

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2010-4084

Minutes January 25, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School with Mrs. Davis, Board President, presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, Mrs. Davis asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. No one indicated the intent to record.

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Bamberger, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Helm, Mr. Larkin, Mr. Painter, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Sakmann, and Mrs. Seltzer.

Administrative Staff Present:

Mr. Robbins, Mrs. Mason, Dr. Pulkowski, Dr. Ashton, Mr. Babb, Mr. Fries, Mrs. Motze, and Dr. Speace.

Attendees:

Mrs. Pam Cala, Kozloff Stoudt; Darrin Youker, Reading Eagle; and Diane Schaeffer, recording secretary. Audience sign-in sheet included as part of these official minutes.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the roll call by the Board secretary, Mrs. Davis announced the future meeting date as follows and also noted that executive sessions were held on January 12, 18, 19, and also prior to this evening's meeting to discuss personnel matters and no action was taken.

- Committee of the Whole – Monday, February 8, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
 - School Board Meeting – Monday, February 22, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
- The meetings will be held in the Community Board Room at the Jr./Sr. High School.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mike Mitchell, Sr., noted the agenda item to approve a resolution not to raise taxes above the 2.9% index and asked what that meant for an individual taxpayer.

Mr. Robbins said it would be two-thirds of a mill but that hasn't been translated into an individual's amount of increase. The expenditure side of the budget is complete and the District will not be above the index.

RECOGNITION

Mrs. Davis read a proclamation that was presented to the sports champions from the fall sports teams. Mrs. Motze noted that 354 students in grades 7-12 participated in the fall sports program. A copy of the proclamation is included as part of these official minutes. Also recognized was Mrs. Sally Allen, head tennis coach, who was recently awarded the prestigious title of Berks County Coach of the Year.

Mr. Jon Yorgey, the Grounds Foreman for the District was recognized for the Field of Distinction award he received recently from the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO). The organization is committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic

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field managers in the Keystone State.

Mr. Robbins announced that January is School Directors Recognition Month. He commended the Board for making the commitment to public education and serving their community.

**ROUTINE
APPROVALS**

MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Mrs. Helm, second by Mrs. Sakmann, the minutes of the following Board meetings were approved.

- November 23, 2009 Business Meeting
- December 7, 2009 Reorganization Meeting
- December 15, 2009 Special Meeting

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer, Larkin and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S
REPORT**

Upon motion by Mr. Larkin, second by Mr. Fitzgerald, the Treasurer's Reports were accepted as presented.

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer, Larkin and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon motion by Mr. Portner, second by Mr. Painter, payment of bills for the months of November and December 2009 were approved.

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer, Larkin and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS BY
BOARD MEMBERS**

BCIU – Mrs. Bamberger reported that a resolution was passed to be included in the self-funded health benefits consortium. They are also involved in the RTT initiative.

BCTC – Mr. Painter noted the newspaper article that referenced the invoice errors recently reported. He stated that the numbers for Wyomissing are not significant but a future audit will provide more information.

Berks EIT – Mr. Larkin stated that a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night.

WAEF – Mrs. Seltzer noted a new fund-raising initiative is being introduced entitled "Toast to the Teachers" and more information will

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be shared in future district publications.

Legislative Report – No report from Mr. Fitzgerald.

Community Relations Ad Hoc Committee – Mrs. Seltzer reported that a meeting is scheduled for February 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee – Mrs. Bamberger reported that Mr. Hetrich has agreed to serve on the committee and a date will be set to meet.

**FINANCE/
FACILITIES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Sakmann and seconded by Mr. Larkin to approve the Finance and Facilities agenda items.

Mrs. Helm asked that the board separate item “J.” to approve Gilbert Architects for further discussion.

Mrs. Sakmann and Mr. Larkin agreed to the change in the motion and the Finance and Facilities agenda items, with the exception of item “J”, were approved as follows:

Approved Budget Transfers in the amount of \$84,056.

Approved donation from Taylor Swift in the amount of \$25,000 to be used for educational projects or books and supplies for the JSJS.

Approved donation from Wyomissing Area Education Foundation in the amount of \$1,300 to be used toward the purchase of guitars for the JSJS Music Program.

Approved donations from Wyomissing Area Education Foundation in the amount of \$1,000 to be used toward the cost of whiteboard installation at WHEC.

Approved donation from the Wyomissing Area PTA in the amount of \$2,224.65 to be used toward the cost of whiteboard purchases at WHEC.

Approved Agreement and Declaration of Trust establishing the Berks County School Districts Health Trust (attachment provided in the Board packet for the January 11, 2010 meeting).

Approved appointment of Corinne D. Mason as the management representative for a two-year term to the Berks County School District Health Trust.

