



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
WEST POINT SCHOOLS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996-1196

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MAPA-E

2 May 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of West Point School Board Meeting, 4 April 2012

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the West Point School Board of Education was called to order by DB, President, on Wednesday, 4 April 2012, at 4:30 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room, Building 705.

Members Present were:

BC, Vice President
DB, President
GL, Board Member
EL, Board Member

JS, Board Member
Michael Gould, District Superintendent, NY/VA/PR
(Attended via VTC)
AB, Directorate, MWR

Others Present:

NS, Elementary School Principal
SF, Elementary Vice Principal
DR, Middle School Principal
JJ, USACE
LM, PTO
PL, WPES

SD, USA Corps of Engineers
MC, School Liaison Officer
NS, WPESTA
GC, SMSS, WPS
TM, WPMS
Gala Edgar, WPES
EE, Recorder

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion was made to approve the agenda; the agenda was approved as written.
3. **APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES:** The minutes from the March 2012 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded; and the minutes were approved as written.
4. **INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE SCHOOL BOARD:** None
5. **REPORTS:**
- a. **Superintendent's Reports:** Mr. Gould appreciates the board and community welcoming the opportunity to do the meeting via VTC. Using VTC helps to conserve travel dollars and hopes it will work well for us.
- (1) **Logistics Report:** Mr. Gould reported on: **WPMS MILCON:** Mr. Gould reviewed the anticipated timeline changes due to delays that have taken place and that this had not changed from the last meeting. The UXO expert from USACE Baltimore District will continue on site for an additional two to three weeks until all excavation is done. At this time GC reported on the following additional MILCON items: we are still awaiting the final decision for the electrical loop; she shared some photos of the retaining wall built where the new transformer will be located and the forms being put up for foundations. Summer work in the 1934 building will take place on the lower level of the building to begin making the connections between the new building and the 1934 building. Also, the parking approval was received from DoDEA to add temporary parking spaces to the lower lot; it is now working its way through DPW. She explained spaces will be a one-for-one replacement of parking spaces lost in the lot behind the middle school. **WP Maintenance Support Contract:** It was reported that GSE continues to provide ongoing

preventive maintenance and on- demand maintenance on the facilities. The Assessment of Facility Condition Report was received and reviewed by ZM, NY/VA Logistics Manager, EE, and GC and a priority list was established and submitted to DDESS for funding. We are awaiting proposals from GSE. These projects are related mostly to heating and air conditioning. Updates will continue. **Other Projects:** Outstanding projects waiting funding are the Elementary Clock System (Estimate \$15,000) and Installation of AC in small ES Office (Estimate \$10,000). Pursuing estimates on replacement of Window Blinds in the Elementary School and Replacement of Auditorium Lights in the Middle School. **Safety & Security:** Tornado drill has been scheduled, review of an alternate evacuation site is to be conducted, school will participate in the post-wide AFTP exercise on 25 April, and the next meeting is 1 May 2012. **Elementary School Roof Project:** Mr. Gould reported that right after last month's meeting we received information that this project was not going to proceed this summer and is on the schedule for Spring/Summer 2013. We are hoping the funding for this project will come at the end of FY 12. The project will include some HVAC equipment and work on the window wall in the 1984 wing.

An additional topic Mr. Gould wanted to mention was the topic of pink slime that recently has been on the news. He stated we are making sure we are aware of all related information. In addition we are told that the vendors who provide beef to our cafeteria are not in the groups that were concerned groups. This is a new item and we will continue to track and will keep the board updated.

(2) **Staffing Update:** Mr. Gould reported a new Special Education Aide in the Elementary School, CZ, SC will be reassigned from ES part-time Physical Education teacher to the full-time Physical Education Teacher in the Middle School for SY 2012-2013, MM, WPES Secretary, has announced her retirement, effective 31 August, and there are three current vacancies: Gifted Resource Teacher, Elementary School Physical Education Teacher (Part-Time), and a Lunch Monitor. He reported that the Gifted Teacher that was selected was on site and ready to begin when a personal matter caused her to resign suddenly. Therefore, Mr. Gould stated we intend to continue with the current long term substitute in the Gifted Resource Room and will look to fill this position next year.

One unexpected personnel action that recently took place was the announcement of SF, Vice Principal, being reassigned to Patch Elementary School in Stuttgart, Germany. Mr. Gould explained that he had been very successful keeping the Vice Principal position for the past two years with the enrollment being below the 500 mark. Unfortunately, the reality of the reduced enrollment has now affected us and we did not receive the authorization for the upcoming school year. Mr. Gould took this opportunity to state that SF has been an outstanding instructional leader and that she has tremendous potential with her experience and knowledge.

