

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-5978

Minutes March 22, 2021

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

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, 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, Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, and Mrs. Ziolkowski

Board Members Absent:

Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Waxler.

Administrative Staff Present:

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

Attendees:

None.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Finance/Budget Workshop – March 24, 2021, 4:15 p.m., Community Board Room
- Committee of the Whole Meeting – April 12, 2021, 4:45 p.m., JSHS Library
- School Board Business Meeting – April 26, 2021, 6:00 p.m., JSHS Library

Mrs. Ziolkowski announced an Executive Session would be held following tonight's Board meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Report – Mrs. Taylor reported they met on March 18th and highlights were the finalized agreement with Reading Behavioral Health Care which is the inpatient adolescent treatment program at Reading Hospital for the BCIU to provide educational services to patients while they are there. She shared there was no other major news. They meet again on April 15th.
- B. Berks Career & Technology Report – Mr. Pottieger reported they met on February 24th and approved the retirement of Dr. Kraft at the end of the school year. There was a presentation of the new marketing campaign and they received approval for an apprenticeship for electricians. Mr. Pottieger said that was good news. He said attendance has been low and they are continuing to work on their marketing campaign. He shared they have some vehicles that are 30-40 years old that they need to replace. He said it was a very informative meeting.

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- C. Berks EIT Report – Mr. Boyer reported the next meeting will be on Thursday, March 25th and he will have a report for the April Board meeting.
- D. Wyomissing Area Education Foundation – Mr. McCaffrey. No report.
- E. Legislative Report – Mrs. Harenza reported PSBA continues to advocate for charter school funding reform. On the state level, legislation has been introduced to allow districts to charge for right to know requests from commercial entities, allow tax credits to businesses that contribute to career and technology partnership organizations, and allow school districts to have flexibility in advertising for public meetings digitally to save costs associated with physical printing. Mrs. Harenza stated, on the federal level, the Dept. of Education is releasing \$122 billion in funding for K-12 schools from the American Rescue Plan. The money can be used for safety protocols, bussing, and after school learning and enrichment. The CDC is releasing \$10 billion to increase K-12 COVID screening and testing, and the White House has announced they are introducing massive new legislation that will include requirements for universal Pre-K.
- F. PTA – Mrs. Phillips reported the PTA was happy to welcome the elementary students back today with signs and balloons at Wyomissing Hills and West Reading.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ROUTINE APPROVALS

MEETING MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Pottieger, second by Mrs. Taylor, the Board approved the following minutes:

- February 22, 2021 School Board Business Meeting Minutes
- March 8, 2021 School Board Business Meeting Minutes

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.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon a motion by Mrs. McAvoy, and second by Mr. Pottieger, the Treasurer's Report for February 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 Mr. Pottieger, and second by Mrs. McAvoy, payment of bills for the month of February 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 thanked all those who took time to prepare for the return of students at WHEC and WREC. When visiting the buildings, Mr. Scoboria said everything looked great and he saw a lot of excitement amongst the students and staff. He likened it to the first day of school. Mr. Scoboria reported on transitions from WAVE to in-person attendance and acknowledged the teamwork and efforts required by many to make the day a success. Mr. Scoboria said we look forward to the return of the JSHS students next week with BCTC to return after the break.

Mr. Scoboria provided updates as Administration works to make the best decisions and look ahead. He reported the CDC issued updated recommendations which will be shared with parents/staff this week. The updates include a review of 3ft. vs 6ft. social distancing as well as a few other items with an emphasize to return kids to school. Mr. Scoboria reported there is no change to the county model and we are still in the substantial category based on an increase in both incidence and positivity rates. Wyomissing Area will continue to follow the 14-day rolling count and maintain the Dashboard on the website.

Mr. Scoboria shared a special thanks to the BCIU staff for hosting a countywide vaccine clinic for Berks educators saying this included all Berks educators who work in any way with Berks School Districts. He reported Wyomissing Area had 138 employees and contractors who received the vaccine. No one was turned away and all those who wanted a vaccine were able to participate. Mr. Scoboria said Mr. Esterbrook will provide a second dose of vaccine next week to those employees who signed up through Esterbrook Pharmacy. He thanked Mr.

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Esterbrook and Esterbrook Pharmacy for their help to provide that vaccine opportunity to Wyomissing Area educators.

Mr. Scoboria stated the District updated the quarantine protocol with minor changes. The toolkit has been updated on the District website. Mr. Scoboria said they will monitor closely any new information in the next weeks.

**A. CURRICULUM/
TECHNOLOGY**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Taylor, and second by Mrs. McAvoy, the following Curriculum and Technology Item was approved:

1. Approve Agreement with BCIU to provide the Pennsylvania Department of Education enhanced Drivers Education Program for WASD students.

Background Information: This PDE approved curriculum promotes safe driving habits within requirements of the PA Department of Transportation & PDE, including the opportunity to obtain the PA Driver's License. Students who complete the PDE Enhanced Drivers Education Program under this agreement are eligible to receive a certificate which is recognized by many insurance companies and may result in a discount for the student. Parents who opt to use this service, pay the cost. There is no cost to WASD

During Discussion Mr. Pottieger asked if we knew the cost. Dr. Woodard replied the cost was close to \$600.00 and includes the hours behind the wheel and the assessments. This includes the Region One discount.

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.

