

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-6096

Minutes October 25, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of School Directors, convened in the Community Board Room at 6:00 p.m. with Mrs. Maria Ziolkowski, Board President, presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ziolkowski asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. Mr. Arnst indicated he would be recording the meeting.

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler and Mrs. Ziolkowski

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner.

Administrative Staff Present:

Mr. Scoboria, Dr. Woodard, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Arnst.

Attendees:

Alex Gabryluk, Technology Support
An audience sign-in sheet is included as part of these official minutes.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Committee of the Whole Meeting – November 8, 2021, 4:45 p.m. Community Board Room
- School Board Business Meeting – November 22, 2021, 6:00 p.m. Community Board Room

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representatives Cadi Hoke and Blake Hettinger reported on the following Items:

Clubs and Activities

- Service Club hosted the annual Spooky Hollow event last weekend on 10/16 for the community and participated in their semi-annual highway clean-up this past weekend.
- Environmental club participated in a hike at Blue Marsh last weekend.
- The music department is currently preparing for the upcoming POPS concert which will take place on November 4th. The Drama Club production of the Fall Thing will take place on November 20th.
- Both WREC and the JSHS will acknowledge Red Ribbon Week this week. This is a national initiative to educate students and encourage them to live drug-free.

Athletics

- The Wyomissing Area cross country team competed at the County Championships on October 19th. Blake Hettinger finished in 11th place and Paul Monsour placed 15th. Blake and Paul, along with David Giles and Jack Curran made the boys Class AA All-Division team. For our Lady Spartans, Addie Cohen finished 13th and Lauren Riddle finished 15th. Addie and Lauren, along with Maddie Hyde,

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Kylie Rosenberger, and Olivia Fisher made the girls Class AA All-Division team.

- Our girls' tennis doubles team of Elise Wang and Ananya Rai qualified for the PIAA State Doubles tournament by finishing third in the District 3 Doubles tournament. The team finished second in the District 3 Championship and will compete in the State tournament this coming Wednesday.

Academics

- Congratulations to seniors Yuan Yu Chen, Elizabeth Harenza, Ananya Rai, and Brooke Schaeffer who have been recognized as National Merit Semi-Finalists.
- Students at the JSHS took the PSAT this month. This important test provides exposure and practice for students in preparation for the SAT.

BOARD MEMBER
RECOGNITION

Mrs. Ziolkowski recognized Board Member Karen McAvoy for 8 years of continued Board service and read a statement from PSBA. Mrs. Ziolkowski presented Mrs. McAvoy with a certificate of recognition from PSBA.

LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Report – Mrs. Taylor reported they met on Thursday, October 21, and discussed Keeping Kids Safe Symposium held on October 19. Over 400 participants attended the virtual symposium which was coordinated with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and included presenters from many governmental agencies. The IU is also running some holiday service projects. Next meeting is November 18.
- B. Berks Career & Technology Report – No Report.
- C. Berks EIT Report – Mr. Boyer said the next meeting is December 16.
- D. Wyomissing Area Education Foundation – Mr. McCaffrey reported they met last Monday. He said they raised approximately \$2,000 at the first Corn Hole Tournament. He said they received updates on fund balances and said they are looking for new board members if anyone was interested. The next meeting will be November 15th.
- E. Legislative Report – Mrs. Harenza reported at the federal level negotiations continue on the budget reconciliation bill which has significant impact on education. The President issued an executive order advancing equity for black Americans in education, highlighting disparities between black and white students in the areas of discipline, suspension rates, reading, and math achievement, and an advisory

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committee was established to provide advice on these matters. PSBA testified to the Senate Education Committee in support of PDE's proposed regulations for charter schools. The Commonwealth received arguments in a pair of lawsuits challenging the secretary of health's authority to issue mask mandates. They have not issued an opinion yet. The senate panel issued a decision last week saying that the health secretary did in fact have the authority to issue the mask mandate.

- F. PTA – Mrs. Phillips said last week was National School Bus Safety Week. The PTA gave out 25 gift cards, candy and WASD cups to all drivers. PTA is planning career day for November 10th which will consist of virtual and in-person speakers for grades 8-12. They are working on special plans around Thanksgiving to do something special for teachers' break room treats. Next meeting is November 2nd.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ROUTINE APPROVALS

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mrs. Waxler and second by Mr. McCaffery the Board approved the following minutes:

- September 27, 2021 School Board Business Meeting Minutes

Yeas: Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, and Mrs. Ziolkowski.

