

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2008-3897

Minutes March 31, 2008

The regular meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 7:35 p.m. in the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center All-Purpose Room with Mr. Snyder, Board President, presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge, the secretary called the roll of Board members.

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Barnett, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Althouse, Mr. Hinsey, Mrs. McCready, Mr. Larkin, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Sakmann, and Mr. Snyder.

Administrative Staff Present:

Dr. Speace, Dr. Pulkowski, Ms. Garman, Mr. Babb, Mrs. Mason, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Simyak, Mrs. Whye, and Dr. Larson.

Attendees:

Mr. Brian Boland, Kozloff Stoudt, Diane Schaeffer, recording secretary. Audience sign-in sheet included as part of these official minutes.

WELCOME

President Snyder welcomed everyone and announced that an executive session was held on March 25, 2008, to discuss personnel issues and no action was taken.

He announced that Finance/Business Office Item VIII. on page 3 of the agenda seeking approval of a resolution amending and restating a prior resolution for the purpose of refinancing General Obligation Bonds Series 2003 and 2003A would be pulled from the agenda and revisited at an upcoming meeting.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following meeting dates were announced:

- Work Session – Monday, April 21, 2008, 6:00 p.m., Community Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting – Monday, April 28, 2008, 7:30 p.m., Community Board Room.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Barbara Cafurello asked for information about the electoral debt question listed on the agenda.

Attorney Brian Boland explained the two ways a school district can borrow money. One is to have a voter referendum under the procedures outlined in Act 1. The second way is to ask for an authorization to incur debt. The school district is going to be asking to place a ballot question on a special election ballot on June 3, 2008, to authorize the incurrence of \$37,076,169, and the Board must vote on the resolution.

Mrs. Cafurello commented that it was too much money.

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Mr. William Murray questioned what would happen if the vote was approved and the costs were in excess of \$32,000,000. Can the public be assured that there will be \$5 million for capital improvements?

President Snyder responded that they would consider and discuss adding language that would indicate the cost for the West Reading project would not exceed \$31,980,000.

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Hinsey, seconded by Mr. Larkin, the minutes of the following meetings were approved as presented:

- February 19, 2008 Work Session
- February 25, 2008 Regular Board Meeting

Yeas: 9.
Nays: 0. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Barnett asked if the names could be eliminated from the report when leaves are being requested.

Ms. Garman indicated she had never seen it presented in that way, and Dr. Larson said she would research the question and report back to her.

APPROVED PERSONNEL REPORT

President Snyder requested that Personnel Report Item VI. Approval of FMLA for Kendall Babiarz be pulled from the agenda for a separate vote.

Upon motion by Mr. Larkin, second by Mrs. Sakmann, the Board approved the March Personnel Report, excluding one item as noted. Copy of the report is included as part of these official minutes.

Yeas: Althouse, Barnett, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, McCready, Larkin, Sakmann, Portner, and Snyder.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

Upon motion by Mrs. Sakmann, second by Mr. Althouse, the Board approved the FMLA/Child Rearing Leave for Kendall Babiarz, Elementary Teacher at WHEC, effective on or about June 8, 2008, until the end of the first semester of the 2008-09 school year.

Yeas: Althouse, Barnett, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, Larkin, Sakmann, Portner, and Snyder.
Nays: None. Motion carried.
Abstention: McCready

CURRICULUM

Upon motion by Mrs. Sakmann, second by Mrs. McCready, the Board approved the following curriculum items:

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APPROVED NEW
ENGLISH AND
SOCIAL STUDIES
TEXTS

New Secondary English and Social Studies Textbooks –

Catch 22 by Joseph Heller
The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner
Grendel by John Gardner

Battlegrounds: Geography and the History of Warfare
Publisher: National Geographic Books, copyright 2003

APPROVED CONNECT
MATH

Connect Math Grade 6 Project.

APPROVED
SUBMISSION OF
GRANT

Authorized Administration to apply for the Science: It's Elementary Grant.

Background Information: The Science: It's Elementary grant is for grades 4-6. The grant is through PDE and is designed to support hands-on inquiry-based science.

APPROVED
APPLICATION FOR
SCIENCE: IT'S
ELEMENTARY

Authorized Administration to apply for the Science: It's Elementary Grant.

Background Information: The Science: It's Elementary grant is for grades 4-6. The grant is through PDE and is designed to support hands-on inquiry-based science.

Yeas: Althouse, Barnett, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, McCreedy, Larkin, Sakmann, Portner, and Snyder.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**FINANCE/BUSINESS
OFFICE**

Upon motion by Mrs. McCreedy, second by Mr. Hinsey, the following Finance/Business Office were approved:

APPROVED
FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Reports for February 2008 and included as part of these official minutes

APPROVED PAYMENT
OF INVOICES

Payment of properly approved vendor invoices for the General Fund, Athletic Fund, Food Service Fund, and the 2003 G.O. Bond.

