



DISTRICT News

WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 2013

Changing District Policies

Revising District policy is a deliberate process, which provides opportunity for community input to ensure changes in policy reflect current state/federal requirements and the educational needs of the District. Policy changes are due to revisions in state/federal regulations, legal recommendations, and/or changes in the philosophy of school leadership. When policy changes are proposed, the intended revisions are developed administratively before being shared with the Board Policy Committee at meetings, which are advertised and open to the public.

If the intended changes are supported by the Board Policy Committee, they are reviewed by the District's solicitor before they are presented as a draft to the full Board and shared with the community. Proposed changes are usually posted online as part of a study session agenda and on the [District's website](#) one month before the Board is asked to vote on them. This process ensures ample opportunity for community questions and feedback.

At the March 21 Board meeting, the Board of Directors revised its existing policy 908: *Relations with Parents* and adopted a new policy 908.1: *Classroom Visitation by Parents*. Both of these policy changes were developed administratively with input from Board members serving on the Board Policy Committee. The policy revisions were made to provide greater awareness that students may have parents and/or guardians participating in their lives and to encourage visits to school by parents/guardians.

At the April 11 Public Study Session, Board members were presented with proposed revisions to two policies: 203.1: *HIV Infection* and 248: *Unlawful Harassment*.

The proposed changes to the policy on HIV will update the confidentiality requirements and educational placement decision-making process to comply with current regulations.

The proposed changes in the policy for unlawful harassment seek to strengthen the reporting and investigation protocols while maintaining a school environment free from harassment regardless of a student's race, color, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or disability.

These policies are currently on public display, with anticipation that they will be voted on in May.

Classroom Visitation by Parents

West Shore believes the education of students is a responsibility shared between the District and the students' parents/guardians. Communication between home and school is very important to ensure the best educational program for each student. The District invites parents/guardians into our schools and classrooms at various times of the year.

Recent changes to District policies 908: *Relations with Parents* and 908.1 *Classroom Visitation by Parents* focused on maintaining effective communication between the District and parents/guardians while providing a clear list of expectations for school volunteers and parent visitors.

The guidelines encourage visits to school while maintaining school safety and student confidentiality. Classroom visitors and volunteers must agree to safety and security requirements. Both policies are found [online](#). The full list of volunteer guidelines is found in the [Community](#) section of the website.



Graduate Survey

As part of the District’s ongoing commitment to educational improvement and research-based teaching practices, the District has turned to its graduating students to help assess how effective we, as a District, are doing.

The survey administered last May garnered information from Cedar Cliff and Red Land Senior Classes of 2012. The overarching goals of the study were:

- To obtain important and meaningful information from graduates regarding the quality of high school programs.
- To provide district and building level administrators with a clear perspective of the high schools’ strengths and weaknesses, thus enabling them to effectively focus their efforts on those areas that most need improvement.

A formal survey summary has been presented to the administration with a breakdown of the following issues.

Quality of Preparation

LEARNING SKILLS	GRADUATES THAT FELT ADEQUATELY PREPARED
Appreciation of Arts	77%
Computer/Technology Skills	91%
Grammar Skills	93%
Listening Skills	96%
Mathematics Skills	88%
Oral Presentation Skills	91%
Problem Solving/Thinking Skills	97%
Reading Skills	95%
Research Skills	93%
Science Skills	91%
Study Skills	83%
Teamwork Skills	95%
World Language Skills	76%
Writing Skills	93%



Guidance Services

Respondents rated the overall quality of the guidance department’s services favorably with the strongest areas including schedule adjustment services, course planning services, help with academic concerns, help with personal concerns, and post-graduate school planning.

Miscellaneous Issues

Other noteworthy items that were gathered from the survey results include:

- Extra-curricular activities were rated favorably.
- Possible areas of concern were drugs, alcohol, smoking, and theft.
- A majority indicated they were treated with respect by administration, teachers, fellow students, and support staff.
- Respondents rated the overall quality of both high schools as very favorable with the largest percentage of respondents assessing the overall quality as satisfactory.
- 69% of students indicated they worked at a part-time job during the school year.

HOURS WORKED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR	
1-10 hours per week	19%
11-20 hours per week	49%
21-30 hours per week	24%
31 or more hours per week	8%

REASONS FOR WORKING

Personal Expenses	30%
Car / Car Insurance	27%
Saving for College	23%
Other	10%
Gain Work Experience	7%
Family's Financial Need	3%

Where Do We Go From Here?

In order to continue to move forward, the District needs to continue to evaluate academic programs, instructional methods, extra-curricular activities, and culture and climate to ensure all West Shore students are getting the best all-around education.