Approved the agreement between the District and Wyomissing Area

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Club Lacrosse. (agreement included as part of these official minutes).

Background information: This agreement elevates the program from club status to a fully recognized varsity athletic team for the Spring 2010 season and recognizes that the sport will be fully funded by the Club.

Approved John A. Larkin as first alternate voting delegate and Gregory L. Portner as second alternate voting delegate for the tax collection committee for Berks County as per Act 32 of 2008.

Approved resolution authorizing James M. Lillis and Kozloff Stoudt to represent the Wyomissing Area School District and to intervene in the appeal filed by Sovereign Bank with the Berks County Court of Common Pleas regarding their property tax assessment appeal per Resolution No. 1-25-10-01 (resolution included as part of these official minutes).

Approved submission of delinquent real estate taxes to BMF Law Group.

Background information: The District has entered into a Board contract for the collection of delinquent real estate taxes with BMF Law Group. The amount of the 2009 delinquent real estate taxes is \$511,462.34.

Approved Resolution No. 1-25-10-02 not to raise taxes above the index of 2.9% for the 2010-2011 school year. (resolution included as part of these official minutes).

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. This resolution is to be adopted by January 29, 2010.

Approved the tuition agreement with Opportunities School for 2009-10 for one elementary student, ID 203955, at the prorated amount of the annual \$26,000 tuition.

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer, Larkin and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sakmann and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve Gilbert Architects as the architect for the West Reading Elementary Center project and to enter into contract negotiations.

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There was discussion by the Board and Mrs. Helm provided information on how the decision was reached on the selection of the architect. The majority of the Board members offered comments on the reasons for their recommendation.

Following their comments, Mrs. Helm made a recommendation to amend the original motion which read "Approve Gilbert Architects as the architect for the West Reading Elementary Center project and to enter into contract negotiations,"

Mrs. Sakmann and Mr. Fitzgerald agreed to the amended motion which read as follows:

Appoint Gilbert Architects as the School District's architect for the West Reading Elementary School project subject to negotiation of an agreement in form satisfactory to the Finance and Facilities Committee, Superintendent and the solicitor.

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer, Larkin and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**CURRICULUM/
TECHNOLOGY**

Upon motion by Mrs. Sakmann, and second by Mrs. Seltzer, the following Curriculum/Technology items were approved:

Approved the 2010 Program of Studies.

Approved the Field Trip Request – Penn State Invitational Track Meet @ Penn State University on January 22-23, 2010.

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer, Larkin and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL/POLICY

A motion was made by Mr. Portner and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the personnel and policy agenda items as follows:.

APPROVED RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

- 1) Administrative Staff
 - a. **Dr. Karen Zerr**, Director of Special Education, resignation effective January 29, 2010.
- 2) Professional Staff
 - a. **Corinne Fecho Yanes**, Secondary Math Teacher at the JSHS, resignation effective January 15, 2010.

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- 3) Support Staff
 - a. **Jessica Hole**, full-time Special Education Instructional Aide at WHEC, resignation effective January 15, 2010.
 - b. **Mary Ann Gibney**, part-time Computer Lab Aide at JSHS, resignation effective January 20, 2010.
 - c. **Dawn Schropp**, part-time Crossing Guard and part-time Cafeteria Monitor at WREC, termination effective December 4, 2009.
- 4) Supplemental Staff
 - a. **Corinne Fecho Yanes**, SAP Team Facilitator, resignation effective January 15, 2010, Junior Class Advisor, resignation effective January 15, 2010, and Memory Book Advisor, resignation effective June 9, 2010.
 - b. **William Dramby**, Student Council Sr. High Advisor, effective the end of the 09-10 school year.

APPROVED LEAVES

- 1) Professional Staff
 - a. **Melissa Devlin**, Secondary English Teacher at the JSHS, FMLA/Child Rearing Leave on or about April 13, 2010, through the end of the 2009-10 school year.
 - b. **Dana Lloyd**, Secondary English Teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School, Extension of Child Rearing Leave through the end of the 2009-10 school year.
 - c. **Mary Reinert**, Learning Support Teacher at the JSHS, unpaid leave December 9, 10 and 11, 2009.
- 2) Support Staff
 - a. **Susie Froehlich**, full-time Special Education Instructional Aide at the JSHS, unpaid leave from December 2, 2009, through a date to be determined.
 - b. **Suzanne Herbst**, part-time Food Service Worker at WHEC, unpaid leave December 21, 22 and 23, 2009.
 - c. **Sheilah Nestro**, part-time Crossing Guard at WREC, unpaid leave January 6-12, 2010.

