

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Work Session Minutes
May 19, 2008

The Wyomissing Area School District Board of School Directors' work session convened at 6:00 p.m. with President Snyder presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Board Members Present: Mrs. Barnett, Mr. Althouse, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Hinsey, Mr. Larkin, Mrs. McCready, Mrs. Sakmann, and Mr. Snyder.

Board Member Absent: Mr. Portner

Administrators Present: Dr. Speace, Ms. Garman, Mr. Ashton, Mrs. Motze, Mr. Babb, Dr. Moyer, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Simyak, Dr. Pulkowski, Mrs. Steele, Mrs. Mason, Dr. Zerr, and Dr. Larson.

Others Present: Diane Schaeffer, recording secretary. Audience sign-in sheet included as part of these official minutes.

Mr. Snyder welcomed everyone and reported that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 2008, at 7:30 p.m.

President Snyder announced a change in the date for the annual reorganization meeting from Monday, December 1, to Tuesday, December 2, at 6:00 p.m. He explained that school will be closed on Monday, December 1, as part of the Thanksgiving holiday.

RECOGNITION -

The following 2007-08 retiring staff members were honored - Amy Beadle, science teacher; Maureen Nolan, science teacher, Patsy Sabold, elementary teacher; Cheryl Lotz, food service worker, and Willard Ramsey, van driver, received engraved clocks and tokens of appreciation and proclamations highlighting their dedicated service were read by members of the Board.

Mrs. Clare Benz was presented with a floral bouquet by Dr. Larson. Mrs. Benz served as PTA president for the past two years and will vacate the spot as, Lesa Butera, moves into her new role.

Mr. Babb shared information about John Thomas, high school support staff member, who recently received the "Lifetime Service to Wrestling" award as he was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Mr. Babb that John was a three-sport athlete in high school and about 100 people, including his 4 sons, enjoyed a ceremony over the weekend.

PRESENTATIONS -

Dr. Speace noted that 12 parents attended the May 5 Parents Council meeting.

Mrs. Simyak reported that 113 children registered for kindergarten during the 3 sessions held in April.

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Public Comment on Agenda Items –

Mr. Bill Murray questioned two Finance agenda items. He asked who the Board would appoint as treasurer and who would be recommended as the school solicitor.

President Snyder indicated that Mr. Fitzgerald would be reappointed if he agreed and the letter of engagement from Kozloff Stoudt was being reviewed.

Personnel –

Ms. Garman reported that they have been unable to hire a Director of Technology because they are having difficulty in finding a fully qualified candidate. One of the things to be considered is the background/job experience requirements.

Mr. Fitzgerald noted that of the 10 candidates interviewed, none had school experience. He voiced concern that the District might lose current employees because of the extra workload.

Ms. Garman stated that they were ready to offer the position to a candidate, but he accepted another position offering a higher salary. She also noted that in addition to listing the position with every IU in the state, they recently put an ad on Monster.com and Career Builder.

After further discussion by the Board, it was agreed that a limit of three weeks would be set to receive additional applications, and the Liaisons would meet at that point.

Ms. Garman reported that a job offer was made to Mr. Craig Fries to serve as the next Director of Facilities and more information will be provided on next week's Board agenda.

The health fair results and feedback were positive and another event will be planned for April 15, 2009.

Curriculum –

Dr. Pulkowski reported that a meeting was held last week with the curriculum liaisons. Some of the items discussed were as follows:

- Identifying levels of readiness for kindergarten and providing information to parents.
- Preparing to submit an application for the Highmark Healthy Challenge Grant.
- Identifying work teams with limits on the number of hours to be worked, rather than individual contracts.
- The district was identified as a control group for Connected Mathematics Project 2 (CMP2).

Mr. Fitzgerald asked for a grant information update. Dr. Pulkowski responded that Science on the Move and Classrooms for the Future are dependent on the Governor passing the budget.

Dr. Speace provided an update on field trips and suggested that the Board look at the current policy #121.

Dr. Larson suggested that all principals review the policy.

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Dr. Larson noted that she met with parents at the West Reading Elementary Center last week to discuss Grade 7 placements in social studies and science. She explained that students will be placed in groups of similarly achieving students and look forward to seeing how we can meet the students' needs by taking a more studied approach.

Finance –

Mrs. Mason reported that the bids would be opened for the nurses' suite project on Friday, May 23, 2008, and information presented to the Board at the May 27, 2008 meeting.

The Homestead/Farmstead exclusion resolution will also be on the agenda next week for approval. This resolution will state the assessed value reduction amount and the corresponding real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead.

Mr. Snyder recommended that Mr. Fitzgerald continue in the position of School Board Treasurer for the next year if that is agreeable to him. The motion will be included on the next agenda for board approval.

Dr. Larson noted that she is reviewing the letter of engagement received from Kozloff Stoudt to continue to serve as the district's legal representative.

Mrs. Mason reported that there will be an increase in the food service prices at the elementary level from \$1.85 to \$2.00 and at the secondary level from \$2.00 to \$2.20 and \$2.50 to \$2.70 due to the increase in food costs.

Facilities –

Mrs. McCready stated that once the new Director of Buildings & Grounds is hired, a liaison meeting will have to be scheduled.

Dr. Larson reported that on June 19, BCTV will host a show entitled "Matters of CONCERN" when the West Reading Elementary project will be the topic for discussion and she and Mrs. Mason will be answering call-in questions.