For more detailed information, a copy of the study can be viewed in the office of the Director of Secondary Education, Dr. Tammi Jones.

Percentages listed for all charts are an average of Cedar Cliff and Red Land High Schools.

Congratulations to the Class of 2013



Please plan to join us at the following commencement ceremonies to be held at the West Shore Stadium, weather permitting.

- **Red Land High School**

June 11, 6:30 p.m.

- **Cedar Cliff High School**

June 12, 6:30 p.m.

Best wishes to those students graduating this year!

Demographics Update

In October, the Board directed administration to examine building usage and the impact of closing one of the District's four middle schools. On Wednesday, January 16, 2013, the District held a public hearing regarding the possible closing of either Lemoyne Middle School or New Cumberland Middle School. Parents and community members were encouraged to share their thoughts, questions, and concerns during this hearing and/or to submit written follow-up during the next two weeks.

At the public Study Session held on Thursday, February 14, 2013, the direction given by the Board was to move forward with the closing of Lemoyne Middle School. Since that time, the administrative team has been working on revising staffing, bus routes, and attendance boundaries for all middle schools, incorporating multiple suggestions from the community.

In addition, current seventh grade students are currently being surveyed to determine their interest in remaining at their present school for the 2013-2014 school year. The number of students interested in being "grandfathered" in this manner will determine whether or not it is feasible.

Further information will continue to be provided on the District [website](#) as it becomes available.

Join West Shore's Driving Force

The District has several, immediate openings for permanent drivers with current CDL licensure with air brakes, P and S endorsements.

Training is provided. Drivers complete daily morning and afternoon runs as assigned while adhering to the PA Motor Vehicle Code.

The starting rate is \$12.99 an hour with paid holidays/leave. Additional details and necessary application can be found on the District [website](#).



West Shore School District

Mission Statement

The West Shore School District is committed to providing this generation with a quality education serving as a foundation for responsible and successful citizenship.

Board of School Directors

Anthony J. Tezik, Ed.D., President
Ronald L. Candioto, Jr., Vice President
M. Todd Ambrose
Judith A. Crocenzi
Denise N. Grover
Brian K. Guistwhite
Frank J. Kambic
Gayle M. Russell
Kelli C. Williamson

Administration

Jemry L. Small, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Todd B. Stoltz, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

The West Shore School District will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, marital status, or disability in accordance with state and federal laws governing educational and vocational programs and in its recruitment and employment practices. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, the ADA, and the implementing regulations may be referred to the Director of Human Resources, 507 Fishing Creek Road, P.O. Box 803, New Cumberland, PA 17070-0803, telephone (717) 938-9577. Revised 12-2012



Share Your THOUGHTS

If you have a concern, question, suggestion, or solution, please share it with me.

Jemry L. Small, Ed.D.
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West Shore School District
507 Fishing Creek Road
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New Cumberland, PA 17070

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phone

717-938-9577

West Shore Foundation Opportunities

The West Shore Foundation is a district-wide, non-profit organization working to enhance students' educational programs and opportunities by providing additional financial support for the academic and extracurricular programs.

Senior Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available online for the District's graduating seniors who have been actively involved in the arts throughout their high school career and students who are pursuing arts education after they graduate. Interested students must submit their completed applications by Friday, April 26.

Harry L. Messick Service Awards

Every year the West Shore Foundation honors two District residents for their voluntary service. One award is for an adult and the other is for a District student. Both awards recognize outstanding, extraordinary non-paid voluntary service benefiting others. This year's applications are found online and are due no later than Friday, May 3.

Leadership Incentive Grants

District students are eligible to apply for Leadership Incentive Grants at any time of the year. These grants are available to help offset students' expenses to participate in activities which develop their leadership and management skills. Applications for these grants must be received no later than four weeks prior to the activity for which funds are being requested. Applications for these grants are found online.

Membership Opportunities

Membership in the West Shore Foundation supports the mission of the Foundation and provides opportunities to attend school events at no charge. Silver memberships cost \$50 and provide admittance to all District musicals/plays for one year. Gold memberships provide general admission to all District athletic events and musicals/plays for \$100 on an annual basis. Platinum membership provides the individual with preferred parking at football games; general admission to all District athletic events/musicals/plays; and listing in activity/athletic programs for an annual contribution of \$200. The Diamond membership provides the entire family with preferred parking at football games; general admission to all District athletic events/musicals/plays; and listing in activity/athletic programs for an annual contribution of \$500. Lifetime membership is available for a one-time contribution of \$1,000 to secure all Foundation benefits year after year. Enrollment forms are found online.