

# WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2015-5004

**Minutes** November 9, 2015

The regular meeting with committee reports of the Board of School Directors convened at 6:01 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. Portner, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Reilly and Mrs. Seltzer.

Board Member Absent: Mr. Painter

Administrative Staff Present: Mrs. Vicente, Mr. Boyer, Mrs. Waller, Mr. Arnst, Dr. Babb, Mr. Cafoncelli, Dr. Jones, Mrs. Kaag, Mrs. Lengle, and Mr. Murray.

Attendees: Stephen DeLucas, Reading Eagle, 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.

- Technology Committee Meeting – November 18, 2015, 12:00 p.m.
- School Board Business Meeting – November 23, 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 an Executive Session was held preceding the meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance – Mr. Portner reported the committee met on November 4. Items discussed are on the agenda for either approval or discussion including budget transfers; donations; proposed West Reading LERTA; office furniture; and switching prepaid mail service and machines to another vendor for approximately \$5,000 savings. Cash flow was discussed as a result of the state budget impasse. So far the impasse isn't affecting the district at this point. The fund balance which is at approximately \$1.1 million hasn't changed much. The new Board will likely decide how to designate the fund balance.

B. Facilities – Mrs. Reese said the committee met on November 3. She reported that the ESCO project ran smoothly and is virtually complete. Thus far, everyone involved is very happy with Trane. The railings have been installed on the turf field. The nets are

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currently up but will come down for the winter. The committee is still reviewing pricing for the scoreboards and is talking to a possible donor. The renovations to the baseball field are complete and on budget. Pricing for the auditorium stage floor is under the threshold needed for bidding and should be completed over the winter break. The on-line MSDS project is ongoing. Safety data sheets are still being gathered and entered. The change order item on the agenda for discussion will provide an additional two cameras on the press box.

- C. Curriculum – Mrs. Davis reported the committee met on November 2. The main topic discussed was the AP Capstone Program. WASD was invited as one of four schools in the state to participate in the unique program that offers an AP Seminar as a junior and AP Research as a senior. This program is designed to reach a broader spectrum of students with different skill sets than who typically enroll in AP courses. The only start-up cost is training for the two teachers involved. The Writing Steering Committee was discussed which has representation from every grade level K-6. The curriculum review cycle is being revamped.
- D. Technology – Mr. Portner reported on the growing usage of Schoology that was discussed at the committee meeting in October. They received an update on the 1:1 project as well as the damage report which is substantially less than with the previous devices. The committee will see a demonstration of a classroom management tool for the devices. With the addition of a new tech person, scheduled visits can now be made for all the buildings.
- E. Personnel – Mrs. Butera said the committee met on November 4. Four professional staff members will be granted tenure. The rest of the items discussed are on the agenda for approval.
- F. Policy – In Mr. Painter’s absence, Mrs. Vicente reviewed the two policies on the agenda for a first reading. The committee met on November 3 and reviewed the Concussion Management policy to address language in the policy, coaches’ manual, and student handbook for consistency. Reference to the PIAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation form has been added to the policy. All athletes must complete this form for the first sport in which they participate in a school year. A recertification form is needed for each sport thereafter to make sure there are no changes in the athletes’ health or condition from one sport to the next. Concussion procedures are spelled out in the coaches’ manual. The student handbook will also be updated. The Bullying/Cyberbullying policy must be reviewed every three years as mandated by PDE. No revisions were recommended at this time.

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- G. Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Report – Mrs. Seltzer reported on the meeting of October 15. They reviewed the Superintendents’ Academy. The state budget impasse was discussed at length as well as the strategy moving forward since BCIU is not receiving any funds. The transportation program for training bus drivers was discussed. The program Keeping Kids Safe was well attended with 225 participants representing all districts in the county.
- H. Berks Career & Technology Center Board Report – Mr. Portner reported the meeting was held on October 28. The highlight was a tour of the Building Occupations Program. This program teaches students all aspects of building a house and construction. Currently there are more jobs available in this field than students. The 2014-15 audit was approved as a clean audit. There will be a negative impact on their operations at BCTC as they will now be required to book their pension liability. Wyomissing Area’s enrollment is up this year and Dr. Jones said he just received notice we have four Students of the Quarter for first quarter.
- I. Berks EIT Report – Mrs. Reese reported there is no meeting until December 17.
- J. Wyomissing Area Education Foundation – Mrs. Butera said there has been no meeting since her last report.

