broader community.

Spring 2026 WHS Alpha Wolf 11  
Champions of Character:

WHS Principal Josh Baumbach and teacher John Doyle were in attendance to share the Wyoming High School building spotlight presentation which recognized the newest Alpha Wolf 11 award recipients (Axel Arevalo Baires, Shaynie Williams, Jessica Arellano-Cisneros, Jackson Bisard, Uriel Diaz, Yaretzi Martinez-Maldonado, Gegni Yaretzi Martinez, Salena Truong). These scholars were recently selected by staff and peers at Wyoming High School as Alpha Wolf 11 Champions of Character for displaying kindness, compassion, and gratitude in all that they do.

At the recent AW11 event, WHS celebrated the 11th anniversary of its “Be An 11” (AW11) program recognizing a total of 143 students who have been selected over the years as Champions of Character for exemplifying kindness, compassion, and grace within the school community. The May 1<sup>st</sup> event included an invitation to all past recipients, who were honored for their legacy and presented with commemorative scarf stoles. The program also highlighted the Senior Class of 2026 as they shared their Discovery Days experiences and were recognized by staff. In addition, the school honored the legacy of Ryan Fischer of Grandville High School, whose story inspired the creation of the program, with his parents in attendance for a special recognition. The AW11 celebration concluded with a keynote address from Ole Miss quarterback Trinidad Chambliss, who spoke on perseverance, faith, and the importance of education and preparation.

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Several recent AW11 Champion of Character award recipients along with their parents were in attendance at the Board meeting. They each shared brief remarks on the significance of the recognition and its impact on them individually, the school community, and the broader Wyoming community. This recognition portion highlighted the continued emphasis on character, leadership, and positive contributions within Wyoming High School.

Axel Arevalo Baires stated that he was honored and humbled to be an AW11. To him, being an AW11 means showing up when you are tired, working hard, leading with your heart and knowing where you come from so you know where you are going. He said he will continue to lift up others while being compassionate and gracious. Axel works to make sure no voices go unheard. He likes to make sure all students know they are part of the pack. He said that in Wyoming we build bridges. He also thanked the Board and administration for believing and encouraging students.

Shaynie Williams appreciated being recognized for her kindness, compassion, and graciousness. She said she works to make sure others feel welcomed and tries to never leave others out. She pointed out that everyone serves a purpose in the District. She encourages others to keep trying and to not give up so that you can be prepared for whatever lies ahead.

Jessica Arellano-Cisneros said that sticking to being kind, compassionate, and gracious goes a long way. She strives to make others feel included and welcomed regardless of who they are. She likes being considered a safe space and said you never know what you can do for someone else.

Jackson Bisard said winning the AW11 award means a lot because others think he is deserving. He said that he feels relatable to Ryan Fisher, in that they are both student athletes who try to include others and treat people with respect and kindness.

Uriel Diaz said he had not realized he was deserving of the award until receiving it. He is grateful to others who have shown him support. He said being kind, compassionate, and gracious is hard to do every day but it is well worth it.

Yaretzi Martinez-Maldonado appreciates that becoming an AW11 is an individual recognition. She said WHS is a school family and the AW11 program allows students to see the impact they have made on each other and the impact they have had on the Wyoming High School community as a whole.

Gegni Yaretzi Martinez was unable to attend the meeting but feels honored to have received the award.

Salena Truong worked hard to connect with others and learn how to include others in the things she does. She tries to make sure others have a space where they feel comfortable. She encourages others to believe in themselves. She strongly believes in the AW11 program and in recognizing others for their character traits.

The presentations concluded with appreciation expressed to the Board of Education for its continued support of the Alpha Wolf 11 program. Board members, in turn, thanked the WHS students and staff for their thoughtful, well-prepared presentations and commended them for their leadership, character, and positive representation of Wyoming High School, Wyoming Public Schools, and the Wyoming community.

4/27/26 Board Minutes:  
**Action Item – Approved**

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the regular session WPS Board of Education meeting held at 6:00 PM on Monday, April 27, 2026.

Personnel Transactions:  
**Action Item – Approved**

The Board reviewed and approved the following personnel transactions:

**New Hires:**

Aneisha Anderson, Bus Driver, Eff 4/28/26

**Position Changes:**

Laura Delgado, Counseling Secretary at WHS, Eff 5/13/26

Lisa DeMaagd, Director of Multilingual Programs, Eff 7/1/26

**Leaves of Absence:**

Secretary at WIS, FMLA, Eff 5/4/26-TBD

**Resignations:**

Cintia Quintino, Secretary at WIS, Eff 5/29/26

Megan Augustine, Teacher at West, Eff 5/29/26

Lynn Velthouse, Teacher at WJH, Eff 5/29/26

Sandy Loomis, Food Service at WIS, Eff 5/21/26

**Retirements:**

Heather Baker, Teacher at WHS, Eff 5/29/26

Jason Pittman, Teacher at WHS, Eff 5/29/26

Jennifer Blackburn, Teacher at Glad, Eff 5/29/26

Kari Smith, Teacher at WHS, Eff 5/29/26

Kelly Sokoloski, Bus Driver, Eff 5/29/26

Melissa Schneider, Teacher at WHS, Eff 5/29/26

Thomas Vanderklay, Teacher at WHS, Eff 5/29/26

Tracie Schepers, Teacher at Glad, Eff 5/29/26

**Non-Renewals:**

Meredith Keasey, Teacher at SLA, Eff 5/29/26

<p>Shannon Frick, WPS Board of Education Member Resignation: <b>Action Item – Approved</b></p>	<p>The Board was provided notice that Shannon Frick intends to vacate her position as Board of Education member effective May 19, 2026.</p>
<p>May 5<sup>th</sup> Election Update:</p>	<p>Superintendent Hoekstra shared an update on the May 5th election, noting that the Non-Homestead Millage Proposal was approved by nearly 64% of voters. This successful outcome reflects strong community support and allows the District to continue levying the operating millage ensuring funding for essential areas including students, staff, classroom instruction, transportation, and student services. Superintendent Hoekstra thanked staff, principals, families, and community members for their efforts in sharing accurate information and engaging the public throughout the campaign.</p>
<p>Superintendent Evaluation – Section C:</p>	<p>Following the Board meeting on Monday, May 11 the Board met to work through Section C, Staff Relations, of Superintendent Hoekstra’s 2025-2026 evaluation. The group used the superintendent evaluation tool provided by MASB.</p>
<p>BoE Bus Garage Tour:</p>	<p>The Board was provided an update on construction of the new bus garage. The group toured the new facility after the committee work session on Thursday, May 7th. Superintendent Hoekstra also thanked the City of Wyoming for sharing bus garage space with the District during the construction period.</p>
<p>Gladiola Construction Update:</p>	<p>The Board reviewed architectural renderings for upcoming renovations at Gladiola Elementary School, as presented by GMB. The presentation deck included detailed floor plans along with proposed interior and exterior design concepts. Board members also reviewed the preliminary gymnasium design and discussed how the planned updates will enhance the learning environment, functionality, and overall student experience within the building and District.</p>
<p>WPS Emergency Operations Plan: <b>Action Item – Approved</b></p>	<p>The Board was provided an overview and approved of updates to the Wyoming Public Schools All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Administration noted that an initial EOP was completed in December 2023; however, the Michigan Office of School Safety subsequently required districts to adopt a new standardized template. Wyoming Public Schools implemented the updated format, and over the course of the year, Joe Steffes, Director of Safety, Security, and Transportation, developed eight revised EOPs, one for each building. These plans are required to be reviewed and approved by the Board every two years.</p> <p>After approval, each EOP is shared with the Kent County Emergency Manager, as well as local police and fire departments, building principals, and District administration. The overview highlighted key components of the plans, including general</p>

information, action plans, forms, job action sheets, and hazard-specific procedures. The EOPs outline staff and district responsibilities during incidents and are intended to serve as practical guides rather than documents to be memorized. Ongoing staff training is provided through scheduled in-service opportunities to ensure preparedness, and the plans serve to inform students, staff, and the community of their roles before, during, and after an emergency, reinforcing confidence that the district is prepared to respond effectively.

Budget Update:

Jamie Carnes, Associate Superintendent, provided the Board with a budget update.

2026-2027 Kent ISD Budget:  
**Action Item – Approved**

The 2026-2027 Kent ISD budget was reviewed and approved by the Board.

2026-2027 Chartwell’s Food Service Contract Renewal:  
**Action Item – Approved**

The Board reviewed and approved the 2026-2027 Chartwells Food Service Management Contract renewal. This is the second annual renewal out of four possible.

WHS Early Graduation Request of Scholar 2526.02:  
**Action Item – Approved**

The Board reviewed and approved the Wyoming High School request for the early graduation of scholar 2526.02.

SEAB Biennial Review:  
**Action Item – Approved**

In accordance with Michigan Compiled Laws 380.1507, Wyoming Public Schools convened its Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) to complete the required biennial review of the District’s sex education curriculum and instructional materials. The SEAB met on March 30, 2026, and conducted a comprehensive review across all grade levels, including elementary, middle school, and high school programming, as required under Michigan Compiled Laws 380.1507b. Following the review process, the SEAB recommended no changes to the current sex education curriculum, reflecting the strength and quality of the existing program as well as the professionalism and expertise of the instructional staff responsible for its implementation. The item was presented to the Board of Education for acknowledgment and approval of the completion of the biennial review process in compliance with state law.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Board Committee Work Session**

Thursday, June 4, 2026 – 4:30 PM  
Thursday, June 18, 2026 – 4:30 PM

**Board Meetings:**

Monday, June 8, 2026 – 5 PM  
Monday, June 22, 2026 – 4:45 PM – Budget Hearing  
Monday, June 22, 2026 – 5 PM

**Other:**

Spring Choral Concert - May 11, 2026 - 7 PM - DHFAC  
West 1st & 2nd Grade Music Concert - May 12, 2026 - 6:30 PM

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WJH Spring Band Concert – May 12, 2026 – 7 PM – DHFAC  
No School - May 25, 2026 - Memorial Day  
Class of 2026 Graduation Ceremony - May 26, 2026 - 6:30 PM -  
Calvin University  
Gladiola Family Picnic – May 28, 2026 – 5 PM  
Last Day of 2025-2026 School Year - May 29, 2026  
First Day of 2026-2027 School Year - August 25, 2026