

# WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2015-4889

## Minutes February 23, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School with Mrs. McAvoy, Board President, presiding.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, Mrs. McAvoy asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. No one indicated their intent to record.

### Board Members Present:

Mrs. Butera, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Heinly, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. Painter, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Reilly, Mrs. Reese, and Mrs. Seltzer.

### Administrative Staff Present:

Mrs. Vicente, Mr. Stem, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Arnst, Mr. Cafoncelli, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kaag, and Mrs. Lengle.

### Attendees:

David Kostival, Reading Eagle, Shelley Filer, recording secretary. Audience sign-in sheet included as part of these official minutes.

### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following meeting schedules and locations were announced:

- Technology Committee Meeting – February 25, 2015, 12:00 p.m.
- Curriculum Committee Meeting – March 2, 2015, 12:00 p.m.
- Policy Committee Meeting – March 3, 2015, 12:00 p.m.
- Finance/Facilities Committee Meeting – March 4, 2015, 8:00 a.m.
- Personnel Committee Meeting – March 4, 2015, 12:00 p.m.
- School Board Business Meeting with Committee Reports – March 9, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

All listed meetings are held in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School unless otherwise noted.

Mrs. McAvoy announced that the Curriculum Committee Meeting is being rescheduled to Tuesday, March 10, at 2:00 p.m.

### PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Ginger Johnson briefed the Board on an upcoming event in the One Wyo Symposium Series entitled “Start the Conversation: How to Talk to Your Kids about Drugs. Unlike other recent public meetings outlining the dangers and prevalence of drugs in Berks County, this meeting will provide parents with information to take a proactive approach in talking to their children before they get involved with drugs. Keynote speakers will be from the Council on Chemical Abuse and Caron Foundation. Other agencies will be on hand to answer questions and provide resources for parents. The event is March 18, 2015 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the auditorium and is open to the public.

Ms. Kami Fecho presented the plans to revamp the former Summer Safari program into Wyomissing Spartans’ Summer STEAM Academy. She noted that data from the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics shows that occupations in STEM areas are expected to grow to 9 million between 2012 and 2022. She hopes to further the District’s investment in STEM

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education by providing programming over the summer to foster interest in STEM activities as well as the arts. Programming will be offered for students K-8 for three weeks in the summer.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### **ROUTINE APPROVALS**

### MEETING MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Painter, second by Mrs. Reese, the Board approved the following minutes:

- January 12, 2015 Business Meeting with Committee Reports
- January 28, 2015 Regular Business Meeting

Yeas: Butera, Davis, Heinly, McAvoy, Painter, Portner, Reilly, Reese, and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon a motion by Mr. Portner, second by Mrs. Seltzer, the Treasurer's Report for January 2015 was accepted as presented.

Yeas: Butera, Davis, Heinly, McAvoy, Painter, Portner, Reilly, Reese, and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

### PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon a motion by Mrs. Reese, second by Mr. Portner payment of bills for the months of November and December 2014 was approved.

Yeas: Butera, Davis, Heinly, McAvoy, Painter, Portner, Reilly, Reese, and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **A. CURRICULUM/ TECHNOLOGY**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Seltzer, second by Mr. Painter, the Board approved the Curriculum/Technology agenda items as follows.

Mrs. Butera congratulated the students who qualified for Regional Orchestra.

1. Approved 2015-16 Calendar.
2. Approved Overnight Field Trip Request – Region IV/V Orchestra, Scranton Cultural Center, March 11-13, 2015.

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Yeas: Butera, Davis, Heinly, McAvoy, Painter, Portner, Reilly, Reese, and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

### B. FINANCE/ FACILITIES

Upon a motion by Mr. Painter, second by Mrs. Reese, the Board approved the Finance/Facilities agenda items as follows.

1. Approved donations from the Wyomissing Area Education Foundation as follows:
  - \$1,200 for tack strips at WREC.
  - \$500 for slab rollers at WREC.
2. Approved donations in memory of Marie DeCusatis in the amount of \$460 from 10 donors to be used toward Athletic Department.
3. Approved 2015-16 BCIU Budget.  
*Background information: Act 102 of 1970 requires the BCIU to prepare an annual budget for approval by its member school districts. The 2015-16 budget requires an increase of 2.1% from school districts. This budget is for mandated services only and does not include fee-for service or federally funded programs (see ivory booklet).*
4. Approved independent contractor agreement with Bridget M. Vecchio, Psy.D, for behavioral services at a rate of \$75 per 45 minute session, not to exceed two 45 minute sessions per week, effective from date of contract approval to June 10, 2015.
5. Approved scope of work for TRANE Energy Savings Project (ESCO) at Wyomissing Hill Elementary.
6. Approved pre-authorization letter for TRANE Energy Savings Project to meet the required project construction schedule due to manufacturing lead times of the wall system and equipment.

Yeas: Butera, Davis, Heinly, McAvoy, Painter, Portner, Reilly, Reese, and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

### C. PERSONNEL/ POLICY

Upon a motion by Mrs. Davis, second by Mrs. Butera, the Board approved the Personnel/Policy agenda items as follows.

During discussion, several Board members congratulated Mr. Stem and wished him well in his new position as Deputy Secretary at PDE. They praised and thanked him for the work he has done in the District. In turn,

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Mr. Stem thanked the Board, administrative team, and community for their support and said his tenure at Wyomissing Area has been a special time in his career. Mrs. McAvoy stated that it is an honor for him and for Wyomissing Area for him to be chosen as the second in command at the state level.