Absent: Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon a motion by Mrs. McAvoy and second by Mrs. Taylor, the Treasurer's Report for September 2021 was accepted as presented.

Yeas: Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, Mrs. Ziolkowski, and Mrs. Harenza.

Absent: Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon a motion by Mr. McCaffrey, and second by Mrs. Phillips payment of bills for the month of September 2021 were accepted as presented.

Yeas: Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, Mrs. Ziolkowski, Mrs. Harenza, and Mrs. McAvoy.

Absent: Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner.

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Nays: None. Motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Health and Safety Plan Update - Mr. Scoboria

Mr. Scoboria gave a brief update on District Communications headed by Ms. Tierney and her group of new student interns, highlighting the work they are doing to document all the great things that are going on in the District through social media posts and District newsletters. Mr. Scoboria reviewed Curriculum Committee work, Finance / Budget workshop planning and Facilities Project progress.

Mr. Scoboria reviewed the District Health and Safety Plan highlighting the current plans in place and reviewing statistics regarding cases and quarantine. Mr. Scoboria commended the hard work done by all to help keep the students in school and employees in work. Mr. Scoboria reviewed Berks County numbers stating these numbers have stayed mostly consistent. He reviewed again the current District face covering requirements. Mr. Scoboria shared resources available on the District website as well as the upcoming vaccine clinics that will be occurring in the District including a booster clinic for employees.

Mr. Scoboria reviewed new information regarding testing for schools stating there are two options; group anonymous testing which is a difficult process and does not have much Berks County School District interest, or rapid testing which is much more favorable to schools in Berks County. WASD nurses will be attending training and Mr. Scoboria will keep the Board and Community updated on this process.

Mr. Scoboria said Winter season sports are approaching and they will be working with superintendents around the county for uniformity. Mr. Scoboria will keep the Board informed as these plans progress.

Mr. Scoboria said the parent email messages regarding the vaccine clinics are ready to be sent. The messages will provide information from the CDC and explain the benefits of vaccination with regard to quarantine, knowing parents will make the decisions that are best for them.

**A. CURRICULUM/
TECHNOLOGY**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Taylor and second by Mrs. Waxler the following Curriculum and Technology Items were approved:

During Discussion Mrs. Waxler asked for assurance that plans have been worked out for the overnight trip to address if someone would test positive. Dr. Woodard said the company the music department is working with has protocols in place to minimize contact and exposure, requiring chaperones to be vaccinated, modified sleeping arrangements, and more. Mrs. Waxler wants to be sure that if conditions worsen and the trip would

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be canceled, the families would not lose money. Dr. Woodard said she believes the company does offer an insurance option.

1. Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Wyomissing Area School District and the Wyomissing Area Education Association (WAEA).
Background Information: The District and WAEA have an approved contract for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2023. This MOU details agreement between the District and WAEA on some employment conditions and procedures related to the delivery of educational services.
2. Approve Overnight Field Trip – Music Department Clinic Participation Trip, Williamsburg, VA, March 31-April 2, 2022

Yeas: Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, Mrs. Ziolkowski, Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, and Mr. McCaffrey.

Absent: Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**B. FINANCE/
FACILITIES**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Taylor and second by Mrs. Waxler the following Finance and Facilities Items were approved:

During discussion Mrs. Taylor asked if the River Rock contract was campus specific or for any campus. Mr. Boyer said it depends on the student. Mrs. Taylor asked if the transportation rate was the same regardless. Mr. Boyer believes it is the same, but will check on that.

1. Approve change order #1 for North Bay Mechanical in the amount of \$11,187 at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary School for temporary air conditioning and to drain existing glycol from the existing mechanical system.
2. Approve change order #1 for Hirneisen Electric in the amount of \$26,414 at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary School for emergency lightning and flagpole lights.
3. Approve change order #2 for Perrotto Builders in the amount of \$3,935.89 at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary School for temporary stone road to provide access to building additions.
4. Approve change order #2 for Jay R. Reynolds in the amount of \$3,442 at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary School to add mixing valves for lavatory types LAV-1 and HLAV-2.

