

# WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2015-4895

Minutes March 9, 2015

The regular meeting with committee reports 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 the intent to record.

Board Members Present:

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

Administrative Staff Present:

Mrs. Vicente, Mr. Stem, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Arnst, Dr. Babb, Mr. Cafoncelli, Dr. Jones, Mr. Kuhn, Mrs. Lengle, and Mr. Murray.

Attendees:

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

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. McAvoy announced an Executive Session was held in the morning to discuss negotiations and legal matters and again prior to the meeting to further discuss negotiations.

Mrs. McAvoy noted that as reported in the Reading Eagle, Judge Antanavage ruled against the District in the appeal to build the fence. The Board is considering its options.

She also announced that at 4:30 p.m. the Board met with WAEA and the mediator. A five-year proposal with an average of a 3.09% increase was offered over the duration of the contract which amounts to a \$1.5 million increase. A timeline detailing the ongoing negotiations since March 2014 was presented. Mediation began in August. The next meeting is scheduled for March 19.

The following meeting schedules and locations were announced.

- Curriculum Committee Meeting – March 10, 2015, 2:00 p.m. (Rescheduled)
- School Board Business Meeting – March 23, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
- Technology Committee Meeting – March 25, 2015, 12:00 p.m.
- Curriculum Committee Meeting – March 27, 2015, 12:00 p.m.
- Facilities Committee Meeting – April 7, 2015, 8:00 a.m.
- Policy Committee Meeting – April 7, 2015, 12:00 p.m.
- Finance Committee Meeting – April 8, 2015, 8:00 a.m.
- Personnel Committee Meeting – April 8, 2015, 12:00 p.m.

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

## RECOGNITION

Dr. Jones recognized the students who were named by BCTC as Students of the Quarter for the second quarter: Luke Bowman, Jesenia

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Fischer, Jeffrey Tavarez, Johnny Tavarez, and Saul Montoya. Copies of the proclamations presented to the students are included in these official minutes.

Mrs. McAvoy mentioned there were 12 students in grades 7-9 who qualified for Junior High County Chorus, and Chris Gleason, a senior, was selected as an alternate for PMEA All-State Chorus. She extended the invitation for all to attend the Orchestra Progressive Concert on March 10. The concert will feature over 150 string students from grades 3-12.

COMMITTEE  
REPORTS

- A. Finance – Mr. Heinly reported the committee met earlier in the morning and focused mainly on the proposal to the teachers’ union. They also discussed donations and further reducing the budget deficit.
- B. Facilities – Mrs. Reese said the committee met last week and discussed several ongoing projects. The Trane project is moving forward and should be completed by August. During the rehab process, steps will be taken to enhance the safety of windows. Permit paperwork for the re-turf project is in the process of being submitted. Permits are also being submitted for the tennis court project. The security upgrades for the JSHS main entrance are complete. The replacement scoreboards are being manufactured. The committee also discussed upgrades for security cameras and hopes to further discuss in April or May.
- C. Curriculum – Mrs. Davis reported at tomorrow’s meeting they will discuss the JSHS math and English alignment to the Common Core. The next meeting will be March 27.
- D. Technology – Mrs. Reese reported that Mr. Arnst provided updates on on-going projects. He was successful in finding a company closer than California who accepts the insurance on the 1:1 devices so it significantly improved turn-around time on repairs. After recycling old hardware and software he was able to purchase protective cases for the devices for students in grades 7-9. They discussed tripling the bandwidth for the school for less cost than what is currently being paid. The focus this month will be to reduce the backlog of tickets to the Help Desk with the assistance of the three IT interns.
- E. Personnel – Mrs. Butera reported the committee met March 4. Items discussed are listed on the agenda for approval. A focus of the meeting was filling the Assistant Superintendent vacancy. The position was posted late last week.

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- F. Policy – Mr. Painter reviewed the five policies on the agenda for a first reading. Four of the policies deal with employment requirements as dictated by recent legislation. The dress code policy was reviewed to simplify some restrictions for easier enforceability by administration.
- G. Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Report – No report.
- H. Berks Career & Technology Center Board Report – Mr. Painter reported that the 2015-16 budget is on the agenda. A tentative agreement has been reached with the support staff union.
- I. Berks EIT Report – Mrs. Reese said a new director has been hired. The office is looking to relocate after the newly signed lease expires. The on-line portal has been taken down and work is being done to make it more user-friendly.
- J. Wyomissing Area Education Foundation – Mrs. Butera reported the February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The next meeting is March 10.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Kelley Crozier voiced her support for the teachers in settling the contract. She is concerned that the teachers' salaries rank near the bottom as compared to other Berks County schools yet the District ranks so high academically. Although she appreciates the proposal to increase starting salaries she is concerned about the disparity of wages it creates for experienced teachers.