### 1. RESIGNATIONS

#### a. Administrative Staff

- 1) **Matthew Stem**, Assistant Superintendent, resignation, effective March 20, 2015.

#### b. Support Staff

- 1) **Tara Reilly**, Instructional Aide, WHEC, resignation effective February 20, 2015.

### 2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

#### a. Professional Staff

- 1) **William Hartman**, Teacher, JSBS, Leave of Absence, update effective date to February 20, 2015 until the end of the 2014-15 school year.
- 2) **Karen Houck**, Elementary Teacher, WHEC, restoration of health sabbatical, effective February 23, 2015 until the end of the 2014-15 school year.

#### b. Support Staff

- 1) **Gloria Claudio**, Custodian, WREC, unpaid leave of absence, February 10, 11, 12, 2015.
- 2) **Jane Lim**, Computer Lab Aide, WHEC, Family Medical Leave, effective May 11, 2015 until a date to be determined.
- 3) **Patricia Magrann**, Special Education Aide, WHEC, unpaid leave of absence, March 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 2015, return to work March 23, 2015.
- 4) **Suzanne Herbst**, Food Service Worker, JSBS, unpaid leave of absence February 16, 17, 18, 2015.

### 3. APPOINTMENTS

#### a. Confidential Support Staff

- 1) **Eric Evans**, IT Intern, District-wide, \$10.50/hour, effective February 24, 2015 to June 30, 2015, not to exceed a total of 1,200 hours.

#### b. Support Staff

- 1) **Robin Ambrosiani**, Food Service Worker, WREC, part-time (2 ½ hours/day), at an hourly wage of \$9.89/hour, effective February 24, 2015.
- 2) **Jessica Seyler**, Special Education Instructional Aide, WHEC, full-time at 35 hours/week, at an

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hourly wage rate of \$11.55, effective February 26, 2015.

### c. Supplemental Staff

- 1) **Michele Hetrich**, Summer Reading Program Coordinator, at a stipend of \$2,000 for the 2015 Summer program.
- 2) **Colleen Reinecker**, Extended School Year (ESY) Program Coordinator, at a rate of \$32/hour not to exceed a total of 90 hours for the 2015 ESY Program.

### d. Athletic Staff

- 1) **Alexis Garapola**, Varsity Girls' Lacrosse, Assistant Coach, at a stipend of \$2,043, for the Spring 2014-15 school year sports season.

## 4. POSITION CHANGE/TRANSFER

### a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Nathaniel Miller**, Teacher, JSHS, update effective date of transfer to the position of S.T.E.M. Specialist to February 25, 2015.

## 5. SUBSTITUTES

- a. **Nicholas Fox**, Teacher (Addition-Ratify to February 19, 2015)
- b. **Alexandra Maxwell**, Teacher (Addition-Ratify to February 23, 2015)
- c. **Sarah Gallen**, Teacher (Addition-Ratify to February 23, 2015)
- d. **Erika Killian**, Teacher (Addition)
- e. **Julie Schultz**, Teacher (Deletion)

## 6. VOLUNTEERS

## 7. POLICIES

Second reading and approval of the following policies:

- 204 Attendance
- 302 Employment of Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent
- 307 Interns (NEW)
- 405 Employment of Substitute Professional Employees
- 407 Student Teachers/Interns
- 505 Employment of Substitute and Short-Term Employees
- 506 Employment of Summer School Staff (NEW)

Yeas: Butera, Davis, Heinly, McAvoy, Painter, Portner, Reilly, Reese, and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

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## OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. McAvoy provided an update on the status of the petition filed by West Reading residents to change the method of electing Board members. Such a change must go through the court system; it cannot be made by the School Board. The Board president and District solicitor responded to Mayor Rodriguez following his presentation to the Board. Mrs. McAvoy added that she had hoped to meet with him as well, but once the petition was filed, that was no longer possible. Following the initial hearing, Judge Rowley charged each counsel to submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law on March 3. At that time he will consider the information and render a decision.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

## UPDATE FROM ORGANIZATIONS

Tim Hetrich reported on a few highlights and accomplishments at the JSHS. The Model UN Club came back from the NAIMUN Conference with several accolades. Wyomissing Area students are involved in a national investment challenge. He is hoping to have Senator Pat Toomey come to the District to speak with students on economics, investment and finance. Students will be on BCTV on April 13, at 7:30pm. He also mentioned we have outstanding nominees for Berks Best this year.

Michele Hetrich credited Mr. Stem with providing the book A Long Walk to Water for a three-week course of study for sixth grade. It follows two separate stories that merge in the final chapter. The main story is based on the true life experiences of Salva Dut who fled the war in Southern Sudan and eventually moved to America. The second story follows a fictional character, Nya, who must make long walks to fetch water. WREC students researched Salva Dut on the internet and found he issued an "Iron Giraffe" challenge to drill wells which bring water to remote villages in Sudan. The drills are called iron giraffes and one of them is in disrepair. The project is culminating with 80 students walking to the Wyomissing Pond and through donations from sponsors, they are raising money to send to Salva Dut's organization.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Portner, seconded by Mrs. Seltzer to adjourn at 6:36 p.m.

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Board Secretary