

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2015-4901

Minutes March 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, Mrs. Reilly, Mrs. Reese, and Mrs. Seltzer.

Board Member Absent: Mr. Portner

Administrative Staff Present: Mrs. Vicente, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Arnst, Dr. Jones, and Mrs. Lengle.

Attendees: Becca Gregg, Reading Eagle, Shelley Filer, recording secretary. Audience sign-in sheet included as part of these official minutes.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. McAvoy announced that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting to discuss negotiations and a legal issue.

The following meeting schedules and locations were announced:

- 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.
- School Board Business Meeting with Committee Reports – April 13, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. McAvoy stated that although this is a time for comment only, if an audience member has a question or concern, he/she should contact Mrs. Filer who will direct the question to the appropriate person for a response.

Carolyn Bamberger spoke in memory of Richard Hoffmaster who was a 30-year member of the football coaching staff. She said he was a symbol of everything that is right about Wyomissing athletics.

Lisa Sohn commented on the plan to refurbish four tennis courts and add a fifth court for nearly \$500,000 as opposed to entering into the agreement with Wyomissing Borough for use of the Stone House courts for \$80,000. She also asked what would happen with the girls' tennis team come fall if the agreement with the Borough is not renewed.

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ROUTINE APPROVALS

MEETING MINUTES

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

- February 11, 2015 Business Meeting with Committee Reports
- February 23, 2015 Regular Business Meeting

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

Absent: Portner

Nays: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon a motion by Mrs. Butera, second by Mrs. Reese, the Treasurer's Report for February 2015 was accepted as presented.

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

Absent: Portner

Nays: None. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon a motion by Mrs. Seltzer, second by Mrs. Reilly payment of bills for the month of February 2015 was approved.

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

Absent: Portner

Nays: None. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CURRICULUM/ TECHNOLOGY

Mrs. Vicente announced that the Comprehensive Plan which will guide the District's curriculum for the next four years was approved by the State.

She also announced that senior Marissa Koch, a BCTC student, has qualified for the national HOSA competition and has been offered a nursing scholarship to Alvernia University.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Seltzer, second by Mrs. Butera, the Board approved the Curriculum/Technology agenda item as follows.

1. Approved Overnight Field Trip Requests
 - a. Orchestra – PMEA State Conference & Festival, Hershey, PA, March 25-28, 2015

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- b. Chorus – PMEA State Conference & Festival, Hershey, PA
March 25-28, 2015.

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

Absent: Portner

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**B. FINANCE/
FACILITIES**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Butera, second by Mrs. Reilly, the Board approved the Finance/Facilities agenda items as follows.

During discussion Mr. Painter requested that item 5 be voted on separately. Mrs. Butera and Mrs. Reilly agreed to the amended motion.

1. Approved donations from Wyomissing Area Education Foundation as follows:
 - \$69.99 toward a humidifier for String Instrument Classroom
 - \$1,500 toward funding for Alex Meixner Band World Heritage Festival at WREC
 - \$150 toward the purchase of 6 digital thermometers and oven mitts.
2. Approved budget transfers in the amount of \$7,887.73 for high school general supplies/ athletics/ choral music
3. Approved Berks Career & Technology Center 2015-16 Budget.
Background information: The proposed share for Wyomissing Area School District for 2015-16 is \$331,346. This is an increase of 2.741% (\$39,117 over 2014-15).
4. Approved agreement with Pennsylvania Trust for GASB 45 Valuation Service which is performed by Conrad Siegel Actuaries.
Background information: Valuation is of our other post-employment benefits (OPEB). Slight increase of \$175 over previous charges from 12-13.

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

Absent: Portner

Nays: None. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Butera, second by Mrs. Seltzer, the Board approved the Finance/Facilities agenda items as follows.

During discussion several Board members explained their rationale for how they would vote on the motion.

