

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2008-3904

Minutes April 28, 2008

The regular meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School 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, Mr. Larkin, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Sakmann, and Mr. Snyder.

Board Member Absent: Mrs. McCready

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Pulkowski, Ms. Garman, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Simyak, 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 April 21, 2008, to discuss personnel issues and no action was taken.

He announced that the food service and athletic budgets which were to be discussed that evening would be held until the next meeting.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following meeting dates were announced:

- Work Session – Monday, May 19, 2008, 6:00 p.m., Community Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, May 27, 2008, 7:30 p.m., Community Board Room.

PRESENTATION

Mrs. Barnett read a statement in response to the *Reading Eagle* editorial published on Sunday, April 27, 2008 (“Board Can’t Bargain with Right to Know.”) Copy of statement included as part of these official minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Fred Levering, Brandywine Road, and member of Wyomissing Borough Council spoke about the inaccuracies reported in the newspaper. He noted that he was a participant in the discussions about the project and does not want the community to lose sight of how important the Wyomissing Square Project is to the community. He applauded the Board for seizing this opportunity. The County Commissioners saw the value in the project and without this type of tax program, this project would not be able to happen.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mrs. Sakmann announced that the WAEF scholarship event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, in the Board room at 7:00 p.m.

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Mr. Hinsey reported that the BCIU committee will be interviewing two finalists to replace Dr. Allmon as executive director.

Mr. Snyder announced that the annual BCTC annual awards ceremony is coming up in May. He also noted that there was discussion at the last meeting about the calendar and the number of days of conflict between the BCTC and district calendar which is increasing from 7 to 11.

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Portner, seconded by Mrs. Barnett, the minutes of the following meetings were approved as presented:

- March 12, 2008 Special Meeting
- March 25, 2008 Work Session
- March 31, 2008 Regular Board Meeting

Yeas: 8.

Nays: 0. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

APPROVED PERSONNEL REPORT

Upon motion by Mr. Althouse, second by Mrs. Sakmann, the Board approved the April Personnel Report and addendum which are included as part of these official minutes.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

CURRICULUM

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

APPROVED LITERACY MATERIALS FOR K-3

Harcourt School Publishers literacy materials for language arts curriculum grades K-3.

APPROVED AP SPANISH TEXTBOOKS

Novel for summer reading:

Cajas de Cartón by Francisco Jiménez.

Main Texts:

Triángulo 4th Edition Copyright 2006, Wayside Publishing

Encuentros Maravillosos Copyright 2005 Pearson, Prentice Hall

APPROVED SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summer Academy:

Summer Academy is a remedial reading and math program. Summer Academy will operate between 9:00 AM and 12:30 PM at the West Reading Elementary Center. The General Fund supports paying the contracted hourly wage for District teachers to provide instruction and the cost of transportation.

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Summer Safari:

Summer Safari is an enrichment program for students currently in grades 1- 6. The program will operate at the West Reading Elementary Center. Summer Safari is self-supporting with the cost of supervision and materials defrayed through tuition. We will offer some classes in the morning session and some in an afternoon session depending upon student enrollment and teacher availability.

Spartan Summer Video Camp:

Spartan Summer video camp is a four-day enrichment opportunity for students in grades 10 – 12. The program will operate at the Jr. Sr. High School if there is sufficient student enrollment. Summer Video Camp is self-supporting with the cost of supervision and materials defrayed through tuition.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

FINANCE/BUSINESS OFFICE

Upon motion by Mr. Larkin, second by Mrs. Sakmann, the following Finance/Business Office items were approved:

APPROVED
PROPOSED FINAL
GENERAL FUND
BUDGET

The Proposed Final General Fund Budget for the following expenditures is recommended for approval:

1000 Instruction	\$14,751,685
2000 Supporting Services	9,299,679
3000 Operation of Non-Instructional Services	264,693
4000 Facilities, Acquisition & Construction	-0-
<u>5000 Financing Uses</u>	<u>4,458,961</u>
TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET EXPENSES	\$28,775,018

and that the Board re-enact the following local taxes for the 2008-2009 school year:

- 1. Real Estate Tax26.4125 Mills
- 2. Local Services Tax (to a maximum of) \$10.00
 - Wyomissing Borough \$5.00
 - West Reading Borough \$5.00
- 3. Earned Income Tax 1.0%
- 4. Business Privilege Tax (to a maximum of) 1.5 Mills
- 5. Per Capita Tax, Act 679 \$5.00
- 6. Per Capita Tax, Act 511 (to a maximum of) \$10.00
 - Wyomissing Borough \$5.00
 - West Reading Borough \$5.00
- 7. Real Estate Transfer Tax (to a maximum of) 1.0%

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- Wyomissing Borough5%
- West Reading Borough..... .5%

The budget includes all staff positions and salaries, and requires a 1.2425 mill tax increase.

APPROVED
FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Reports for March 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
BUDGETARY
TRANSFERS

Budgetary transfers in the amount of \$108,306.

APPROVED
ANONYMOUS \$1,000
DONATION

An anonymous donation of \$1,000 to be used for athletic training supplies.

