

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2015-4922

Minutes May 11, 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. Carolyn Bamberger indicated her 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. Boyer, Mr. Arnst, Dr. Babb, Mr. Cafoncelli, Dr. Jones, Dr. Kuhn, Mrs. Lengle, and Mr. Murray.

Attendees:

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

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following meeting schedules and locations were announced.

- School Board Business Meeting – May 26, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
- Technology Committee Meeting – May 27, 2015, 12:00 p.m.
- Curriculum Committee Meeting – June 1, 2015, 12:00 p.m.
- Facilities Committee Meeting – June 2, 2015, 8:00 a.m.
- Policy Committee Meeting – June 2, 2015, 12:00 p.m.
- Finance Committee Meeting – June 3, 2015, 8:00 a.m.
- Personnel Committee Meeting – June 3, 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

Mr. David Huyett from the World Affairs Council of Greater Reading recognized JSHS Social Studies teacher William Dramby for his work as the faculty advisor for the World Quest competition. The mission of the Council is to create a forum to discuss international affairs through such programs as World Quest. The program is very difficult and competitive, and historically Wyomissing Area has fared well in the competition under Dramby. In turn, Dramby credited student Sadie Ellington, club president, for her leadership in running a successful club.

Dr. Jones recognized BCTC's students of the third quarter Billy Schlouch and Josette Fritz for Service Occupations; Jocelynn Karner for Cosmetology II; and Saul Montoya for his third consecutive quarter in Technology Based Entrepreneurship. Copies of the proclamations the students received are included in these official minutes.

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Mr. Ferrandino recognized winter athletes including indoor track athlete Kyle Shinn, swimmers Nathan Elzer, Patrick Pendergast, Shuyang Wen, and Charlie Tonneslan, and heavyweight wrestler Robert Dunbar. Copies of the proclamations the athletes received are included in these official minutes.

Mr. Jon Yorgey, Grounds Foreman, recognized Nathan Elzer and David Tice for their Eagle Scout projects that improved the athletic facilities. Tice constructed a batting cage for the high school baseball field and Elzer built a new shot put area at the high school track. Each received a certificate of service and a nameplate to affix to their respective projects.

PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Lengle gave an overview of current and future happenings in the Special Education Department as aligned to the four pillars outlining the District initiatives. Numbers of identified special education students are continuing to rise in the District. Since the 2012-13 academic years, curriculum choices among special education students have doubled to allow for individualized instruction. Teachers have been trained in additional programs. The department is using creative ways to allow their students to participate in as much of the general education environment as possible. Assistive Technology is growing as well. A strong partnership with BCTC has helped struggling students find success. AIMSweb assessments make things readable for families and help them understand student goals and progress. Moving between buildings and having consistent documents to utilize has been beneficial for all team members. Peer training and coaching is popular among the team helping them to grow professionally by sharing information gained in trainings. Mrs. Lengle has performed mock PDE audits of teacher files for compliance. There will be a summer training session with our special education attorney. A special education manual is being produced this summer. Mrs. Lengle is researching additional opportunities for paraprofessionals to get their continuing education hours. She also detailed activities that are contributing to a safe climate and developing relationships with families and the community.

Mr. Boyer reviewed the proposed final budget for 2015-16. Enrollment is expected to increase over the next few years. Approximately 81.6% of our revenue comes from local sources such as real estate taxes, business privilege taxes and earned income taxes. A 1% tax increase is proposed which is below the 1.9% index allowed by Act 1. The tax increase would be \$44 on a property valued at \$150,000. Funding from the State has not been increased in the proposed budget at this time. Revenue from the Federal government accounts for 1.5% of the budget. The budget is currently balanced using \$135,206 from the fund balance which represents the amount the State has in as charter school expenditure reduction for our District. If this is approved in the State budget, the expenditure reduction would eliminate the need to use the

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fund balance. Some key factors remain that could still have an impact on the budget depending on their resolution.

