

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-6108

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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, Mrs. Phillips (via Zoom), Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner (via Zoom), Mrs. Taylor, and Mrs. Ziolkowski

Board Members Absent:

Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Waxler.

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

- Finance Committee Workshop – November 17, 2021, 4:00 p.m., Community Board Room
- School Board Business Meeting (Re-organization) – December 6, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Community Board Room

LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Report – Mrs. Taylor said the next meeting is this Thursday.
- B. Berks Career & Technology Report – Mr. Pottieger said he was unable to attend the last meeting but thought it may be of interest to report they did start to move money out of their fund designated to PSERS.
- C. Berks EIT Report – Mr. Boyer said the next meeting is in December.
- D. Wyomissing Area Education Foundation – No Report.
- E. Legislative Report – Mrs. Harenza reported, testimony for the trial related to fair funding where the plaintiffs are challenging the amount that they provide school districts and the way that they fund it, saying that it's not enough and inequitably distributed between school districts, can go on for a couple of months. She said a chart is included to show what districts would get if they were fairly funded. WASD would get more than two million dollars if funded equitably. Federally, the house passed a 1.2 trillion-dollar infrastructure bill that does not include funding for school construction, but does invest for clean energy for buses and money for increased broadband access for families. The department of Education issued a 100-page resource on supporting student social and emotional behavioral and mental health and identified 7 key challenges with 7 recommendations on how to

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address those challenges.

F. PTA – Mrs. Phillips said the PTA book fair at West Reading will be virtual and will be held November 22nd and 23rd.

BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION

The Board and Administration recognized and thanked Mrs. McAvoy and Mr. McCaffrey for their service to WASD. Mr. Scoboria shared gifts of appreciation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ROUTINE APPROVALS

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mrs. Taylor and second by Mrs. McAvoy the Board approved the following minutes:

- October 11, 2021 School Board Business Meeting

Yeas: Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, and Mrs. Ziolkowski.

Absent: Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Waxler.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Yeas: Mrs. McAvoy, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Ziolkowski, and Mrs. Harenza.

Absent: Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Waxler.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon a motion by Mrs. McAvoy and second by Mr. Pottieger payment of bills for the month of October 2021 were accepted as presented.

Yeas: Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Ziolkowski, Mrs. Harenza, and Mrs. McAvoy.

Absent: Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Waxler.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Scoboria shared a few announcements and presented a review and update of the WASD Health and Safety Plan. Mr. Scoboria reviewed the positive case numbers and that Berks County is still in the high category. Mr. Scoboria shared a chart listing quarantine numbers for the last few

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weeks and the Berks County case counts for children, and also reviewed the current WASD face covering requirement chart. Mr. Scoboria reviewed information surrounding face coverings that occurred over the last week which included the Commonwealth Court issuing a ruling voiding PA School masking order, the appeal by the Governor which results in a stay of the order, and advice by PDE for schools to observe the masking order throughout the court proceedings. Mr. Scoboria said there has been no change to how schools implement contact tracing. Mr. Scoboria is advising against removing masks which would affect quarantine.

Mr. Scoboria discussed Winter athletics and explained when the initial masking order was put in place, athletics were considered exempt during game play. Most of the sports until now were played outside except for girls' volleyball, and those players wore their masks during their indoor matches. Mr. Scoboria said we are one of only three schools who are currently requiring players to wear masks at all times indoors stating 15 of the 18 Berks districts do not require masks during game play, but do require them when on the bench, at team meetings, on transportation, etc. WASD Athletics would like to discuss not requiring face coverings during game play. Mr. Scoboria said the first game is generally the first week of December, not including scrimmages. Mr. Scoboria also explained that currently our players would be mostly playing against teams that will not require players to wear masks as well as spectators at those events. Mr. Scoboria said the athletic department is recommending that masks would be required everywhere except when players step into game play.

Mrs. Harenza said if we go unmasked she suggests that we provide written notice to parents advising if their child is not vaccinated they will be required to quarantine.

Mrs. Taylor is concerned that our wrestlers will end up quarantined and then this will affect the siblings. Mr. Scoboria said they will be masked at meetings, on the bus and on the bench. It would just be that moment when they are stepping out into game play. For wrestling there are some additional procedures in place as well. Mrs. Taylor will defer to the athletic department and their knowledge.

Mrs. Harenza wanted to confirm that the understanding is if the Governor's order would be overturned before January 17th comes, we still go by what is defined in our Health and Safety Plan. Mr. Scoboria said that is correct.

Mr. Pottieger asked if there has there been any thought about band or theatre. Do they practice or perform without masks? Dr. Woodard said

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she knows they have been practicing with masks, and they will check to see if there has been movement in that area. She said the band had a special item in place on their instruments to help reduce contact.

Mr. Scoboria will keep the Board updated. He provided a summary of the vaccine clinic and thanked the Esterbrook's for all of their hard work. He provided a status update regarding COVID rapid tests at WASH health rooms and said Mrs. Lingle is working on logistics with our school nurses. This will help the community and will also help to reduce student quarantine.