Carolyn Bamberger stated that the judge presiding over the appeal of the fence case should have recused himself because of his close association with a lead proponent of the Stop the Fence group. In ignoring all applicable laws including the school district's constitutional right to protect its property with a fence, until the decision is tossed out by an appellate court it could affect any future permit for which the District applies. It could also impact other property owners in Wyomissing, Berks County and possibly state-wide.

Mrs. Bamberger also thanked Mr. Stem and commended him for his extraordinary efforts in advancing the District during his tenure.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

- A. **CURRICULUM/  
TECHNOLOGY** No items.

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## B. FINANCE/ FACILITIES

Upon a motion by Mr. Painter, second by Mr. Portner, the following Finance/Facilities item was approved.

During discussion Mrs. Reese stated that the plan is to have the courts ready by the end of the summer or early fall.

1. Approved proposal with Turf, Track & Court, LLC for professional services required for the renovation and improvements to the District's tennis courts.

*Background information: The total cost of the agreement is \$55,900 which covers zoning (\$6,725); design and engineering (\$26,250); and documentation and overseeing of the project (\$22,925); and time and materials (\$12,250). This price is for design and document management. Actual renovation costs are not included.*

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Finance and Facilities items were opened for discussion.

## C. PERSONNEL/ POLICY

Upon a motion by Mrs. Butera, second by Mrs. Davis, the following Personnel/Policy items were approved.

### 1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

#### a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Kristin McLaughlin**, K-12 Itinerant Learning Support Teacher, JSBS, update effective start date of Family Medical Leave to February 24, 2015.
- 2) **Nicole Wentzel**, Special Education Teacher, JSBS, Family Medical Leave, effective August 25, 2015, with a return to work date of November 20, 2015.
- 3) **Mary Kate Bogert**, Science Teacher, JSBS, Family Medical Leave, effective August 25, 2015, return to work the first day of the second semester of the 2015-16 school year.

#### b. Support Staff

- 1) **Hilary Decker**, Special Education Instructional Aide, JSBS, Family Medical Leave, effective April 15, 2015 until a date to be determined.
- 2) **Pamela Gartner**, Library Aide, WHEC, unpaid leave of absence, March 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 2015, may include April 1, 2015 if school is in session, return to work on April 7, 2015.

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**2. APPOINTMENTS**

**a. Support Staff**

- 1) **Janelle Ferrara**, Special Education Instructional Aide, JSBS, full-time at 7 hours/day (35 hours/week), at an hourly wage rate of \$11.34, effective March 10, 2015.

*Background information: This new hire is the result of a resignation.*

**b. Supplemental Staff**

1. Approval of updated effective date of Special Education Department Chair change to February 24, 2015 and approval of the following rates for the 2014-15 school year:

a) **Kristin McLaughlin** - \$1,347.50

b) **Eileen John** - \$201.25

c) **Jennifer Texter** - \$201.25

*Background information: Ms. John and Ms. Texter are sharing the chairperson duties until the end of the school year while Ms. McLaughlin is on leave.*

**3. POSITION TITLE CHANGE AND UPDATED POSITION GUIDE**

**a. Support Staff**

1. Request approval to change the title for the position of Special Education Instructional Aide to Paraprofessional and approve the accompanying updated position guide.

*Background information: The title of Paraprofessional more closely aligns with Special Education standard title for this position. The position guide has been updated to more closely reflect the job duties associated with this position.*

**4. SUBSTITUTES**

- a. **Ann Marie Hopley**, Teacher (Addition)
- b. **Elizabeth Kreisler**, Teacher (Addition)
- c. **Stephanie Zechman**, Teacher & Aide Positions (Addition)

**5. VOLUNTEERS**

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

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The remaining Personnel and Policy items were opened for discussion. There were no questions or comments.

**OLD BUSINESS** None.

**NEW BUSINESS** None.

**UPDATES FROM ORGANIZATIONS** Tim Hetrich reported that 100 sixth graders had their Long Walk to Water earlier in the day replicating the daily walk to water in Sudan.

Jennifer Mangold expressed her appreciation for the support Mini-THON received. More than 300 students participated and this year to-date more than \$30,000 has been raised in donations.

**ADJOURNMENT** A motion was made by Mr. Portner, seconded by Mrs. Reilly to adjourn at 6:32 p.m.

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Board Secretary