COMMITTEE
REPORTS

- A. Finance – Mr. Portner reported the committee met on May 6. Two main topics included the budget and LERTA. He commended Mr. Boyer for his work. They also discussed the transportation agreement and the service level agreement for SMS and special education applications services with BCIU
- B. Facilities – Mrs. Reese said the committee met May 5. They discussed the ongoing reurf project which will be completed before the fall sports season. The completed scoreboard project is a huge improvement. Plans for the tennis courts were submitted for the Zoning Board Hearing also held on May 5. Mrs. Reese did not attend the hearing meeting because she was told earlier by a Borough official that the plans met code requirements and the hearing would be a formality. A group of residents attended with counsel and the hearing was continued until June. Mrs. Reese will attend. Mr. Cafoncelli is looking for a new area for facilities maintenance because the current area will be repurposed for STEM activities.
- C. Curriculum – Mrs. Davis reported the committee met May 4. They discussed new science materials in a combination of hardcover texts and online subscriptions. Adopting the GoMath series at WHEC was discussed. Changes to hours in the summer Work Outside the Contract have been recommended by the principals. Mrs. Vicente will continue to update the committee on STEAM initiatives. The elementary STEAM extravaganzas will be held in May. These days will give students exposure to and participation in various science experiments. The committee also reviewed the various summer programs available on campus including Jump Start, Summer Reading Academy, and STEAM Academy. The administration of PSSAs went smoothly in all buildings.
- D. Technology – Mr. Portner gave an update on the repairs for the devices for the 1:1 initiative. It was determined there is no value in the obsolete devices throughout the District so they will be discarded. An inventory tracking database is being developed. The partnership with PSU technology interns has been a great success and we hope to continue using their services.
- E. Personnel – Mrs. Butera reported the committee met on May 6. The items discussed are on the agenda for approval.
- F. Policy – Mr. Painter reviewed the changes in the policies on the agenda for a first reading. Some of our policies are more detailed

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than PSBA versions. In consultation with our solicitor we are making changes to the policy on controlled substances to include nicotine and nicotine products. A new policy on current events recommended by PSBA is being deferred for a few months.

- G. Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Report – Mrs. Seltzer reported the meeting was held on April 16. A highlight was that JSHS nurse Sally McNichol was this year’s recipient of the Annie Sullivan Award. The IU is assisting with filling vacant Superintendent positions in the County. The BCIU budget was approved. The Act 93 agreement will be voted on in May. She also reported on a student bereavement group called Camp Connect. The annual convention for school directors was held at Perry Elementary in the Hamburg School District. They also discussed the Health Trust. The next meeting is May 21.
- H. Berks Career & Technology Center Board Report – Mr. Painter commended Dr. Jones for his efforts in increasing the District’s enrollment at BCTC. The budget process is proceeding with 14 districts having approved it thus far. BCTC refinanced some of its bonds through a bank loan which will result in some savings to the District.
- I. Berks EIT Report – Mrs. Reese said the next meeting is in June.
- J. Wyomissing Area Education Foundation – Mrs. Butera reported the meeting was held on April 13. EITC funding was increased from last year. A new scholarship was created to support technological grants and scholarships. Mr. Arnst made a presentation on the status of technology K-12. Approved grants are listed on the agenda. The scholarship reception was held April 29. The next meeting is May 12.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Gyomber, boys’ tennis coach, voiced his opposition to the tennis courts plans and said his preference was retain play at the Stone House Courts.

Carolyn Bamberger expressed her appreciation for the advantages her children had as students at Wyomissing Area.

Lisa Sohn questioned the need for the extended time the courts were locked when all that was needed to remedy the situation was for the cracks to be filled in, the acorns swept up and the mildew power washed away.

Liz Tierney spoke on behalf of a group of residents who attended the Zoning Board Hearing for the tennis court variance. She refuted the

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District’s position that it was more cost efficient to refurbish the courts and add a fifth court as opposed to resurfacing the existing courts and maintain the agreement with the Borough for use of the Stone House Courts. They would prefer to have the current courts resurfaced with adequate maintenance to keep them acorn- and mildew-free and maintain the agreement for the Stone House Courts.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. CURRICULUM/ TECHNOLOGY

No items

B. FINANCE/ FACILITIES

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

- 1. Adopted Proposed General Fund Budget for 2015-16 requiring a 1.0% mill real estate and interim tax increase. The increased millage is 0.2949 with total millage required equal to 29.7836. (See attached resolution 05-11-15-01)

1000 Instruction.....	\$18,055,479
2000 Supporting Services.....	10,012,107
3000 Operation of Non-Instructional Services.....	948,377
4000 Facilities, Acquisition & Construction.....	0
5000 Financing Uses.....	3,464,967
TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET EXPENSES.....	\$32,480,930
 5999 Budgetary Reserve	 \$250,000

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Finance and Facilities items were opened for discussion. Mrs. McAvoy expressed her appreciation to WAEF for the funds to purchase the expensive items such as teleprompters.

C. PERSONNEL/ POLICY

Upon a motion by Mrs. Seltzer, second by Mr. Painter, the following Personnel/Policy items were approved.

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Betsy Santoro**, Math Teacher, JSHS, Family Medical Leave effective May 21, 2015 with a return to work date of June 1, 2015.

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- 2) **Brenda Phillips**, Science Teacher, JSHS, Family Medical Leave effective May 11, 2015 to May 25, 2015 with a return to work date May 26, 2015.
- 3) **Kelly Keim**, 2nd Grade Teacher, WHEC, Family Medical Leave, effective August 31, 2015 with a return to work date on or about December 1, 2015.

b. Support Staff

- 1) **Kathleen Hipszer**, Paraprofessional, JSHS, unpaid leave of absence May 7, 8, 11, 2015.
- 2) **Pamela Anzulewicz**, Part-time Food Service Worker, JSHS, Leave of Absence May 22, 2015 to June 8, 2015, returning to work the first work day for Food Service Workers in the 2015-16 school year.