Mr. Scoboria said next steps are to continue to monitor Berks levels and guidance for schools, consider plan revisions as needed, continue to consult with medical advisors, and complete nurse training for rapid testing.

**A. FINANCE/
FACILITIES**

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

1. Adopt Resolution not to raise taxes above the index of 3.9% for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
Background information: Section 311(d) (1) of SS Act 1 permits a school district to elect to adopt a resolution indicating it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of public schools for the following fiscal year by more than its index. Adoption of this resolution may be done in lieu of a preliminary budget.
2. Motion to authorize the appeal of the decision of the Board of Assessment Appeals for property located at 401 Buttonwood Street, Reading, parcel number 93-5307-17-20-4973, to the Court of Common Pleas.
3. Motion to authorize the appeal of the decision of the Board of Assessment Appeals for property located at 830 Knitting Mills Way, Reading, parcel number 96-5307-17-00-2953, to the Court of Common Pleas.
4. Motion to authorize the appeal of the decision of the Board of Assessment Appeals for property located at 835 Knitting Mills Way, Reading, parcel number 96-5307-17-01-3240, to the Court of Common Pleas.
5. Approve agreement with Conrad Siegel Actuaries to provide ACA Employer Reporting Service for 2021 in the amount of \$6,100.

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Background information: The cost of the agreement is unchanged from 2021.

6. Approve agreement with Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 to provide network engineer support services to replace network switches District wide, in the amount of \$6,300.
7. Approve Budget Transfers in the amount of \$133,700.

Yeas: Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Ziolkowski, Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, and Mrs. Phillips,

Absent: Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Waxler.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**C. PERSONNEL/
POLICY**

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

1. RESIGNATIONS

a. Hourly Support Staff

- 1) **Karon Hardy-Neil**, Custodian, JSHS, resignation effective last paid day October 22, 2021.
- 2) **Diane Helm**, Paraprofessional, WHEC, resignation effective last day worked November 13, 2021.
- 3) **Talitha Wolfe**, Cafeteria Monitor, WHEC, resignation effective last day worked October 29, 2021

b. Salaried Support Staff

- 1) **Lance Parmer**, Technology Support Specialist II, District-wide, resignation effective last working day January 3, 2022.

2. REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE LEAVE OF ABSENCES PER ATTACHED.

3. APPOINTMENTS

a. Hourly Support Staff

- 1) **Jeremiah Melendez**, Custodian Floater, District-wide, 8 hours/day at a wage rate of \$12.55/hour, effective date to be determined pending successful completion of pre-employment paperwork.

Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.

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- 2) **Talitha Wolfe**, Paraprofessional, WHEC, 7 hours/day at a wage rate of \$12.60/hour, effective November 15, 2021.
Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.
 - b. Salaried Support Staff
 - 1) **Catrina Fisher**, Business Office Secretary, District Office, 37 hours/week at a pro-rated salary of \$33,000/year, effective November 8, 2021.
Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.
 - c. Athletic Staff
 - 1) **Trinity Ponton**, Indoor Track Asst. Coach, JSHS, at a stipend of \$1,199/year, effective pending successful completion of pre-employment paperwork.
Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.
 - 2) **Kevin Miller, Jr.** High Asst. Boys Basketball Coach, JSHS, at a stipend of \$1,586/year, effective November 22, 2021.
Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.
4. 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) **Lauren Neithamer**, JSHS, from B/Step 5 to B+15/Step 5 (\$54,630) effective January 13, 2022.
5. Request ratification of the 2021-22 school year nurse substitute rate effective November 1, 2021 to reflect updated daily rate for substitute teachers.
- \$135 days 1-20
 - \$140 days 21 +
 - \$150 WASD retired nurse
 - \$150 Extended Substitute
- Background Information: WASD raised compensation for teacher substitutes on the October 25, 2021 agenda. WASD directly*

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employs nurse substitutes, and pay rates are linked to substitute teacher rates.

7. VOLUNTEERS

Yeas: Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Ziolkowski, Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mrs. Phillips, and Mr. Pottieger.

Absent: Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Waxler.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

RIGHT TO KNOW REQUEST

| RTK Request | Date of Request | Solicitor Fees | Staff Assigned | Staff Hours |
|--|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Visitor sign in/ sign out sheets of the Wyomissing Area School District office dated from 01 March 2021 through 25 August 2021 | 8/31/21 | Yes | M. Boyer J. Litts | 0.5 |
| See recent copier RFP proposals from all vendors and final contracts signed including leases, addendums and service agreements | 10/6/21 | No | M. Boyer | 0.5 |
| Real Estate tax collections payments as of the request fulfillment date for the current 2021/22 tax year | 10/12/21 | No | M. Boyer | 0.25 |

Mrs. Harenza asked, what is the interest in the visitor sign-in and sign-out sheet? Mr. Scoboria said he will share information to the Board.

UPDATES FROM ORGANIZATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. McAvoy second by Mrs. Phillips, to adjourn at 6:51 p.m.

Board Secretary