APPROVED PER
CAPITA TAX
EXONERAIONS

Per Capita tax exonerations which are given annually by the Wyomissing Area School District to update the tax rolls.

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

Nays: Motion carried.

President Snyder spoke to the Board about a phone call he had earlier that day with Barbara Reeser. She indicated the Borough would be able to provide the District with the names of residents living in apartment buildings. The Borough would have to be reimbursed \$13.00 per hour for their employees to prepare the list of names. Mrs. Reeser also indicated that the Borough of West Reading should be able to supply the same information. The Board agreed and President Snyder asked Mrs. Mason to contact Barbara Reeser.

FACILITIES

There were no agenda items for Board approval.

**SCHOOL
ACTIVITIES &
ATHLETICS**

There were no agenda items for Board approval.

TECHNOLOGY

There were no agenda items for Board approval.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
OFFICE**

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2008-3908

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

APPROVED
AFFILIATION
AGREEMENT WITH
PENN
STATE/HERSHEY
MEDICAL CENTER

Affiliation agreement with Penn State University/Hershey Medical Center. Agreement included as part of these official minutes.

APPROVED 2007-08
CALENDAR
ADJUSTMENT

Adjustment to Calendar - School was closed on February 13 and 22, 2008, and the calendar will be adjusted to indicate the last student day as June 10 and the last .5 teacher inservice day for 07-08 as June 11, 2008.

APPROVED RANDALL
HINSEY AS BCIU
REPRESENTATIVE

Randall E. Hinsey, Jr., to serve as the BCIU Board representative effective July 1, 2008.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS

Treasurer's Report (Informational)

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

Mr. Richard Geertman asked why the owners gave the District \$480,000.

Mr. Larkin explained the project developer originally asked for a 10-year tax break but after consideration the Board agreed to offer a 5-year tax break and asked if they would be willing to make a donation as a way of showing good faith.

A resident asked where the money is at this point, and Mr. Larkin responded that it is in the capital reserve fund.

Mr. Murray stated he did ask for a copy of the agreement but has not received it. He asked if the agreement states the money will be used for astroturf. President Snyder indicated it does not.

Mrs. Christine Diener stated she addressed the board three weeks ago about the special education program and was waiting for a response from Dr. Larson.

Dr. Larson indicated she received a report from Dr. Zerr, the Director, and would be contacting Mrs. Diener about the report.

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Mrs. Kate Thornton asked when advanced science and social studies were implemented for 7th grade. Dr. Larson responded that it was implemented two years ago, and the current 8th grade class is in their second year.

Mrs. Thornton commented that she feels the decision to make changes about placements was made too quickly, without the evaluation of critical data. Dr. Larson stated multiple measures are used to make placement decisions, and the West Reading staff has done a great job of monitoring the data. Dr. Larson said with continued communication with parents, a comfort level about placement decisions can be reached.

Mrs. Kristina Eaton stated that she has a child in the gifted program, and students who have an IEP plan must receive specially designed instruction as mandated by PDE.

Mr. Mike Mitchell, Sr. asked why the testing that was scheduled for first and second graders in March was cancelled.

Dr. Larson responded that the data from those tests does not have much predictive value and the District has other better instruments that are research based and would be used.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. by Mr. Larkin and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to adjourn.

Corinne D. Mason
Board Secretary

April 28, 2008

PERSONNEL REPORT

- I. Approve Change in Retirement Date – **Maureen Nolan**, Secondary Science Teacher, has requested a change in the August 15, 2008 retirement date approved by the Board on March 31, 2008. Mrs. Nolan’s retirement will be effective June 11, 2008.
- II. Approve Professional Staff Resignation – **John O. Clauss**, Instructional Technology Specialist, effective the end of the 2007-08 school year.
- III. Approve Support Staff Resignation – **Kathleen McDade**, Special Education Instructional Aide at the JSHS, effective May 2, 2008.
- IV. Ratify/Approve Support Staff Unpaid Leave Requests:
 - a. **Susan Bennett**, ESL Instructional Aide at WHEC, unpaid leave March 26, 27, and 28, 2008.
 - b. **Karen Ellis**, Part-time Special Education Instructional Aide at WHEC, unpaid leave April 16, 2008. *This is in addition to the dates of April 11, 14, and 15, 2008 approved at the March 31, 2008 Board meeting.*
 - c. **Linda Long**, Part-time Teacher’s Instructional Aide at WHEC, unpaid leave April 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, 2008.
- V. Approve Supplemental Activity Advisor Resignation – **Mariel Jordan**, Colophon Yearbook Advisor, effective the end of the 2007-08 school year.
- VI. Approve Part-Time Energy Educator/Manager for 2008-09 – **Chris Nugent**, at an annual stipend of \$20,500 for the 2008-09 fiscal year. *The stipend is the result of energy saving measures guaranteed by Energy Education.*
Background information: The actual revenue for the stipend is the savings realized from implementing Energy Educator’s energy savings measure. If the savings fall short of \$20,500, Energy Educator pays the district the difference as per the contract.
- VII. Approve Memorandum of Understanding – Act 93 Agreement.
- VIII. Approve additions to district volunteer list.