



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MAPA-E

5 September 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of West Point School Board Meeting, 6 June 2012

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the West Point School Board of Education was called to order by DG, President, on Wednesday, 6 June 2012, at 4:30PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room, Building 705.

**Members Present were:**

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

SJ, Board Member  
Gary Gerstner, Assistant Superintendent, NY/VA/PR  
AB, Directorate, MWR

**Others Present:**

NS, Elementary School Principal  
SF, Elementary Vice Principal  
DR, Middle School Principal  
AP, Board Member  
CK, Board Member  
MC, School Liaison Officer

JZ, Board Member  
PL, WPES  
LD, USACE  
JJ, USACE  
SD, USACE  
EE, Recorder  
GC, SMSS

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion was made to approve the agenda, the motion was seconded; and the agenda was approved as written.
3. **APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES:** The minutes from the 2 May 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. Gerstner sent apologies on behalf of Mr. Gould as he was unable to attend this meeting due to conflicting District commitments. However, Mr. Gerstner was glad he was able to come and represent Mr. Gould and noted that this would be his (Mr. Gerstner's) last West Point School Board meeting as he was PCSing to Fort Campbell, Kentucky in a couple of months.
- (1) **Logistics Report: West Point Middle School MILCON Project:** Mr. Gerstner asked EE and GC to review the slides: **WPMS MILCON:** EE reported the tentative changes that will take place due to the unexpected delays to date with the construction. She stated the dates are basically three to four months beyond the original timelines that has been shared. These dates have not yet been negotiated with the contractor, however, USACE, felt they were reasonable. Recent photos of the exterior changes taking place were shared. GC reported that preparation work to install the new transformer will begin on or out 9 June, additional parking spaces are complete, work is being done inside the 1934 building over the summer to prepare for system connections to the new building. This work includes asbestos abatement in the faculty lounge, video production area and Supply/Logistics area. In addition,

steel work will begin this summer. **WP Maintenance Support Contract – GSE:** GSE continues to perform preventive maintenance and demand maintenance in all facilities. Proposals for work identified over \$2500 in the Facility Assessment have been received and are awaiting Task Orders from contracting to begin work over the summer. In addition, the Facilities Program Manager, DDESS, was recently on-site to perform the quarterly review. **Other Projects:** Funds were received for the replacement of auditorium lights and GSE will do the work over the summer. **Safety and Security:** GC reported the committee met on 20 May 2012, a successful tornado drill was conducted in May and both schools were commended on how the drills were conducted, and the committee agreed on a schedule for next school year’s drills. **Elementary School Roof Project:** Project was just recently funded with FY 12 dollars and will be performed Spring/Summer 2013.

- (2) **Staffing Update:** Mr. Gerstner reported that LK, ES Guidance Counselor, has retired, he reported all recent departures, reassignments, and vacancies for SY 2012/2013.
- (3) **Enrollment Report:** Mr. Gerstner reported the enrollment figures are not where we would like them at this time, however, it was due to the annual PCS for families. The numbers to date are as follows:

Elementary School – 449  
Middle School – 232

- (4) **DDESS STEM Initiatives:** The DoDEA STEM newsletter was shared in the board packets.
- (5) **TerraNova Results:** Mr. Gerstner shared the Middle School Terra Nova scores that were not available at last month’s meeting. He took the opportunity to report the results from grades 5 through 8 for reading, language, math, science and social studies for 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.
- (6) **Adoption of the Common Core State Standards:** Discussion took place in regard to the DoDEA decision to adopt the Common Core State Standards. After many opinions being shared, questions asked, and discussions, Mr. Gerstner stated that this topic will continue to be an agenda item for discussion at future meetings as the transition takes place.
- (7) **2011 NAEP 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Assessment:** The DoDEA News Release was included in the School Board packets. Mr. Gerstner stated that this assessment is the ‘President’s Test’ and our students do incredibly well. He added that DDESS African American and Hispanic students have scored higher than any other students in the country. He added this is a tribute to our teachers. There was discussion on how many tests and assessments (of a general/overall nature) students will be taking in the future.
- (8) **DoDEA Safe Schools Newsletter:** The most recent newsletter was in the packets for review at their leisure.
- (9) **NYVAPR District Newsletter:** Each board member was given a copy of the District Newsletter for their information.
- (10) **School Updates:**

- **Middle School:** DR reported busy times! He reviewed all the recent school activities from study trips to concerts to today’s promotion ceremony. He added that tomorrow was the last day of school. In addition, he took this opportunity to hail and farewell three folks, IR, PE teacher retiring after 36 years of education, 12 year being at West Point Middle School, and CR, Special Education Teacher and JM, Special Education Aide are not returning. He added that SC will be moving over from the Elementary School as the MS PE Teacher. GL gave kudos to DR for having the sixth grade students bring their parents to the Gym to share their projects after the award ceremony.
- **Elementary School:** NS reported that it has been a very busy end of year and took a moment to share a story. She explained that when she was going around to rooms during conferences, there was a mom with her child in the corner on her phone. NS explained that a child’s Mom had her husband on the phone while he was deployed in Afghanistan so he could be present during his child’s conference. Summer Enrichment Program will be taking place from 18 June – 13 July, Extended School Year will be 12 June – 12 July, the new first grade furniture will arrive next week, orientation for new families will take place 7 August, based on current registration, they will be adding a third grade class and decreasing a first grade class, the Meet and Greet Teachers Day will be before school, and Open House will be 30 August.

- b. **PTO Report:** LM absent, no report.
- c. **School Liaison Report:** MC reported they have piggybacked on NS's comment about the 1<sup>st</sup> grade furniture. She stated that CYSS folks were offered the opportunity to look at the furniture for their programs. They are working on getting the local education channel in HF/FM through Time Warner Cable to be shared with West Point. The transition boat ride will take place on 30 August for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders going to O'Neill and any other 'new' O'Neill students. They were very excited to get the WPMS Promotion Ceremony taped this afternoon for parents who are deployed. In addition, she reported the West Point Band was going to be recognized by the Garrison Commander with a Certificate of Appreciation as well as coins for the volunteer work they did with the schools.

**6. CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

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

**7. NEW BUSNISS:**

- a. **SY 2012-2013 School Board Meeting Schedule:** A schedule of dates for next year's school board meetings was placed in the board packets for members to review.
- b. **Oath of Office for New Candidates:** AB swore in CK, AP, and JZ as new school board members.
- c. **Invitation to SY 2012-2013 Welcome Back:** Mr. Gerstner stated that Mr. Gould asked to announce that the annual Welcome Back will take place on Monday, 13 August, at 0830 and more details will come as the date gets closer. AB stated the new Garrison Commander will be on board and to be sure to include Colonel DR.

**7. OTHER:**

- a. Mr. Gerstner took this opportunity to give departing board members a Certificate of Appreciation and a thank you letters from Mr. Gould.
- b. After the recent School Board elections, BC stated he will be PCSing and will only be available to fill one year of the two-year term that he was recently voted into. A motion was made to change BC two year term to a one year term. The motion was seconded and all were in favor.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:** DDESS Counsel will give School Board and PTO training will take place sometime in August. Date and time will be sent out via email. The training will take place via VTC. The first regular school board meeting was tentatively set for Wednesday, 5 September 2012 at 4:30 PM.

**9. ADJOURN MEETING:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:43 PM.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Michael Gould  
 Superintendent, NY/VA/PR DDESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Board President