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Mrs. Davis said there is a limited window to appeal the decision and if not appealed it may impact the ability of future administrations and Boards to make necessary facilities decisions that may require fencing. She also believes it is truly the District's right to install a fence on its property.

Mrs. Butera attended the hearings and saw first-hand how the case was handled. She favors the appeal because she feels the case needs to be reviewed by an impartial court. She also is concerned that not appealing will tie the hands of future Boards.

Mrs. Seltzer said in addition to the prior comments, she wants to appeal in order to receive the written decision from the Berks County Court of Common Pleas. Having attended the hearing, she too feels that the District did not receive a fair hearing. She believes the District has the right to protect its property from such recent vandalism and a fence will protect the field from someone driving a vehicle across it.

Mrs. Reese stated that this has never been a vanity project for her and stands by the original reasons for building the fence to protect the District's assets and further improve the appearance of the school campus. Of greater concern to her are the long-term consequences of the court's decision and how they will impair the District's ability to make improvements to the property in the future if the appeal is not filed.

Mr. Painter said he does not support filing an appeal and has remained consistent on that point. He implored the Board that if the appeal moves forward that no further taxpayer dollars be used fund the appeal.

As a point of clarification Mrs. Davis added that to file the appeal will cost approximately \$150-\$300. At any time after filing the appeal, the decision can be made to stop the process for inadequate funding; however, if the deadline passes, the opportunity will be lost and we will not receive the last written decision.

5. Approved motion to appeal to the Commonwealth Court the decision by the Berks County Court of Common Pleas dated March 4, 2015.

Yeas: Butera, Davis, Heinly, McAvoy, Reilly, Reese, and Seltzer.
Absent: Portner
Nays: Painter. Motion carried.

**C. PERSONNEL/
POLICY**

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

Mrs. McAvoy thanked Mr. Hawkins and Ms. Welch for their service to the District.

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Mrs. Butera commented on the revision of the dress code policy and hoped that parents would find it easier to understand.

1. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

a. Support Staff

- 1) **Michael Hawkins**, Custodian, JSBS, retirement, effective June 30, 2015.
- 2) **Lorraine Welch**, Paraprofessional, WHEC, resignation effective April 1, 2015.

2. LEAVES

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Jennifer Littlefield**, Teacher, WHEC, Family Medical Leave, update effective date to April 7, 2015.

b. Support Staff

- 1) **Karen Conklin**, Special Education Instruction Aide, JSBS, end Family Medical Leave March 5, 2015, return to work March 9, 2015.
- 2) **Glenda Jarrett**, Special Education Instructional Aide, WREC, unpaid leave of absence March 26, 27, 30, 31, 2015 and April 1, 2015, return to work April 7, 2015.
- 3) **Mary Muir**, Instructional Aide, WREC, intermittent Family Medical Leave beginning on or about March 23, 2015 until March 23, 2016.
- 4) **Karen Sichak**, Instructional Aide, WHEC, unpaid leave of absence March 30, March 31, April 1, 2015, return to work April 7, 2015.

3. APPOINTMENTS

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Jennifer Mangold**, Teacher, JSBS, to move to teacher on assignment to cover non-supervisory aspects of the Supervisor of Assessments and Instructional Interventions, no change in wages, update effective date to March 18, 2015. Background: This action is to update the effective date of the assignment which was previously approved at the February 9, 2015 Board Meeting.

b. Support Staff

- 1) **Tracey Diehl**, Instructional Aide (Reading), WHEC, effective March 24, 2015, part-time at 4 ½ hours/day, at an hourly rate of \$10.25.
- 2) **Jessica Seyler**, Special Education Instructional

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Aide, WHEC, revised from weekly hours to daily, full-time at 7 hours/day, at an hourly wage rate of \$11.55, effective February 26, 2015.

c. Supplemental Staff

- 1) **Alexandra Maxwell**, Extended Substitute Math Teacher, JSHS, seeking approval as a Tutor in the JSHS afterschool program, at \$32/hour, not to exceed a shared total of 153 hours for the JSHS Program which operates until May 13, 2015.

d. Athletic Staff

- 1) **Stephen Buynovsky**, Boys' Volleyball Assistant Coach, for the 2014-15 Spring sports season at a stipend of \$1,661.

