



WPS BOARD BRIEFS
Regular Board Meeting
January 13, 2025 ~ 6:00 PM

December 2024 WHS Alpha
Wolf 11 Champions of Character:

WHS Principal Josh Baumbach and teacher John Doyle were in attendance on Monday (01/13/25) evening to share the Wyoming High School building spotlight presentation which recognized the newest Alpha Wolf 11 award recipients (Miah Mendez-Ortega, Chauncey Oliver, Isaac Hill, Lily McKenney, Harmoni Green, Tina Vo, Caleb Anderson, Michael Siguenza). These scholars were selected in December of 2024 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.

The 2024-25 school year marks the 10th anniversary of the Wyoming High School Alpha Wolf 11 program. The theme for this school year is “good vibes” which staff and students explained was about spreading the message of unity and joy and showing that together we can create positive change.

Recent award recipients took a moment to share with the Board what being recognized as an Alpha Wolf 11 Champion of Character meant to them personally.

Miah Mendez-Ortega, a freshman at WHS, mentioned that through the Alpha Wolf program she has met a lot of new people who she might not have met otherwise. She said that she is naturally a positive and hard-working person but winning the award motivates her to do even more.

Chauncey Oliver, a freshman at WHS, said he was grateful to receive the award. He mentioned that he typically feels nervous and is hesitant to speak in public. He said that winning the award has boosted his confidence. He feels it is an honor to be recognized, and he hopes to inspire others to be better every day and to find the light in the world.

Sophomore Isaac Hill was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Doyle said that Isaac was a fine young man who was very deserving of the award. Mr. Doyle also mentioned that staff and peers had a lot of good things to say about Isaac.

Lily McKenney, a sophomore at WHS, was excited to know she had a positive effect on those around her. She is both proud and honored to win the award. She said that her friends outside of the WPS community were also proud of her and knew the importance of the award.

Harmoni Green, a junior at WHS, said being recognized for the little things was very important to her. She strives to make people feel better about themselves and it makes her feel good to know that she has made others feel good.

Junior Tina Vo thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. She said that she was happy and proud to be recognized and that winning the award reinforced her commitment to lead with empathy. She hopes to create a ripple effect of good works. She mentioned that the first time she saw her dad cry was at the AW11 ceremony. She was deeply grateful to win the award and thanked the Board and administration for their continued support of the program.

Caleb Anderson, a senior at WHS, said winning the award means a lot. He works to model the Alpha Wolf 11 character traits and hopes to motivate his classmates to model those traits as well.

Senior Michael Siguenza said winning the award was an honor and at first, he didn't feel like he deserved it. He hopes to inspire others and create a boomerang of kindness. He said it fills him with warmth to see others smile. He loves his community and school.

Acceptance & Oath of Office –
Lewis & DeKryger:

WPS Board of Education members Jennifer Lewis and Lisa DeKryger accepted the offices to which they were elected and were sworn in by taking the constitutional oath of office with notary, Christie McEwen, present.

12/09/24 Board Minutes:
Action Item – Approved

The Board reviewed and approved the regular Board meeting minutes for the meeting held on Monday, December 9, 2024 at 6 PM.

Personnel Transactions:
Action Item – Approved

The Board reviewed and approved the following personnel transactions:

New Hires:

Mary Jo Jones, Special Ed Para, West, Eff 1/6/25
Diana Garcia Dominguez, Food Service, WIS, Eff 1/6/25

Position Changes:

Jennifer Callahan, Director of Finance, Eff 1/6/25
Lorna Colon, Elem Secretary, Parkview, Eff 1/6/25
Shaunna Marzean, HR Associate, Eff 1/6/25

Leaves of Absence:

Teacher at Parkview, FMLA, Eff 1/6/25

Resignations:

Benjamin Schmidt, Bus Driver, Eff 1/2/2025

WJH Building Spotlight
Presentation – Adventure Point
& Leadership Class:

At the Board of Education committee meeting on Thursday, January 9th, Wyoming Junior High School Principal Michael Perez and Assistant Principal Colleen Holmes provided the Board with an overview of recent trips to Adventure Point by the College and Career class scholars who participated in the Summit Leadership Program.