APPROVED BCIU
BUDGET

Berks County Intermediate Unit 2008-09 Budget.

Background Information: Each of the 18 Berks County school districts is presented with the Berks County Intermediate Unit's budget for approval by the Board of School Directors. The 2008-09 budget is \$1,941,758. The individual school district's contribution to the budget is determined by a prorated formula that considers the district's aid ratio and average daily membership. Wyomissing Area School District's contribution is proposed to be \$28,752.21. This is a 15.39%

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increase from the 2007-08 projected actual of \$24,917.04.

APPROVED BCTC
BUDGET

Berks Career & Technology Center 2008-09 Budget.

Background Information: The proposed maximum share amount for the Wyomissing Area School District is \$207,391 which is an increase of 8.4% from 2007-08. The individual school district's contribution to the budget is determined by a proportionate share calculation that looks at audited enrollment figures from the three previous years.

APPROVED
BUDGETARY
TRANSFERS

Budgetary Transfers in the amount of \$85,871.

ACCEPTED
DONATION

Accepted \$500 donation from AAA Home Mortgage LLC (Thomas Mahony) for baseball field improvements.

APPROVED
BAYRIDGE
CONSORTIUM
AGREEMENT

Approved Bayridge Consortium, Inc. Agreement for Professional Development services.

Yeas: Barnett, Althouse, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, McCready, Larkin, Sakmann, Portner, and Snyder.

Nays: Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. McCready and second by Mrs. Sakmann to approve the "Desire Resolution" and Electoral Debt Question.

After discussion on the ballot question, which included debt in the sum of \$37,076,169, it was agreed that the language should be amended to reflect the amount for the construction of the new elementary school in West Reading not to exceed \$31,980,000 and certain other capital projects throughout the District be authorized to be incurred as debt approved by the electors.

A motion was made by Mrs. McCready and seconded by Mrs. Sakmann to approve the Desire Resolution and Electoral Debt Question as amended.

Yeas: Barnett, Hinsey, McCready, Larkin, Sakmann, and Snyder.

Nays: Althouse, Fitzgerald, and Portner. Motion carried.

FACILITIES

There were no agenda items for Board approval.

**SCHOOL
ACTIVITIES &
ATHLETICS**

There were no agenda items for Board approval.

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TECHNOLOGY

There were no agenda items for Board approval.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dr. Larson noted that an honor was received by Susan Derr, a member of the high school English Department. Mrs. Derr was selected to participant in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program in Japan in October 2008. Because the acceptance letter must be mailed by April 2, Dr. Larson requested Board approval for Mrs. Derr to attend.

A motion was made by Mrs. McCready and seconded by Mr. Hinsey to approve the Superintendent's Office items as follows:

APPROVED LACROSSE AS CLUB

Resolution to grant Lacrosse athletic club status effective the 2008-09 school year in accordance with the resolution included as part of these official minutes.

APPROVED YMCA AGREEMENT

YMCA Proposal for Before & After School Child Care at WHEC effective the 2008-09 school year.

APPROVED BCTC ALTERNATE REP.

Mr. Gregory Portner to replace Mr. John Larkin as the alternate representative to the Berks Career & Technology Center JOC Board effective immediately.

APPROVED MRS. DERR'S PARTICIPATION IN JAPAN FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

Mrs. Susan Derr to attend Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program in Japan for three weeks in October 2008 in accordance in absence procedures in place.

Yeas: Althouse, Barnett, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, McCready, Larkin, Sakmann, Portner, and Snyder.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report (Informational)

BUDGET UPDATE

Mrs. Corinne Mason presented a budget update.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he would like to go through the budget with administration. Dr. Larson said the next Finance Liaison meeting would be scheduled shortly. Mrs. McCready questioned when the budget would be presented for adoption. Mrs. Mason responded that final approval should be in May. Mrs. Barnett asked if the budget can be posted on the web site with the ability to print. Dr. Larson said it could and she would look into it.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

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NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Larson addressed the group about the gossip circulating with regard to a reduction in the number of AP courses. She stated that the district is trying to increase the number of students taking AP courses. She encouraged parents with concerns to contact someone in the district to verify information.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A number of parents reported hearing reports about AP courses being eliminated and also changes in the 7th grade curriculum that were causing concern.

Dr. Larson explained some of the changes that are anticipated with regard to the science and social studies placements for 7th grade. She also noted that she has suggested that Dr. Speace set up a parent forum to look at the curriculum and higher level courses for 7th graders. A team of teachers is working on differentiated instruction and will have training days in August and October.

