



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**MAPA-E**

5 November 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of West Point School Board Meeting, 1 October 2008

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the West Point School Board of Education was called to order by Russ Lachance, President, on Wednesday, 1 October 2008, at 1633 in the Superintendent’s Conference Room, Building 705.

2. **Members Present were:**

F, Board Member  
F, Vice President  
K, Board Member  
L, President  
S, Board Member

Mr. Gary Gerstner, Assistant. Superintendent  
Mr.B, Command Rep

Absent:

Mr. Michael Gould, DDESS Superintendent

**Others Present:**

Elementary School Principal  
Middle School Principal  
PTO  
Parent  
PTO  
WPES Teacher  
WPES Teacher  
Booster Club  
PTO

Parent/PTO  
Teacher  
Parent Volunteer  
Advisor  
Garrison Commander  
HRO  
Recorder

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion was made to add a presentation by Garrison Commander, to the Agenda. The motion was approved and the agenda was approved as written.

4. **PRESENTATION OF AWARD:** GC thanked the board for giving him this opportunity. He stated that J was one of his favorite people at West Point. He took this opportunity to present an awarded to J from The National Military Family Association. He explained the key is submitting people’s names for these awards. TH recommended J for the Very Important Patriot (VIP) Award and this award came with a gift certificate for \$100 to the Commissary. He praised J for all of the wonderful things she does in the community with her volunteer hours.

5. **APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES:** The minutes from the 3 September 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

6. **INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE SCHOOL BOARD:** None

## 7. BOARD PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

a. *Chain of Concern:* The board handed out a revised Chain of Concern Letter and asked for comments and feedback through their *Wiki-site*. It is the board's intent to place the Chain of Concern letter on next month's agenda and then send it out to all the families after it is approved.

## 8. REPORTS:

a. **Superintendent's Reports:** Mr. G thanked the board for letting him sit in and give the reports for the District while Mr. Gould was attending a Superintendent's meeting in Peachtree City.

(1) **Staffing Update:** Mr. G reported that there were no vacancies, no new employees, and no departing employees, which is very good. He reported we currently have 25 individuals on the substitute list and there are always open announcements for substitutes, education technicians, and educational aides.

(2) **Logistics Update:** Mr. G stated this report is prepared by Logistics Manager who works closely with the Logistics Management Specialist on site. The following was reported: the Call Back System has no change from last report; Contract was awarded 30 September for the Middle School Roof Replacement, start date TBA; lights for the gym have been funded, parts arrived, we are awaiting a start date; Elementary School PreK fence was installed it provides a nice area for the children and it looks great; window repairs and screens are being worked with DPW for the Middle School; October menu was provided; and working items on the 5 year sustainment plan were provided: Funding has been requested to: replace the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade lockers, an AC replacement plan, resurfacing middle school play area and basketball court, paint both schools, replace carpet w/VTC in Middle School. These items go into a program called CORRIDOR and are balanced against other projects for the entire system. There were some questions and discussion. The following 'open' items will be included in next month's report: ES Roof Repair, and the Suppression Hood. Mr. G asked folks to send their questions the Logistics Management Specialist in regard to the roof replacement.

(3) **Enrollment Report:** Mr. G reported that 30 September is the most important enrollment report you can have all year because this figure drives our staffing for the next year. The following figures were reported:

West Point Elementary School – 525  
West Point Middle School – 264

(4) **TerraNova Results:** Mr. G shared the Cumulative Achievement Data for the 5-year trend and CSP Baseline for the West Point Schools. He stated it is a nationally normed standardized assessment and the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile is the national average. The results for the past five years we have been using the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the TerraNova which was implemented in 2002/2003 and added that we are changing to the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition this year. He stated that 2/3 of the test is multiple-choice and 1/3 of the test is short constructed responses where the students write a short answer. Results are disaggregated to the school in a series of reports and can be broken down in any number of areas, i.e. ethnicity, gender, quartile, and general curricular objectives. He shared the charts which showed the trends for grades 3 through 8 over the last five years and they were well above the 50% percentile.

A Brd Member questioned the usefulness of comparing West Point Schools to the national average to assess the quality of the WPS curricula, given that the schools have so many non-curricular advantages—such as a safe, closely knit community characterized by stable families with highly educated parents. He suggested that a more meaningful approach would be to compare West Point Schools' *Terra Nova* results to those of "peer competitor schools" that have similar community and student characteristics. Mr. Kilner volunteered to investigate how to identify such schools.

