West Jefferson Hills School District
Committee of the Whole Minutes
September 22, 2026
Thomas Jefferson High School LGI- 6:00 PM

Board Members Present
Dave Dominick
Suzanne Downer
Denise Kahler
Anthony Rash
Adam Rice
Kristin Shoemaker
Katie Noel
Chris Zacur

Administration Present
Dr. Janet Sardon
Dr. William Henderson
Tracy Harris
Dr. Jennifer Kassimer
Mark Mariani
Dr. Erikka Kuhse
Dr. Cassandra Bozek

Jocelyn Kramer, Solicitor
Elise Dopujda

Committee of the Whole is designed as a report out of any work that the board did during the month. Issues will be discussed and motions designated for future voting purposes.

PRESENTATIONS - There are no formal presentations this month.

ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:
Mr. Zacur, Mr. Rice, and Mrs. Shoemaker

- The soccer positions will be realigned for the remainder of the season due to the passing of Doc Kulish. Doc was an excellent role model, coach, and person who had an incredible impact on many people during his coaching career. He will be missed and always remembered for his passion and dedication to children.
    - Dr. Sardon will begin the Regular School Board Meeting with a moment of silence in memory of Doc Kulish.
    - Mr. Rice commended Mike Kulish for stepping up in his role as coach and for his dedication to TJ Soccer. Despite his father's illness, Mr. Kulish continued to

attend practices and games, demonstrating tremendous perseverance and commitment to the team.

- Girls Flag Football is a spring sport. In October, we will be hiring coaches for the position. Those coaches will have salaries of the following, based on the length of the season and time commitment. Head coach $4,009 and Assistant $2,588.
    - Flag football is a spring sport available to students in grades 9–12.
- Middle School Girls Softball is a spring sport. The district will be hiring a coach for that program in October. The salary for that position, based on other comparable, is $2,752.
- Other Items for Discussion
    - Mr. Rice thanked the administration and Athletic Department for following up on the HUDL implementation and successfully getting it up and running so quickly.

ED-TECH REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:
Mrs. Kahler, Mr. Dominick, Mrs. Downer, and Mrs. Noel

- The district continues its transition from Skyward to Qmlativ. Each week the integrations are being completed. The system is more robust and easier to use for parents and staff. A special thank you to Dr. Kassimer and Mr. Sanders for all of their hard work.
- The district is waiting for final test scores from the Spring 2026 testing season. We are awaiting the final Biology scores, PVAAS, and building scores.
- Other Items for Discussion

FACILITIES REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:
Mr. Zacur (Chair), Mr. Rice, Mr. Rash, and Mrs. Downer

- An RFP is being prepared for the HVAC service contract to gather pricing.
    - Mr. Zacur stated that, at the last meeting, they discussed establishing a service program with an outside company to ensure all systems are properly maintained. Mr. Mariani has set up this service.
- We are gathering costs for replacement of the field house roof at the stadium. More information will be forthcoming.
    - The roof has experienced ongoing issues over the past several years.
- The Act 34 Hearing is scheduled for October 22, 2026 for the new middle school building project.
- The land application for the middle school building project has been submitted to the borough for review. We anticipate they will review the application in October.
- JHIS and PHMS air conditioning units are continuing to be addressed.
- The district is still working with Trans Associates for an update on the traffic study.
    - The traffic study has not yet been finalized. Rob will provide an update this evening.

- Other Items for Discussion
    - Mr. Rash asked Mr. Mariani about the status of the insurance claim submission and the insurance agent's response. Mr. Mariani stated that there was another issue to speak with the insurance about.
    - Any proposed changes to the Act 34 Hearing Booklet provided to the Board must be submitted by October 2, 2026.
    - Mr. Rice noted that the concession stand is currently at capacity and suggested reviewing the space after the athletic seasons conclude to determine how storage and overall efficiency can be improved. This will also be discussed at the Athletic Representative meetings.

PERSONNEL REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:
Mrs. Downer (Chair), Mrs. Finnerty, and Mrs. Kahler

- The district is currently looking for paraprofessionals and cafeteria workers for this year. We have had some resignations from the start of the year.
- The solicitor is finalizing the Director of Finance contract to be approved.
- Other Items for Discussion

FINANCE REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:
Mrs. Finnerty, Mrs. Downer, and Mr. Rash

- The audit started for the 2025-2026 school year on September 8-11. They will be presenting the final audit results in January.
- The budget performance report for revenues this month is over by $3.5 million.
- The budget performance report for expenditure this month is under $350,000.
- The district is waiting to hear about the facilities grant for the middle school in Mid-October.
- The Ready to Learn Grant system should open next week for submission of grant information. The district should be receiving $1,204,314.
- Other Items for Discussion

POLICY REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:
Mrs. Shoemaker (Chair), Mrs. Kahler, Mr. Rice, and Mrs. Noel

- Policy #212 Reporting of Student Progress will be added to the agenda for first reading this month. This policy aligns our current practice with policy language based on changes that have occurred in recent months.
- Policy #627 Commercial Activities and Partnership will be added to the agenda for first reading this month. This policy is recommended by the solicitor to allow for parameters as we embark on our capital project fundraising for fields and facilities in coming years.
- Policy #716 is on the agenda for the second reading in September
- Other Items for Discussion
    - The new district portal is available on the Keystone Agenda.

SECURITY REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:
Mrs. Finnerty, Mr. Rash, and Mr. Rice

- The PCCD grant is due October 16. The district received approximately $248,341 with $83,000 in additional funding this year. The grant will be used for additional cameras, programming, radios, and metal detectors for the schools this year.
- The district is piloting rapid radios in coming months to analyze their use within the district as improvements to communication across the district, in addition to a possible cost-saving measure.
- Across the district, buildings have started to do fire drills, security drills, weather drills, and bus evacuation drills.
- The district continues to fine tune the transportation and bus situation.
- Other Items for Discussion

TRANSPORTATION REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:
Mr. Dominick (Chair), Mrs. Shoemaker, and Mr. Rice

- The bus zone application continues to be utilized by parents for notification.
- Bus routes continue to be tweaked. Elementary has been improved, and we continue to review ways to make it better.
    - Mr. Dominick thanked Mr. Harris for working with the bus company to have the buses added back.
- Other Items for Discussion

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

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Tracy A. Harris, Board Secretary Kimberley Finnerty, Board President