4. APPROVE FINAL LISTING OF 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR SPRING COACHES AND ACCOMPANYING STIPENDS PER ATTACHMENT.

5. SUBSTITUTES

- a. **Steven Holst**, Teacher (Addition)

6. VOLUNTEERS

7. POLICIES

Second reading and adoption of the following policies:

221	Dress and Grooming
404	Employment of District Staff – Professional Employees
406	Employment of Summer School Staff – Professional Employees
504	Employment of District Staff – Classified Employees
818	Contract Services

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

Absent: Portner

Nays: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Butera commented that the current proposal to WAEA is represents a 3.09% average increase over five years costing the District \$1.5 million and said a settled contract is long overdue and well-deserved. She praised and thanked District teachers for their efforts as evidenced by awards, honors, and projects in all buildings.

Mrs. Davis believes that everyone agrees that the District has excellent teachers and they deserve a fair contract. She said in the three times she has

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been through negotiations as a Board member, never before has the Board and administration been as sensitive to the needs of the teachers as the current members. To her knowledge the most recent proposed contract had not been shared with WAEA membership. She urged Mr. Ritter to share the details with the teachers, allow them to address questions with the Business Administrator as to how the contract affects them individually, and vote on it.

Mrs. Reese provided an update on the tennis courts. Rather than spend \$150,000 to \$175,000 on renovating the existing courts it was better to embark on a total renovation making them PIAA compliant and usable for boys' and girls' tennis teams. In order to do that a fifth court is necessary. Moving the tennis program back onto District property makes sense in many ways: it is closer to the school trainer; it provides a close building to take shelter in the event of a storm; allows maintenance and oversight by the District facilities department; provides availability of restroom facilities; and use of the concession stand as a fundraising opportunity. The estimated cost of the project is \$480,000. These funds as well as the funds for the field hockey turf project will come from a bond that is being issued to cover the cost of the necessary renovations at WHEC. They are capital improvement projects and by law money that is borrowed and earmarked for capital improvements cannot be used for anything other than capital projects. Due to the strong financial position of the District with respect to its debt, issuance of the bond will not alter the monthly footprint of the District's debt service but will add one additional year of payments. It is an ideal time to undertake much needed capital improvements that will serve Wyomissing and West Reading Borough residents as well when the courts are not being used by the school teams.

Mrs. Davis asked for clarification that the \$80,000 agreement with the Borough for the Stone House courts was strictly for maintenance, not construction and renovation. Mrs. Reese confirmed that to be true.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Butera stated that Right-to-Know requests over the last 13 months have cost the District over \$4,700.

UPDATE FROM ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Ritter spoke on behalf of WAEA and thanked Mrs. Butera for her comments. He also stated that due to an error in the proposal it was inappropriate to share the proposal until it was corrected. The revised agreement was received at the last meeting on March 19. The current proposal is under discussion by WAEA. As the Board's final and best offer is a disappointment to WAEA. The goal continues to be a fair and equitable contract for all teachers.

Mrs. McAvoy reiterated that she hoped the proposal was shared with the membership at its meeting earlier in the day and that after reviewing it the teachers will vote to accept it.

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Mrs. Reilly shared an update on behalf of the PTA. RIF programs have been scheduled for first grade. Staff Appreciation Week has been rescheduled for May 4-8. PTA members will attend Kindergarten Registration April 8-10 to answer questions and provide tours. The spring fundraiser will be the Family Run/Walk on April 12 from 9-11 a.m. The path is two miles long with children's activities along the way and at the conclusion. Registration can be done online through the Facebook page.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Painter, seconded by Mrs. Seltzer to adjourn at 6:28 p.m.

Board Secretary