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5. Approve the establishment of a student activity fund for the Class of 2025.
6. Approve budget transfers in the amount of \$252,665.
7. Approve Contract with River Rock Academy for Secondary and Elementary student services and transportation services. The daily rate for secondary services is \$197.47 and for elementary services is \$214.19. Transportation cost is \$36 per enrolled student.
8. Approve Exhibit A with Kelly Education Services for increase to daily pay rates for substitute teachers. The new rates are as follows, effective November 1, 2021:
 - a. Daily Substitute Teacher: \$135 (1 – 20 days)
 - b. Daily Substitute Teacher: \$140 (20+ days)
 - c. Substitute Teacher (Retired WASD Teacher): \$150
 - d. Building Substitute Teacher: \$150
 - e. Extended Substitute Teacher: \$150

Yeas: Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, Mrs. Ziolkowski, Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips,

Absent: Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**C. PERSONNEL/
POLICY**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Waxler, and second by Mrs. McAvoy the following Personnel and Policy items were approved and ratified:

1. REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE LEAVE OF ABSENCES PER ATTACHED.
2. APPOINTMENTS
 - a. Administrative Staff
 - 1) **Robert Scoboria**, request approval of the reappointment and employment contract for Robert L. Scoboria to serve a five-year term as Superintendent of Schools beginning September 29, 2022.
 - 2) **Melissa Woodard**, request approval of the reappointment and employment contract for Dr. Melissa Woodard to serve a five-year term as Assistant Superintendent beginning July 1, 2022.
 - b. Hourly Support Staff

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1) **Jacqueline Rivera**, Food Service Worker, WHEC, 5 ¼ hours/day at a wage rate of \$11.00/hour, effective date to be determined pending successful completion of pre-employment paperwork.

2) *Background Information: This position is being* **Emily Graciano**, Instructional Aide, WREC, 5 ½ hours/day at a wage rate of \$11.70/hour, update effective date to October 15, 2021.

Background Information: This position is being filled due to an internal transfer.

c. Salaried Support Staff

1) **Abigail Briscoe**, Business Office Secretary, District Office, rescind previously approved appointment at applicant's request.

3. WAGE INCREASES

a. Professional Staff

Request approval for the following teacher(s) to receive course credit salary advancement (column movement) in accordance with the terms of the MOU between WAEA and the District, per the effective dates noted below:

1) **Robin Kline**, WREC, from M/Step 15 to M+15/Step 15 (\$85,925) effective the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

2) **Meghan Tierney**, JSHS, from M+45/Step 5 to M+60/Step 5 (\$67,508) effective the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

4. WORK OUTSIDE CONTRACT HOURS

a. Professional Staff

Request ratification to receive compensation for providing homebound instruction for secondary student ID#204606 from September 20, 2021 to October 15, 2021 for a maximum of 1 hours per course per week at the WAEA work outside contract hourly rate per below:

1) **Michele Hatt-Ciemiewicz**

2) **Valerie Knauer**

3) **Hilary Rowe**

4) **Eric Winson**

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- 7. REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR WINTER COACHES AND ASOCIATED STIPENDS PER ATTACHED.
- 8. VOLUNTEERS

Yeas: Mrs. Waxler, Mrs. Ziolkowski, Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, and Mrs. Taylor
Absent: Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Taylor asked how the pick-up and drop-off at WHEC was doing. Mr. Scoboria said it is much improved. Drop-off time reduced from 20 minutes to about 10, with some buses being able to enter immediately. They are continually looking for ways to improve.

Mrs. Phillips asked about work being done to State Hill Road. How far is that discussion? Mr. Scoboria said the next Town and Gown meeting is next week and they will bring that up in discussion.

Mrs. Taylor asked about snow days. Mr. Scoboria said we have FID Flexible Instruction Days, and are approved for up to five. We have a plan with principals and staff; assignments would be posted. Those days do not have to be made up. If we go beyond five days due to weather or COVID, we would switch to a virtual education plan. Dr. Woodard added, if virtual learning is not an option due to any power outages, etc. there is still a possibility of a normal snow day needing to be used.

Mrs. Ziolkowski reminded about Board self-assessment and also the virtual PSBA meetings have started.

NEW BUSINESS

RIGHT TO KNOW REQUEST

None.

UPDATES FROM ORGANIZATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Waxler second by Mrs. Phillips, to adjourn at 6:54 p.m.

Board Secretary