School Activities & Athletics –

Mrs. Motze shared the newly created Athletics Department Mission and Beliefs that were created as a result of the recent strategic plan work.

Technology – No agenda items.

Superintendent's Office –

Dr. Larson provided an update on the recent energy savings report showing a 30% savings for \$231,497. She commended Chris Nugent for doing a fantastic job.

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Michelle Davis and Aaron Roberts provided an update on the Strategic Plan progress.

A motion was made by Mrs. McCready and seconded by Mrs. Sakmann to approve the following revised policies:

- Policy 601 – Objectives
- Policy 602 – Budget Planning
- Policy 606 – Tax Collection

Mrs. Barnett made a suggestion for a minor revision and the motion was approved with an 8 Yeas, 0 Nay vote.

New Business – None.

Old Business – None.

Public Participation –

Mrs. Barbara Reeser posed a question about local services tax. Mrs. Mason explained that this tax was the occupational privilege tax that went to the emergency services tax. By law, we can only receive \$5 from each borough of the \$52 tax.

Mr. Snyder announced that after a brief break, the Board would meet in executive session to discuss personnel matters and no action would be taken.

Upon motion by Mr. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. McCready, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Corinne D. Mason
School Board Secretary

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PERSONNEL REPORT

- I. Approve Professional Staff Retirement – **Amy L. Beadle**, Secondary Science Teacher at the JSHS, effective the end of the 2007-08 school year.
- II. Approve Professional Staff Resignation – **Elizabeth T. Kirchner**, Secondary Science Teacher at the JSHS, effective June 11, 2008.
- III. Ratify Support Staff Resignation – **Marcia Gruver**, Jr./Sr. High School Guidance Department Secretary, effective May 14, 2008.
- IV. Ratify FMLA:
 - a. **Barbara Brehony**, Elementary Secretary at WHEC, a family and medical leave of absence effective April 28-May 2 and May 15, 2008, with an anticipated return of one to two weeks.
 - b. **John Clauss**, Instructional Technology Specialist at the JSHS, a family and medical leave of absence effective April 11 - 17, 2008.
 - c. **Barbara Lofgren**, Elementary Teacher at WREC, a family and medical leave of absence effective April 30 - June 11, 2008.
 - d. **Barry Matz**, Custodian/Inventory Specialist, a family and medical leave of absence effective May 5 - 16, 2008.
- V. Approve FMLA/Child Rearing Leave – **Jessica Lengle**, Special Education Teacher at WHEC, a family and medical leave of absence effective on or about October 24, 2008 and returning the start of the 2009-10 school year.
- VI. Ratify Effective Date for FMLA/Child Bearing Leave – **Melissa Devlin**, Secondary English Teacher, began her leave on April 22, 2008.

Background Information: On January 28, 2008, the School Board approved the leave request for Ms. Devlin to be effective on or about May 5, 2008.
- VII. Approve Change in Part-Time Energy Educator/Manager Stipend – **Chris Nugent**, at an annual stipend of \$21,013 for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

Background information: A stipend in the amount of \$20,500 was approved at the April 28, 2008 Board meeting.
- VIII. Ratify Homebound Instructors – **Dorothy Brandt**, elementary teacher at WHEC, and **Amanda Johnson**, elementary teacher at WHEC, to provide homebound instruction for one elementary student ID#202844 for a maximum combined total of 5 hours per week, for a minimum of 3 weeks and based upon verification of continued need for instruction, effective April 28, 2008, at the professional contract rate of \$31.00 per hour.
- IX. Ratify Support Staff Training Outside Contracted Year – **Lauren Yelinek**, full-time Special Education Instructional Aide at WHEC, VB training, April 18, 2008, 6 hours at her approved hourly rate.

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- X. Ratify Support Teacher – **Erin Tyrrell**, support teacher to Jo Ellen Cobb, Elementary Teacher at WHEC, for the 2007-08 school year, with a \$500.00 stipend.
- XI. Ratify/Approve Support Staff Unpaid Leave Requests:
- a. **Cheryl Davis**, Part-time Teacher’s Instructional Aide at WHEC, unpaid leave November 10-14, 2008.
 - b. **Lisa Schlappich**, part-time Special Education Secretary, unpaid leave April 4-18, 2008.
- XII. Approve Department Chair Resignation – **John Yoder**, Science Department Chair, effective June 30, 2008.
- XIII. Approve Supplemental Activity Advisor Resignations effective the end of the 2007-08 school year:
- a. **Corinne Fecho Yanes**, Co-Advisor, Debate Club
 - b. **Marsha Long**, Co-Advisor, Cultural Club
 - c. **Jennifer Pors, Jr.** High Drama Director
 - d. **Maureen Nolan**, Quiz Bowl Co-Advisor
- XIV. Ratify Supplemental Activity Co-Advisors for the Homework Club at WREC for the 2007-08 school year, 19 points, \$1,500 shared as follows:
- a. **Mary Hedbavny** - \$127.50
 - b. **Erika Homan** - \$127.50
 - c. **Jennifer Wolfe** - \$382.50
 - d. **Diana Swavely** - \$892.50
- XV. Approve Proposed Work for Summer 2008 at the approved professional contract rate or support staff hourly rate. (List is included as part of the Board packet.)
- Background Information: These are the tasks that teachers or support staff typically accomplish during the summer at an administrator’s request.*
- XVI. Approve additions/deletions to substitute list.
- XVII. Approve additions to district volunteer list.