The Summit Leadership Program is an immersive initiative that provides scholars with professional leadership training throughout the year. The program begins with a full day of on-site training to launch the learning process, followed by monthly in-classroom training sessions and retreats at Adventure Point. Workshop topics include talent and skills development, teamwork, accountability, conflict resolution, and servant leadership.

Scholars highlighted several aspects they enjoyed about the program, including field trips and outdoor activities, teamwork and group collaboration, socializing and building friendships, prizes and rewards, engaging activities, and the supportive staff and environment.

This initiative aligns with the College and Career Curriculum and the WPS Profile of a Graduate, offering students valuable opportunities to develop essential leadership competencies.

WIS Building Spotlight
Presentation – Building Culture
& School Pride:

At the Board of Education committee meeting on Thursday, January 9th, Wyoming Intermediate Principal Steven Reynolds, Assistant Principal April Chambliss, and scholars presented an overview of their efforts to build a positive school culture and empower scholar voice by living out the district's core values and beliefs. They have embraced the WPS strategic plan goal of creating culturally affirming spaces where diverse identities are celebrated, scholar voice is elevated and acted upon, and all stakeholders feel a sense of belonging as their authentic selves. The group emphasized the importance of scholar voice in shaping their learning environment, showcasing how scholars are actively involved in decision-making processes and contribute to the overall culture of the school.

The WIS School Improvement Committee goal of fostering a sense of belonging can be seen through various initiatives, including morning announcements, Scholar Success Plans, the WIS podcast, Scholar Recognition Surveys, WIS Scholar Advisors, the Wolf Den, and monthly Wolf Pride assemblies. These efforts contribute to a supportive and inclusive environment where scholars feel valued and connected. Through a collaborative approach, WIS staff and scholars feel valued and empowered to share their ideas, fostering a positive atmosphere where everyone's perspective is respected. The presentation underscored the commitment of the building to create an inclusive environment that celebrates staff and scholar input and builds upon school pride.

2025 Board Organizational Resolutions:
Action Item – Approved

The WPS 2025 Board Organizational Resolutions, which require annual approval, were reviewed and approved. The annual organizational resolutions include Board member responsibilities, designation of an election coordinator, approval of financial institutions, legal representation, check, purchase order and employment contract signing, along with WPS Board of Education meeting dates and times.

2025 Board Committee Assignments:

Board members engaged in a discussion regarding committee structure and member interest. The conversation focused on aligning committee responsibilities with strategic goals, ensuring balanced representation, and identifying areas where members could contribute based on their expertise and interests. The Board committees for 2025 are as follows:

Executive Committee:

Lisa Manley, Chair
Craig Popma
Jeff Norton
Craig Hoekstra

Instructional Committee:

Jennifer Lewis, Chair
Lisa Manley
Craig Popma
Jennifer Slinger

Finance Committee:

Shannon Frick, Chair
Lisa DeKryger
Audrey Zapata
Matt Lewis

School Board Appreciation – January 27, 2025:

January is School Board Appreciation month. On Monday January 27th, as a District, we will thank the WPS Board of Education for their time and efforts in supporting and providing a quality educational experience for every child in our District.

School Board Professional Development Feedback:

Superintendent Hoekstra collected feedback and assessed availability for upcoming school board professional development sessions. After compiling and reviewing the information, it was determined that the upcoming school board professional development sessions would include one regarding school safety and crisis management on January 23rd led by Joe Steffes and one led by Dr. Tammy Campbell on March 10th focused on the second year of the District strategic plan.

