

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2010-4125

Minutes May 10, 2010

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 6:02 p.m. in the Community Board Room 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. Portner, Mrs. Sakmann, and Mrs. Seltzer.

Board Member Absent: Mr. Painter.

Administrative Staff Present: Mr. Robbins, Mrs. Mason, Ms. Morett, Dr. Speace, Dr. Pulkowski and Mr. Fries.

Attendees: Diane Schaeffer, recording secretary. Audience sign-in sheet included as part of these official minutes.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the roll call by the Board secretary, Mrs. Davis welcomed everyone and announced there was an executive session at 5:45 p.m. prior to this evening's meeting to discuss personnel matters and no action was taken.

She also noted there is an item on the agenda that the Board will vote on and there will be time for public comment.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Robbins' indicated he had nothing to report.

Finance and Facilities

Mrs. Mason reviewed the finance and facilities agenda items A. thru N. which included the food service budget and the general fund budget for 2010-11.

Mr. Robbins provided details on the agenda items G. & H. relative to the leases with St. James Church and St. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church to house the fifth grade students and sixth grade students during the renovation and construction of the West Reading Elementary Center.

Mr. Fitzgerald inquired if the food service budget included an increase in the lunch prices. Mrs. Mason responded that there is no proposed increase.

Public comments were accepted prior to the vote for agenda item O. Fact Finder Report. Mr. Ackerman, WAEA President, read a prepared statement. He also had a handout for the members of the Board of School Directors. Copies of the prepared statement and the handout are included as part of these official minutes.

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2010-4126

Minutes May 10, 2010

Mrs. Davis asked for a motion to accept the Fact Finder Report as presented.

The motion was made by Mr. Larkin and seconded by Mrs. Sakmann.

Mrs. Davis read a prepared statement which is included as part of these official minutes.

Mrs. Helm, Mr. Fitzgerald, and Mrs. Seltzer expressed their sentiments about the difficult decisions that must be made when a teachers' contract is negotiated.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion denied as follows:

Yeas: None.

Nays: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer, Larkin and Davis. Motion denied.

Curriculum and Technology

Mr. Robbins reviewed the Curriculum and Technology agenda items. He noted the request for a Biking Club at the West Reading Elementary Center, and noted the funding was received through a grant awarded by the Safe Routes to Schools Program. When the funds are depleted, the program will be reevaluated.

Dr. Pulkowski and Mr. Comerford provided background on the English Department's submission of proposed new titles for 2010-11 and the summer reading list. Members of the Board had many positive comments about the work done in preparing the lists.

Personnel and Policy

In Mr. Painter's absence, Mr. Robbins reviewed the personnel and policy agenda items. He noted that the inclusion of new policy 702.1 Naming Rights for a first reading is an outcome of Mrs. Bamberger's Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee. They felt it would be beneficial to have a policy in place in the event an issue arises.

Mrs. Seltzer commented on Mr. Schwarz's intent to retire on June 30 as the Copy Services Coordinator, after 36 years of dedication to the District.

Old Business

Mrs. Mason reported that the advertisement began today to receive proposals for bond counsel and underwriters. She supplied the Board with four dates to choose from to do interviews.

Mrs. Seltzer commented that the Public Relations Ad Hoc Committee will meet on May 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the board room.

Mr. Fitzgerald noted that the BCIU is hosting a breakfast with the legislators on Thursday, May 27, at 7:30 a.m. at the Ed Centre on Centre Avenue.

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2010-4127

Minutes May 10, 2010

Mrs. Seltzer said she recently attended the annual BCIU convention and the speaker presented a dire but hopeful picture of the educational system. Mrs. Bamberger noted there is talk about another federal stimulus bill but typically Wyomissing doesn't get a big share. The Economic Development ad hoc committee is exploring ways to get more funding, and Mr. Hetrich has a student committee that has written to local legislators.

New Business

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the video surveillance cameras are all working and Mr. Fries said they are. Dr. Pulkowski noted that grant money was used to repair and add additional cameras.

Mrs. Davis noted yesterday's Sunday Reading Eagle contained the annual "Berks Best" supplement. Mrs. Seltzer noted she received copies of the results from the Berks County Art Exhibit held recently at the Goggleworks in Reading, and Wyomissing competed in many different categories and won many awards.

Mrs. Davis reminded everyone of the annual art show which begins next week and is held in the old gymnasium of the high school.

Mrs. Bamberger commended Mike Miller and the many students and community members that assisted in putting up a great mural at the West Reading Elementary Center playground.

Public Comments

Mrs. Karen McAvoy asked for information on the Fact Finder Report. It was noted that the report can be viewed on the District's website.

Mr. Ravi Patel asked for additional information on the reading list selections and Dr. Pulkowski responded.

Mr. Patel asked for information on the teachers' contract and the budget which were provided by Mrs. Mason and members of the Board.

Mr. Randall Hinsey, Jr., voiced concern that the project start in January 2011 and the inevitable delays in construction might mean disruption to the students during two school years. Mr. Hinsey asked for information on busing arrangements. Mr. Robbins stated there will be no need for extra buses and schedules will be developed. Mr. Hinsey also asked about locations for recess. Mr. Robbins stated the cafeteria is a possibility at St. Constantine and he may check with Sacred Heart.

Mr. Brian Ackerman, WAEA President, read a prepared statement relative to the earlier Board vote on the Fact Finder Report. A copy is included as part of these official minutes.

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2010-4128

Minutes May 10, 2010

Adjournment

Mr. Fitzgerald moved and Mr. Portner seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:06 p.m.

Corinne D. Mason
Board Secretary