APPROVED APPOINTMENTS

- 1) Administrative Staff
 - a. Resolution 1-25-10-03 to extend the contract for **Mr. David H. Robbins**, Acting Superintendent, until a permanent Superintendent is hired or June 30, 2010. (*Resolution included as part of board packet.*)
 - b. **Robert Reese**, Interim Director of Special Education,

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effective January 20, 2010, at a daily rate of \$425/day, pending receipt of necessary documentation.

- c. **William E. Griscom, Jr.**, Director, Technology Services and Curriculum Integration, effective February 26, 2010, at an annual salary of \$87,000, pro-rated, pending receipt of necessary documentation.

Background Information: Mr. Griscom will be replacing Mr. Gall.

2) Professional Staff

- a. **Marina Romanski**, Long-Term Substitute English Teacher at the JSHS, at an annual salary to be determined by the new contract, but based on M, Step 1, \$41,650 prorated, effective the second semester of the 2009-10 school year.

Background Information: Mrs. Romanski will be the long-term substitute for Dana Lloyd.

- b. **Ashley Reed**, Long-Term Substitute Math Teacher at the JSHS, at an annual salary to be determined by the new contract, but based on B, Step 1, \$38,750, prorated, effective January 13, 2010.

Background Information: Ms. Reed will be a long-term substitute for the vacancy created by Ms. Fecho Yanes' resignation.

- c. **Joelle Ostrich**, Support Teacher for Marina Romanski, LTS English Teacher, for the second semester of the 2009-10 school year at a stipend of \$250.
- d. **Jennifer Wise**, Support Teacher for Ashley Reed, LTS Math Teacher, for the second semester of the 2009-10 school year at a stipend of \$250.

3) Support Staff

- a. **Elizabeth Barrer**, from part-time Special Education Instructional Aide at WHEC, 6.5 hrs./day, \$10.61/hr., to full-time Special Education Instructional Aide at WHEC, 7 hrs./day, \$10.61/hr., effective January 26, 2010.

Background Information: Ms. Barrer will be replacing Ms. Hole.

- b. **Robert Sanders**, part-time Crossing Guard at WREC, at a rate of \$12.15/hr., effective January 26, 2010.

Background Information: Mr. Sanders has been a substitute with the District and will be replacing Ms. Schropp.

4) Supplemental Staff

- a. **Dana Quinlivan**, SAP Team Facilitator, at an amount of \$350.00, effective the second semester of the 2009-10 school year.

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- b. **Jennifer Wise**, Junior Class Advisor, 16.5 points, \$1,394.00, pro-rated, effective the second semester of the 2009-10 school year.
- c. **Scott Angstadt**, WREC Hand Bell Choir Advisor, change in salary from 10.5 points, \$877.00 to 10.5 points, \$887.00, effective the 2009-10 school year.
- d. **Jennifer Mangold**, Summer Safari Coordinator, at a stipend of \$3,000.00, effective January 26, 2010, for the 2009-10 school year. *(This position is partially paid through the Summer Safari tuition.)*
- e. **Michele Hetrich**, Summer Academy Coordinator, at a stipend of \$2,000.00, effective January 26, 2010, for the 2009-10 school year. *(This position is paid completely through Title III funds.)*
- f. **Carey Manzolillo**, Field Hockey Varsity Head Coach, 38 points, \$3,211.00, effective the 2010-11 school year.
- g. **Piera Snyder**, Field Hockey Varsity Asst. Coach, 22.6 points, \$1,910.00, effective the 2010-11 school year.
- h. **Chris Kersikoski** - JH Head Baseball Coach, change to base points/salary from 18.1 points, \$1,529.00 to 28.5 points, \$2,408.00, effective the 2009-10 school year.
- i. **Michael Kuczala** – JH 2nd Assistant Baseball Coach, change in base points/salary from 7 points, \$592.00 to 15.5 points, \$1,310.00, effective the 2009-10 school year.

APPROVED ADDITIONAL HOURS

- 1) Support Staff (Hours required to comply with PDE mandated requirements.)
 - a. **Scott Gehman**, full-time Special Education Instructional Aide at the JSHS, Behavior Strategies training at the BCIU on January 18, 2010, at his approved hourly rate, not to exceed a maximum of 6 hours.
 - b. **Bernadette Lis**, full-time Special Education Instructional Aide at the JSHS, Effective Instruction: Functional Skills training at the BCIU on January 18, 2010, at her approved hourly rate, not to exceed a maximum of 6 hours.
 - c. **Arlene Wagner**, full-time Special Education Instructional Aide at the JSHS, Effective Instruction: Functional Skills training at the BCIU on January 18, 2010, at her approved hourly rate, not to exceed a maximum of 6 hours.
- 2) Nursing Staff
 - a. **Mary Hollinger**, School Nurse at WHEC, administration of H1N1 flu vaccines to District families and employees, at the current work outside of contract rate, for a total of 10.5 hours