2. APPOINTMENTS

a. Professional Staff

- 1) Approve the following teachers to work in the Summer Reading Academy Program effective June 22, 2015 to July 16, 2015 at the WAEA work outside contract hourly rate, not to exceed 16 hours/week:
 - a) **Shauna Eastadt**
 - b) **Meredith Emkey**
 - c) **Lauren Fiorentino**
 - d) **Caitlin Gibbs**
 - e) **Erika Homan**
 - f) **Bridgette Kozuch**
 - g) **Brittany Siggins**
 - h) **Daniel Smith**
 - i) **Nancy Robinson (Substitute)**
- 2) Approve the following teachers to work in the Summer "S.T.E.A.M." Academy (formerly Summer Safari Program) effective June 22, 2015 to August 13, 2015 at the WAEA work outside contract hourly rate, not to exceed a maximum of 9 hours a week per course offering:
 - a) **Matthew Babiarz**
 - b) **Tami Cantilina**
 - c) **Kelly Ferrandino**
 - d) **Andrea Kupiszewski**
 - e) **Bridgette Kozuch**
 - f) **Jennifer Mangold**
 - g) **Michael Miller**
 - h) **Amy Miller-Cush**

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- i) **Curtis Minich**
- j) **Keith Arnold (Substitute)**
- k) **Kristen Heist-Albright (Substitute)**

3. APPROVE ACT 93 AGREEMENT PER ATTACHED.

Background information: The term of this agreement is July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2019.

4. SUBSTITUTES

- a. **Tami Cantilina**, Teacher (Addition)

5. VOLUNTEER(S)

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. McAvoy shared a statement on the proposed tennis court renovations. In response to public outcry to save the courts when the Board announced its plans for improvements to the football field, the Board investigated its options for preserving the courts. The courts needed extensive sub-strata work to fix drainage problems and ensure a solid foundation for a new playing surface. The footprint of the courts needed to be expanded for a safety zone in order for use by the tennis teams for PIAA matches. The addition of a fifth court was optimal to speed up match play. One option was to renovate the existing courts for approximately \$150,000; however, they would not be usable by the tennis teams for matches. The maintenance agreement with the Borough would need to continue for the teams to have a place to practice and play matches. The Board felt investing that amount of funds without benefit to the high school teams did not make sense. Although renovating the courts and adding a fifth court costs more, it is a better long-term investment and would free up the Stone House courts for community use and allow the community to use District courts when not in use by the District.

Mrs. McAvoy also provided an update on teacher contract negotiations. A fact-finding hearing was held on April 29. The fact-finder's written recommendations must be submitted to both parties by May 20. The Board then has 10 calendar days to accept or reject those recommendations in their entirety. Upon receipt of the report, the Board expects to react promptly to comply with the deadline.

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Mrs. Butera provided totals of all District legal fees for school years 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 to dispel rumors she had been hearing. She said on a yearly basis the District encounters various matters that require legal counsel, but the District is committed to using legal services efficiently and effectively and for reasons which affect the District now and in the future.

Mr. Painter said over the last few years our legal expenses have gone down because the District uses legal services judiciously; however, he felt that the legal and engineering costs relative to the fence project, in his view, did not need to be spent.

Mrs. Davis commented that in her time on the Board, when faced with facilities projects, they made choices so they were being fiscally responsible for the future such as borrowing funds to complete major roof projects on the buildings rather than continuing to patch them. The same can be said in doing the returf project to make it PIAA compliant with emergency vehicle access. While it does add extra cost, it makes sense to do the project properly. Likewise, in doing the tennis court project properly, it will give the community more access to courts. Since the closure of the Happy Hollow courts, when the District is using the Stone House courts for the tennis team, there currently is nowhere for community members to play.

Mrs. Seltzer credited Mr. Boyer with filing to end the LERTA on the hotel property and have it reassessed following the sale to Black Sapphire. Until three weeks prior, the Borough had taken no action in effect allowing the District the shoulder the responsibility. The Borough wrote a letter supporting the District; however, it is not recognized according to the appeal. The County has not acted on it either.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

UPDATES FROM ORGANIZATIONS

Mrs. Reilly provided an update from PTA on behalf of Joanne Weller, PTA President. She thanked everyone who made donations toward Staff Appreciation Week. She announced the last opportunity to watch the Candidate Forum. The last PTA meeting of the year is May 13, with the Volunteer Appreciation breakfast. This year's activities will be reviewed as they plan for next year. She appreciated the support and thanked all who contributed to the PTA this year.

Mrs. Davis mentioned that Post-Prom is being held at Body Zone on May 24.

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ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Reilly, seconded by Mr. Portner to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

Board Secretary