**B. FINANCE/
FACILITIES**

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

1. Approved resolution to temporarily extend the deadline of April 15, 2021 for 32 days to May 17, 2021, for both filing the tax return and paying the tax for the Mercantile/Business Privilege Tax Annual 2020 Final/2021 Estimated Return.

Background Information: The IRS extended the tax return due date to May 17, 2021. This resolution will align our Business Privilege Tax return date with Wyomissing Borough, West Reading Borough, and the Wilson School District.

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2. Approved five-year agreement with Keystone School Bus Services to provide transportation services for 2021-22, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-26 school years.
Background information: the percentage increases of the contract are the following:

Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Bus	3%	2.5%	2%	2%	2.25%
Van	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%

3. Approved Settlement Agreement and Release for student ID#301960.
4. Approved budget transfers in the amount of \$430.
5. Approved donation of Monster Matters/Science Explorers by WAEF in the amount of \$3,530 for fourth grade. WAEF will be paying Science Explorers directly for this service.
6. Approved capital reserve purchase of replacement JSBS Band uniforms in the amount of \$23,673.50.
Background Information: Uniforms will be purchased through Stanbury Uniforms, Inc. pricing is in accordance with the COSTAR Contract #360104.
7. Approved BCTC Budget for 2021-2022.
Background information: Total proposed member share is 3.517%. Wyomissing Area's proportionate share is \$485,072 which is a 4.16% increase over 2020-2021. Special Needs share is \$36,615, which is a proposed member share of 4.054% for 2021-2022.
8. Established Class of 2024 Student Activity Account.
9. Closed Class of 2020 Student Activity Account.

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

Absent: Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Waxler.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

C. PERSONNEL/ POLICY

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

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1. Authorizes the Superintendent to assign special sick leave for hourly and administrative employees consistent with the requirements and conditions detailed for professional staff and contained in the Memorandum of Understanding between WASD and WAEA approved on March 8, 2021.

2. POSITION GUIDES
 - a. Instructional Coach
Background Information: This new position is part of the 2021-22 school year plan.

3. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS
 - a. Professional Staff
 - 1) Joseph Kollar, Science Teacher, JSBS, retirement effective the last contracted day of the 2020-21 school year.
 - 2) Michael Miller, Art Teacher, WREC and JSBS, retirement effective the last contracted day of the 2020-21 school year.
 - b. Hourly Support Staff
 - 1) **Amy Cruley**, Food Service Worker, WHEC, retirement effective the last working day of the 2020-21 school year.
 - 2) **Shane Haas**, Custodian, WHEC, resignation effective last day worked March 18, 2021.
 - 3) **Tammy Hiebler**, Cafeteria / Recess Monitor, WHEC, resignation effective last working day, March 30, 2021.
 - 4) **Jane Lim**, Attendance Secretary, WHEC, retirement effective the last working day May 3, 2021.
 - c. Athletic Staff
 - 1) **Amanda Bezner**, Varsity Girls' Soccer Assistant Coach, JSBS, resignation effective last day worked November 14, 2020.
 - 2) **Kevin Miller, Jr.** High Boys' Basketball Asst. Coach, JSBS, resignation effective last day worked February 23, 2021.

4. APPROVED THE LEAVES OF ABSENCE PER ATTACHED.

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5. APPOINTMENTS

a. Hourly Support Staff

- 1) **Beth Rothermel**, Cafeteria / Recess Monitor, WHEC, 3 hours/day at a wage rate of \$10.82/hour, effective March 25, 2021.
Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.

b. Athletic Staff

- 1) **Gina Cavorsi**, Varsity Track Assistant Coach, JSBS, at a stipend of \$2,155, effective pending completion of pre-employment paperwork.
Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.
- 2) **Paul Heffern, Jr.** High Baseball Assistant Coach, JSBS, at a stipend of \$1,084, ratification effective March 17, 2021.
Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.
- 3) **Henry Smychynsky, Jr.** High Baseball Assistant Coach, JSBS, rescind previously approved appointment at applicant's request.

6. HOURS CHANGE

a. Hourly Support Staff

- 1) **Denise Berndt**, Part-time Instructional Aide – Reading, WHEC, from 5 ½ hours/day to 6 hours/day, no change in wage rate, ratification effective March 22, 2021 through the end of the 2020-21 school year.
Background Information: This increase in hours per day is temporary in order to meet the needs of all students while accommodating social distancing.

7. VOLUNTEERS

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

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OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Harenza introduced a concern about PSSA testing and related stress on teachers and students. She was hoping there could be discussion about what the Board and Administration could do to relieve the pressure that might exist. She would like to send a message to the kids and also to the teachers emphasizing ways to de-stress and relieve pressure. She would like Administration to come back to the Board with ideas. She suggested to talk to principals and communicate down, maybe a letter to staff; she is open to ideas.

Mr. Scoboria reviewed some of the changes in the last few years in how the testing data is used, and said this has helped to relieve some of the pressures associated with the testing for staff, but acknowledges this year may be stressful for students and staff due to the current environment. Dr. Woodard stated they are already having conversations with principals and shared they just recently confirmed the testing schedule. There are plans to introduce some ways, within COVID protocols, to alleviate some of the testing pressures. Administration will create a positive message to staff and will follow up at the April 12th Curriculum Committee meeting with an update.

**RIGHT TO KNOW
REQUEST**

None.

**UPDATES FROM
ORGANIZATIONS**

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. McAvoy, second by Mr. Pottieger, to adjourn at 6:49 p.m.

Board Secretary