City of Wyoming Garage Bay, Conference Room and Tool Storage License Agreement:
Action Item – Approved

The City of Wyoming has generously offered the use of a mechanics bay at their Public Works facility for the district's use during the anticipated 18-month reconstruction of the bus garage. City Manager John Shay extended this offer, and following a thorough

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Resolution To Revert To 2020
Title IX Rules and Regulations:
Action Item – Approved

inspection by district mechanics, Matt Lewis, David Holsworth, and Superintendent Hoekstra, it was determined that the facility is an ideal temporary solution for fleet maintenance needs. While several neighboring school districts also offered space, the proximity and suitability of the City’s Public Works facility make it the most practical choice. This arrangement will help ensure minimal disruption to bus services throughout the reconstruction period. The Board reviewed and approved a license agreement for the use of the City of Wyoming garage bay, conference room, and tool storage.

In August 2024, the Board approved updates to Title IX regulations that replaced the 2020 rules. However, a recent federal court decision has vacated the 2024 Title IX regulations, declaring them “unlawful.” As a result, schools are now required to revert to the 2020 Title IX regulations to remain compliant with federal law.

Superintendent Hoekstra presented a resolution for the Board's approval to formally align district policies with the reinstated 2020 regulations. Additionally, the Board has been provided a brief from Thrun Law outlining the court’s decision and its implications for schools.

Key differences between the 2024 and 2020 Title IX regulations include:

Definition of Sexual Harassment: The 2020 regulations adopt a stricter standard, defining harassment as severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive.

Jurisdiction: Title IX enforcement is limited to incidents within school programs or activities, excluding most off-campus conduct.

Grievance Process: The 2020 regulations require schools to implement a formal grievance process, including live hearings, cross-examination, and impartial decision-makers.

Policy and Training Revisions: Updates to the district's Title IX policies and staff training are necessary to ensure compliance.

This action item emphasized the district’s commitment to aligning with state and federal law while maintaining a safe and equitable learning environment for all students.

Finance Reports – Nov. 2024:
Action Item – Approved

The Board reviewed and approved the November 2024 check register and budget to actual report.

Bus Purchases:
Action Item – Approved

The Board reviewed and approved the quotes associated with the purchase of four (4) new buses. Two of the new buses will be gas powered and two will be diesel powered. One of the diesel buses will include a wheelchair lift. The total cost of the four (4) buses is \$590,647.

Scholar Perception Survey:

Dr. Slanger and Dr. Burde provided an overview of the fall 2024 WPS K-12 Scholar Perception Survey. The survey measured four domains: belonging, social emotional learning, student

engagement, and safety. The district-level results indicate scholars feel a strong sense of belonging and feel both physically and social-emotionally safe in their learning environment.

Class of 2038 Signing Day:

WPS will be hosting a Class of 2038 signing day event at the Administration Building on April 21st from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Families will have an opportunity to learn about WPS, enroll their incoming kindergarten scholar, enjoy refreshments, and participate in a make-and-take activity. Each family who attends will receive a backpack filled with books, information about WPS, and activities to do over the summer.

Suspension / Expulsion of
Scholar 2425.01

Action Item – Expelled

The Board voted to permanently expelled the scholar known as #2425.01 effective January 14, 2025.

Upcoming Events:

Board Committee Work Session

Thursday, January 23, 2025 – 4:30 PM

Thursday, February 6, 2025 – 4:30 PM

Board Meetings:

Monday, January 27, 2025 – 6 PM – Board Appreciation Night

Monday, February 10, 2025 – 6 PM – Board Appreciation Night

Other:

January 2025 - School Board Appreciation Month

Feeding America Food Pantry - January 27, 2025 - 4:30 PM - WHS

No School For Scholars - Staff PD - January 31, 2025

WJH Band Pre-Festival Concert - February 6, 2025 - 7 PM - WHS

Mid-Winter Break - February 14th & 17th

Feeding America Food Pantry - Feb 24, 2025 - 4:30 PM - WHS

Parkview Literacy Night - February 27, 2025 - 5 PM