

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2010-4140

Minutes June 14, 2010

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 6:12 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. Painter, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Sakmann, and Mrs. Seltzer.

Administrative Staff Present:

Mr. Robbins, Mrs. Mason, and Dr. Speace.

Attendees:

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

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Davis announced the Board would not be meeting in July.

Mrs. Seltzer reported that the recent issue of *Newsweek* ranked Wyomissing 434 in the America's Top Public High Schools and third in Pennsylvania. The criteria used in making the determinations are the number of AP tests taken and the number of seniors. Mrs. Davis congratulated the high school guidance department and staff on the accomplishment.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREES

The following individuals who retired during the 2009-2010 school year were honored and presented with engraved clocks:

Mary Pearsall and Chris Orzechowski, English Department; Gene Kiwak, Buildings & Grounds Department; and Craig Schwarz, Copy Services Coordinator.

Flowers were presented to Lesa Butera, outgoing PTA president, and Michele Fischetti was introduced as the incoming PTA president.

THANK YOU MR. ROBBINS

Mrs. Davis expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board and District to Mr. Robbins for serving as Acting Superintendent the past 17 months. A gift of appreciation was presented.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Mr. Hetrich provided information on his students' recent Harrisburg trip and their meeting with legislators.

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Superintendent's Report

Mr. Robbins congratulated Dr. Space on the District's ranking in *Newsweek* and asked her to share his appreciation with the staff.

A Powerpoint presentation was made by Mrs. Gernert, Foreign Language Department Chair, and Ms. Freymoyer, WREC Spanish teacher. The presentation concluded with a You Tube feature "The Importance of Foreign Language-Did you Know?"

Mr. Robbins informed the Board that at the end of the year they will be asked to approve course selections and at that time they will see proposed changes in the foreign language program.

The architect provided an update on the WREC building project which included PlanCon Part D, project estimates, and PlanCon Part E, Design Development. Changes in the ground floor plan were also noted.

Mr. Robbins reported on the roof project which is scheduled to begin next week at the JSHS. Roof samples were available for viewing.

Finance and Facilities

Mrs. Mason reviewed the finance and facilities agenda items. The item to approve student accident insurance premiums in the amount of \$6,875 was discussed. It was noted that typically less than a dozen students are enrolled in the program. After discussion by the Board, Mrs. Mason was instructed to delete the item from the agenda.

The request by the Student Assistance Program team to increase Caron services from a half-day each week to a full-day was noted. To make this possible, it was suggested that increased services be discussed with the Hospital or perhaps the savings realized by deleting the student insurance option may be used to offset the increased cost for student assistance services.

Mrs. Helm explained that the Board decided not to request bids at this time from attorneys wishing to serve as the District's legal representative. She noted the stability and continuity of retaining Kozloff Stoudt during the transition in administration is important, but Kozloff Stoudt will be asked not to increase the rates.

Mrs. Davis noted that a meeting is scheduled with Mr. Boland during this transition time.

Mrs. Mason provided the Board with a schedule of interviews arranged for June 21 and 22 with underwriters and bond counsel for the West Reading Elementary Center building project.

Curriculum and Technology – No agenda items.

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Personnel and Policy

Mr. Robbins reviewed the personnel and policy agenda items.

Mrs. Seltzer inquired who would be responsible for copying work until a replacement is found for Craig Schwarz. Mr. Robbins responded that Candy Geissler will be assisting in the interim.

Mr. Robbins noted he discussed the new policy 702.1 Naming Rights with Mrs. Bamberger and suggested that costs be put in the procedures and not made part of the policy. The Board agreed that the word "pool" should be removed from the policy.

Old Business - None

New Business

Mrs. Seltzer noted the costs of over \$100,000 and \$87,000 per year to fund the supplemental activities and athletic positions noted on the packet enclosures. The Board agreed that creative ways to fund the programs will have to be investigated. It was suggested that students should be involved in finding ways to cut costs, and if activity fees are considered, students should not be excluded if unable to pay.

Mrs. Helm indicated that the number of coaches will also be reviewed.

Mrs. Seltzer commented on the wonderful speeches made at the recent graduation ceremony.

Mrs. Davis thanked Dr. Speace, Dr. Ashton, and Mrs. Galbraith for their efforts in making commencement a memorable event.

Mrs. Helm asked when the student schedules will be released for the next school year. Dr. Speace indicated schedules will be mailed in packets in the beginning of August.

Public Comments

Mr. Richard Geertman suggested that the residents who use the weight room be charged to use the facility to help cover costs.

Mr. Robbins noted that the Board discussed that option previously and it should be revisited and taken into consideration as the budget is developed.

Mrs. Nancy Murray asked what the increases are for confidential and non-AFSCME support staff. Mr. Robbins indicated that it is a confidential personnel matter.

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In response to a request by the Board, Mr. Robbins provided the following comments on the future of the District:

Funding will be the biggest challenge the next two years.

The District is small, with a 3.5 mile radius and many students are provided bus transportation.

Distance learning should be provided as an avenue for enrichment at an earlier level.

The Board's work is to look at the big picture; let the people do their job. Establish short-term and long-range goals.

Have someone, perhaps Angel and Larry, review the list of bills and who is being paid.

You have tradition. You can't go back but must build upon what you have and move forward – create new traditions based on old ones.

I wish the Board well in their journey and thank you for the opportunity to work with you.

Adjournment

_____ moved and _____ seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

Corinne D. Mason
Board Secretary