(3) **Enrollment Report:** Mr. Gould reported the numbers provided have been consistent:

Elementary School – 464

Middle School – 237

(4) **DDESS STEM Initiatives:** Mr. Gould gave a brief update. He stated district-wide, STEM Week is 30 April through 4 May and West Point's key day is scheduled for 4 May. He reviewed some upcoming events and trips that would be taking place. In order to have these things take place, there were key people that should be recognized because it takes lots of communication and coordination. He thanked MC, LW and SS, TJ, and all teachers for embracing this expanded learning opportunity for West Point Students.

(5) **DoDEA Safe Schools Newsletter:** The most recent newsletter was in the packets for review at their leisure.

(6) **NYVAPR District Newsletter:** Each board member was given a copy of the District Newsletter for their information.

(7) **School Updates:**

- a. **Elementary School:** NS reported the following: TerraNova testing was completed and mailed out, Book Fair Parent Night was a great event that included cadet involvement, report cards went out today, On 6 April - teachers will work on grade level STEM Day projects , Special Education Training for ASPEN will take place 17-19 April, 19 April the Firebird Puppet Show will take place (PTO sponsored), there will be a PreK Puppet show in lieu of a field trip (PTO sponsored), field trips for 4th and 3rd grade are coming up, differentiated instruction continues to be a priority classroom strategy as we seek to meet the needs of every student at WPES, local assessments for the graphic organizer and the writing prompts

will be completed by 20 April for CSI. This data will help monitor growth of the strategies as they have been implemented throughout the school year and improve our school improvement plan for next year.

- b. Middle School:** DR recapped *March events*: TerraNova testing was completed and shipped with the results expected at the end of May; 3rd Quarter report cards were mailed on 4 April 2012 and shared the assigned grades, and Music in our Schools Month was celebrated by the USMA Jazz Knights performing for Grades 4-8 in our MS Auditorium. *Upcoming events*: April is Month of the Military Child where daily recognition will be during announcements and he added that he will be attending the MCEC “Living in the New Normal” state-level conference on 10-11 April at West Point, the PreQAR visit will take place 3-4 May, and several upcoming calendar events were reviewed on the school website. *School Improvement*: Self-study updated during today’s faculty meeting, Collaboration day will be Friday, 6 April, focus will be on subject-team sharing of intervention implementation efforts (Big6 and 6 +1 Traits), 20 April is Staff Development day and will include data collection/work sample collation as well as sharing of best practices and planning for next school year. *Transitions*: All 8th graders are scheduled to meet with O’Neill High School, Special education transition meetings are set for 2 and 24 May, and the NYS Regents Exam schedule was reviewed. *Scheduling*: Course selections will be distributed once the master schedule is finalized; TM will arrange visits to the 4th grade classes in early May, there are no changes to the school day structure – they will continue with forty-eight, forty-five minute periods; however, there is one new course, Applied Technology that replaces one session of Art. *AFAP Issue Update*: DoDEA is preparing the response for the two HQ-level issues reported at last month’s meeting. He presented his local response to the Geometry issue. It is projected to have 4-5 eligible students, a virtual school that will accept up to 10 students per school, O’Neill High School enrollment is an available option, and we are exploring an EDA for a weekly study group after school.

- b. PTO Report:** LM reported the Book Fair made over \$3,000 in profit from the Scholastic Book Fair, generating \$1250 in Scholastic Dollars’ which are used for magazine subscriptions, etc. The new PTO slate for SY 2012-2013 is being generated. The PTO is hosting a Volunteer Thank You Dessert to be held on 13 April and the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon will be hosted in May.

- c. School Liaison Report:** MC reported on several different ongoing Partnerships in Education, i.e. USMA Chaplains Corp discussed religions and attended the annual religious debate with WPMS World Geography students; Cadet Company B-2 Bulldogs joined the West Point Bulldogs at the Annual Spring Expo and also participated in numerous school events and activities; LTC M joined TW’ 7th grade class by giving a live lesson on how to build a paper airplane that flies the farthest; and RCDrama Club went on a backstage tour of Eisenhower Hall. There were additional partnership events that Michi reported on to include that the Keller Army Hospital was allowing parents to use their shuttle to and from the D LOT to Keller Hospital on the day of the WPES Spring Concert due to limited parking in our lots. MC was commended for all of her efforts in working these partnerships.

6. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- a. Milcon Project:** This topic was discussed earlier in the meeting as part of the Logistics Report.

- b. Upcoming SB Elections:** AB stated elections will be held to fill four vacancies. Three vacancies will be two-year terms and one vacancy is a one-year term. Petitions will be available on 9 April. AB reviewed all the important dates and it was noted that the petition will be posted on each school website. The board concurred with the proposed process.

- 7. OTHER:** Mr. Gould stated DoDEA HQ will begin reviewing the Gifted Education Program Manual this summer and it should be reissued during Summer/Fall 2013.

- 8. NEW BUSINESS:** None

- 9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:** The next regular meeting will be held on 2 May 2012, 4:30 PM, in the MS Conference Room.

10. ADJOURN MEETING: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:21PM.

Approved by: _____

Michael Gould
Superintendent, NY/VA/PR DDESS

DB
Board President