## BOARD RECOGNITION

Mrs. Vicente recognized the following departing Board members for their years of service: Mrs. Butera (4), Mrs. Davis (7), Mrs. McAvoy (4), Mr. Portner (8), and Mrs. Seltzer (6). She thanked them for their dedication and hours of volunteerism they gave the students, staff, and administration. Each was given a token gift in appreciation. In addition, Mr. Portner received a certificate from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. PSBA recognizes directors who have served eight years and then every four years thereafter.

## PRESENTATION

Dr. Babb shared the PSSA data from WREC. Although the math scores seem lower than usual they are still far above the state average for a baseline for a new test format. This is the second year for the Go Math series. Struggling math learners were identified early through benchmark testing and historical data. These students are part of a 30-minute morning preview/review session taught by the accelerated math teachers. Students are flexibly grouped and are given pre-tests before each unit. Math concepts are reinforced in Science as well. After school tutoring will also offer additional support. English/Language Arts results are also well above the state average. The first instructional block of the day is writing. Struggling readers get a double booking of

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English/Language Arts to start the day. The proficiency of the struggling readers is raised through remediation using Read 180/System 44. The ELA program is also enhanced through art instruction with Mike Miller and the Social Studies teachers with writing. He also highlighted yearly events at WREC such as the Math Carnival, Wax Museum, Science Day, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Camp. He also noted the popularity of the Big Spartan/Little Spartan Club that now has a ratio of two Big Spartans to one Little Spartan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carolyn Bamberger shared a positive comment she heard in the community from a former employee who commended the current administration. She also wanted to make the IT Department aware that within the community there have been incidents of hacking into computers resulting in unauthorized emails being sent and also some incidents of identity theft. She urged the IT Department to make sure the District's firewalls are up to date.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. CURRICULUM/ TECHNOLOGY**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Seltzer, second by Mrs. Butera, the following Curriculum/Technology items were approved.

1. Approved Program of Studies for 2016-17.
2. Approved New Course Proposal – AP Capstone Program *Background information. The Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Program is a College Board endorse innovative program that equips students with independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills valued by colleges. The program is based upon two Advanced Placement courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. The AP Capstone Program empowers students to: Synthesize information from multiple perspectives; apply skills in new situations and cross-curricular contexts; collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision; craft, communicate, and defend evidence-based arguments; and practice disciplined and scholarly research skills while exploring relevant topics that appeal to their interests and curiosity. Currently there are only four schools in the state who offer this program.*
3. Approved homebound instruction for three hours per week for secondary student #203275 effective October 26, 2015 through November 13, 2015.
4. Approved homebound instruction for three hours per week for

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secondary student #203577 effective October 26, 2015 through November 13, 2015.

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

Absent: Painter

Nays: None. Motion carried.

### B. FINANCE/ FACILITIES

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

1. Approved donation in the amount of \$300 from the Wyomissing Hills Citizens Social Committee to be used for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading material at WHEC.
2. Approved donation in the amount of \$1,908 from the Wyomissing Area Education Foundation to be used toward guitars for Guitar Class.
3. Approved donation in the amount of \$8,527 from the Wyomissing Area Education Foundation to be used toward calculators.
4. Approved agreement with BCIU for Title I services to eligible students from Wyomissing Area School District not attending public school in the amount of \$9,329.45.
5. Approved request to establish Student Activity Account for the Class of 2019.  
*Background information: Class of 2019 is of official status and an advisor has been assigned.*

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

Absent: Painter

Nays: None. Motion carried.

The remaining Finance and Facilities items were opened for discussion. Mrs. Butera asked whether the funds for the change order to the LowV project were donated. Mr. Boyer explained that they were covered under the previous note from the TRANE project.

### C. PERSONNEL/ POLICY

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

During discussion Mr. Portner asked for clarification on the STEM Specialist positions. Mrs. Vicente explained that the position is split and K-6 STEM will be handled by the Gifted Teacher at WHEC and the two

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specialists will work together to offer more opportunities K-12.