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- on December 16-18, 2009, and 4 hours on January 13, 2010.
- b. **Sally McNichol**, School Nurse at the JSHS, administration of H1N1 flu vaccines to District families and employees, at the current work outside of contract rate, for a total of 9.5 hours on December 16-18, 2009.
 - c. **Tina O'Hara**, Health Room Assistant at WHEC, administration of H1N1 flu vaccines to District families and employees, at her currently hourly rate, for a total of 10.5 hours on December 16-18, 2009, and 4 hours on January 13, 2010.
 - d. **Laura Schaeffer**, School Nurse at WREC, administration of H1N1 flu vaccines to District families and employees, at the current work outside of contract rate, for a total of 3.5 hours on December 16, 2009, and 3 hours on January 13, 2010.
 - e. **Susan Bailey**, Substitute Nurse, administration of H1N1 flu vaccines to District families and employees, at the approved substitute rate for 3.5 hours each day on December 16-18, 2009, and January 13, 2010.

APPROVED VOLUNTEERS FOR WINTER SPORTS (Pending receipt of necessary documentation.)

- 1) **Mark Burkholder** – Boys and Girls Bowling
- 2) **Richard Hoffmaster, Nicholas Johnson and Kristi Bricker** – Girls Basketball
- 3) **Al Silveri, Jeff Frank, and J. Christopher Froelich** – Varsity Wrestling
- 4) **Andrew Kidd and Andrew Cammarano** – Boys' Basketball
- 5) **Stacy Fritz** – Cheerleading
- 6) **Daniel Batz** – Jr. High Boys' Basketball
- 7) **Joseph Allen, Ty Smith, Tim Hetrich and Lance Atkins** – Winter Track

APPROVED ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE DISTRICT SUBSTITUTE LIST (list included as part of these official minutes).

APPROVED ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE DISTRICT VOLUNTEER LIST (list included as part of these official minutes).

APPROVED POLICIES

Approved the adoption of Policies as follows:

Policy 202 – Eligibility of Nonresident Students

Policy 913 – Nonschool Organization/Groups/Individuals

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Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Painter, Portner, Sakmann,
Seltzer, Larkin and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

PROGRAM

Upon motion by Mr. Fitzgerald and second by Mrs. Seltzer, the Board of School Directors approved the decision to decline participation in the Pennsylvania Department of Education "Race to the Top" initiative.

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Painter, Portner, Sakmann,
Seltzer, Larkin and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Robbins reported that the Superintendent search is continuing and they are meeting with candidates and spending a lot of time working to find the best possible fit for the District.

He also reported that a WAEA negotiations meeting is scheduled for February 16 and a AFSCME meeting on February 4.

There was also an H1N1 clinic held recently and he thanked Ms. Garman and the nurses for organizing and providing the service to the community.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bill Murray asked how much money was spent for Mr. Stott's services in negotiations, and Mrs. Mason responded approximately \$13,000.

Mr. Peter Schiaroli asked what architect costs are to do the work at West Reading Elementary Center. Mr. Robbins commented that they will get together with the architect on site, talk to staff, and from these meetings a design concept will be developed and costs determined.

A resident questioned if there was an increase in the amount of the delinquent real estate taxes. Mrs. Mason noted that it is almost the same as last year and it has been consistent the last three years.

Mr. Murray asked how many applications were received for the superintendent position. Mrs. Davis stated that they couldn't answer that question.

Mrs. Helm reminded the Board that they need to determine how the donation from Taylor Swift is to be spent in accordance with her wishes that it be used for books, supplies or educational projects.

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Mr. Schiaroli asked if the District has underpaid or overpaid the BCTC. Mr. Painter said it has not been confirmed, but it is believed that the district was under invoiced.

Mr. James Cardi asked for information on the location of the property in the tax assessment appeal which was provided by Mrs. Mason.

Mr. Mike Mitchell, Sr., said the District set aside 3.06% for a possible teachers' contract. If at the end of the year there is no contract, is that money still available in the budget? Mr. Robbins said there have been changes during the school year, and the Board will do what they can afford to do. Mrs. Helm stated that more information will be presented next month on the expenditure portion of the budget.

Mr. Murray asked the purpose in passing the resolution not to raise taxes above the index of 2.9% for the 2010-11 school year. Mr. Robbins responded that he is comfortable staying within the index and will be providing information on the expenditures soon. Mr. Murray asked how the Board and administration will plan for the WREC expenses. Mr. Robbins said that information will be presented next month on the budget including debt service.

Mr. Cardi asked what the reduction of assessed value would mean for budget purposes. Mrs. Mason said if it went through, Vanity Fair would be a \$300,000 reduction and Sovereign property \$4,000.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Larkin, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.

Corinne D. Mason
Board Secretary