Mr. G r also reviewed the Baseline Assessment Data for the DoDEA CSP 2006-2011 and explained that by July 2011 the goal is that 75% of all students in grades 3-11 will perform "At the Standard" level or higher (the top two quarters) on a system-wide norm-referenced assessment. Seven percent or less will perform "Below the Standard" level (the bottom quartile). The grade level results were shared. A list of discussion points on the changes that have taken place on the new Community Strategic Plan was also shared. Mr. G stated that the CSP is available on the DoDEA website and if there are questions prior to next school board meeting, members could drop an email with their question and we will be happy to address your questions.

There were several questions and further discussion on the data shared.

**(5) School Updates:**

**a. Middle School:** MS Principal reported Gradespeed has been a hit. This is the on-line grade book program where parents can log on to review their child's grades, there are 79 active and 26 pending accounts; Intramurals Program is in place for Grades 5 and 6, 58 students signed up and kickball was the sport chosen; Modified Sports Season is underway, Cross Country had its home meet at Bear Mountain, we scored 3<sup>rd</sup> overall of 23 teams; End of year funding was very good, we were fortunate to purchase five classroom furniture purchases, five smart boards, books and furniture for the information center, and every teachers' request was honored, many thanks was given to Mr. G and the folks at the DSO; Columbus Day – No School, 17 October – Teacher Work Day, No School, 30 & 31 October – No School for Parent Teacher Conferences, Tentative Date of 6 November - Veteran's Day Assembly, 26-28 November – Thanksgiving Recess.

Safety Committee Update – First meeting is scheduled for 14 October. He reviewed the members of the committee and said the committee will assess the safety and security of our schools. He added that the committee has concentrated on physical security and now the USMA Safety Officer has some important information that he would like to share with students and families.

**b. Elementary School:** ES Principal thanked Mr. G and DSO for the end of year money, the Elementary School spent lots of money. Each teacher spent \$200; Study Trips taken – 4<sup>th</sup> grade to Cemetery, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade went to Trophy Point to look at the solar waste basket; we have had Guest Speakers and Mystery Readers; still promoting the "reading" theme that was kicked off by the PTO, the reading incentive program has started for October, Calendar dates were reviewed (same as Middle School); since Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for 30 & 31 October, the Halloween Celebration is TBD; Parent Teacher Conferences will be scheduled by sibling families and singleton families will be scheduled by the teacher; a thank you was given to the GC for his support in allowing parents to take time to attend the conferences, the goal is 100%; the Elementary School is going to 'vote' for the general election on Monday of election week and the students will go home with an "**I VOTED**" sticker to remind their parents to vote on Tuesday; lots of great things happening at West Point Elementary School.

**b. PTO Report:** It was reported that the Read-a-Thon was a huge success, over \$24,000 was raised, 30% participation from Middle School and 40% participation from Elementary School; Book Fair will take place from 6-9 October and will be located in the MS Conference Room, Wednesday night is Family Night, it will be the last fund raiser for the year.

**c. Booster Club:** It was reported that the Booster Club hosted the Black & Gold Invitational and Coach R did a phenomenal job organizing the event, she added that it is the best run invitational and cross country meet in Orange County; Cross Country will conclude on 26 October, Qualifiers for the Nationals is at Van Cortland Park on 26 October, The Regional's will be on 23 November and if students qualify for the regional they move onto the National Junior Olympics which will be held on the 13 December in Mechanicsville, Virginia; the Booster Club is on track to support the continued program and it will open up to cross country runners on the team but will allow 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade runners to come to the qualifier on 26 October and if they qualify they can continue to Nationals. This is not a school sponsored program; they compete as the West Point Roast Runners Club; the Booster club is starting a new relationship this year with Youth Services (YS), it is a partnership where the school provides the coaches and YS supplies the logistics; there is a conditional agreement that they will also help out with the logistics for the Regional and National Cross Country meets. The Cross Country Team is financially sound right now and can afford to send the kids; obviously any help that YS wants to provide as a partnership will be a great help; they also kicked off the Presidential Challenge; they plan to support the Intramurals Program by purchasing equipment; Booster Club will sell T-shirts; in partnership with the PTO they are doing a 'Spirit Store' which will have t-shirts and sports stuff and PTO has sports bottles, pencils, etc.

Board President took the opportunity to recognize both PTO and Booster club for all their efforts and gave a round of applause.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:** The next regular meeting will be held on 5 November 2008, 4:30 PM, in the MS Conference Room.

9. **ADJOURN MEETING:** The meeting adjourned at 5:38 PM.

Approved by:

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Michael Gould  
Superintendent, NY & VA DDESS

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President, West Point School Board