Mr. Mike Mitchell, Sr. asked for more information on the YMCA before and after school program. Mrs. Simyak and Dr. Larson answered his questions about traffic concerns and indicated they will be located in the all-purpose room.

A parent asked whether extra curricular activities and trips were being eliminated. Dr. Larson responded that administration is looking at how these events affect the school day and loss of instruction time. A number of children are missing substantial class time when you add up the number of activities in which they may be involved.

Many commented that as children enter high school, there is a gap in communication to parents. Dr. Larson suggested that the forums to be established could be a way to enhance communication.

A few board members indicated that forums have been held in the past with very few parents attending.

Mr. Mike Mitchell, Sr. asked if there is a chance the West Reading Elementary Center could be closed because of code violations. It was relayed that it would cost \$10 million to bring it to code and do repairs.

Mr. Leon Grim, noted that the project will have to be bid and asked if any other architectural firms looked at the job.

President Snyder responded that no other architect has been contacted and this architect has not been paid anything.

Mrs. Ann Brugger expressed concern that the Board would consider decreasing the budget in the library because books and reading are the foundation for learning.

Mrs. Barbara Cafurello requested a copy of the budget which Mrs.

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Mason said she would supply.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. by Mrs. McCready and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to adjourn.

Corinne D. Mason
Board Secretary

March 31, 2008

PERSONNEL REPORT

- I. Approve Professional Staff Retirement Resolutions:
 - a. **Maureen R. Nolan**, Secondary Science Teacher at the JSHS, retirement effective August 15, 2008.
 - b. **Patricia A. Sabold**, Elementary Teacher at WHEC, retirement effective the end of the 2007-08 school year.
- II. Approve Professional Staff Resignation – **Jo Ellen Cobb**, Elementary Teacher (2nd grade) resignation effective at the end of the 2007-08 school year.
- III. Ratify Support Staff Termination – **Krista Mazur**, Special Education Instructional Aide at WHEC, effective February 26, 2008.
- IV. Approve Support Staff Appointments
 - a. **Jessica Hole**. Full-time Special Education Instructional Aide at WHEC, 35 hours/week at \$9.75/hour, effective April 1, 2008.
 - b. **Robert C. Sanders**, part-time Van Driver, at \$9.46 per hour, effective April 1, 2008.
- V. Approve/Ratify FMLA:
 - a. **Charmaine Beck**, Transportation Secretary, a family and medical leave of absence effective March 18, 2008, until approximately April 7, 2008.
 - b. **Michelle Kersikoski**, Elementary Teacher at WREC, a family and medical leave of absence effective March 4, 2008 until approximately March 10, 2008.
 - c. **Julie Miller**, Custodian at the JSHS, a family and medical leave of absence effective March 17, 2008 until approximately March 27, 2008.
- VI. Approve FMLA/Child Rearing Leave – **Kendall Babiarz**, Elementary Teacher at WHEC, a family and medical leave of absence and child rearing leave, effective on or about June 8, 2008, until the end of the first semester of the 2008-09 school year.
- VII. Ratify/Approve Support Staff Unpaid Leave Requests:
 - a. **Susan Bennett**, ESL Instructional Aide at WHEC, unpaid leave March 4, 5, 6, and 7, 2008.

- b. **Amanda Johnson**, Elementary Teacher at WHEC, unpaid leave October 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13, 2008.
 - c. **Lisa Lamp**, Cafeteria Worker at the JSHS, unpaid leave February 29, March 3, 6, and 7, 2008.
 - d. **Annemarie Melcher**, Teacher's Instructional Aide at WHEC, unpaid leave February 25, 26, and 27, 2008.
 - e. **Sheila Nastro**, Crossing Guard at WREC, unpaid leave April 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2008.
 - f. **Jennifer Noll**, Receptionist Monitor at WHEC, unpaid leave March 25, 26, 27, 28, 31 and April 1, 2008.
 - g. **Karen Ellis**, Part-time Special Education Instructional Aide at WHEC, unpaid leave April 11, 14, and 15, 2008.
- VIII. Approve **Mary Rebecca Freymoyer** to complete Spanish translation of PTA booklet at a stipend of \$425.00.
- IX. Ratify Supplemental Athletic Appointment effective the 2007-08 school year - **Timothy Hetrich**, JH Track 2nd Assistant Coach, 22.25 points, \$1,791.
- X. Approve Supplemental Athletic Volunteer Appointments effective the 2007-08 school year:
- a. **Fred Hierl**, JH Track
 - b. **Steven O'Neil**, SH Track
 - c. **Andrew Siggins**, SH Track
 - d. **Michael Webster**, SH Track
- XI. Approve additions/deletions to substitute list.
- XII. Approve additions to district volunteer list.