### 1. APPROVED THE FOLLOWING POSITION/TITLE CHANGE AND ACCOMPANYING POSITION DESCRIPTION:

#### a. Professional Staff

##### 1) Teacher/STEM Specialist 7-12

*Background information: The STEM Specialist position was originally approved as a District-wide position. It is recommended that the STEM responsibilities be split between a secondary and elementary teaching position. One position will be identified as Grades 7-12, while another similar position will be identified for Grades K-6. The elementary position description will be presented at a future date for approval.*

### 2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

#### a. Professional Staff

##### 1) **Eileen John**, Special Education Teacher, WREC, end Leave of Absence December 4, 2015, return to work December 7, 2015.

#### b. Support Staff

##### 1) **Betsy Wallace**, Part-time Paraprofessional, JSHS, unpaid leave of absence November 2, 2015 to November 6, 2015 with a return to work date of November 9, 2015.

### 3. APPOINTMENTS

#### a. Supplemental Staff

##### 1) **Daniel Cieniewicz**, Girls' Basketball JV Head Coach, for the 2015-16 Winter Sports Season at a stipend of \$1,963, pending completion of employment requirements.

##### 2) **Carly Leitzel**, Girls' Basketball Junior High Head Coach, for the 2015-16 Winter Sports Season at a stipend of \$2,085.

##### 3) **Chad Skipper**, Girls' Basketball Junior High Assistant Coach, for the 2015-16 Winter Sports Season at a stipend of \$1,043.

### 4. TITLE CHANGE

#### a. Professional Staff

##### 1) **Nathaniel Miller**, STEM Specialist, JSHS, title change to Teacher/STEM Specialist 7-12, effective November 10, 2015, no change in wages.

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*Background information: This title change is necessary due to the realignment of the position which more closely meets the needs of the students and the STEM initiative.*

## 5. WAGE INCREASES

Approved the following teachers to receive course credit salary advancement (column movement) in accordance with the terms of the WAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement, per the effective dates noted below:

- a. **Chris Kersikoski**, JSHS, from B+15/Step 12 to MEQ/Step 12 (\$64,825 pro-rated to an effective date of September 1, 2015)
- b. **Amanda Kraft**, WHEC, from B+15/Step 5 to M/Step 5 (\$51,211 pro-rated to an effective date of September 1, 2015).

## 6. APPROVE TENURE FOR THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONALS:

- a. Professional Staff
  - 1) **Mary O'Donnell**
  - 2) **Kristin McLaughlin**
  - 3) **Douglas Shuey**
  - 4) **Jennifer Texter**

## 7. 2015-16 UPDATED WINTER ATHLETIC COACH STIPENDS

Approved the updated 2015-16 Winter coaches and associated stipends per the attachment.

## 8. SUBSTITUTES

- a. Professional Staff
  - 1) **Mariah Rutter**, Teacher (Addition)

## 9. VOLUNTEERS

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

Absent: Painter

Nays: None. Motion carried.

The remaining Personnel and Policy items were opened for discussion. Mrs. Davis asked if the District use baseline concussion testing. Mrs. Vicente said we do not.

## OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Reilly commented on the success of the Maker Faire at Barnes & Noble in which our high school students participated. Mrs. Vicente said there are photos of the event on the District website.

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Seltzer made a few remarks about her tenure on the Board. She felt she and the other departing members have left the school district in a better place by hiring the current administration, starting a successful 1:1 computer initiative, adding new courses to benefit all students, revamping the curriculum to keep up with changes globally and in education, maintaining an exceptional ranking for high schools in the state and nation. She encouraged the incoming Board members to work together to further the accomplishments. She stressed that although they may not always agree and vote the same way, she encouraged them to treat each other respectfully and respect each other's points of view. She said every decision she made was what she felt was in the best interest of the children and encouraged them to do the same.

## **UPDATES FROM ORGANIZATIONS**

Laurie Waxler reported on behalf of the PTA that Career Day at the JSHS is November 11. Over 100 speakers will be in attendance to address 8-12 graders. She invited Board members to attend.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Portner, seconded by Mrs. Seltzer to adjourn at 6:51 p.m.

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Board Secretary