

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-6002

Minutes May 10, 2021

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 4:48 p.m. in the JSHS Library with Mrs. Maria Ziolkowski, Board President presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

Following the pledge of allegiance, Mrs. Ziolkowski asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. Mr. Arnst indicated he will be recording the meeting.

Board Members Present: Mrs. Harenza, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger (Zoom), Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, and Mrs. Ziolkowski.

Board Members Absent: Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. Redner.

Administrative Staff Present: Mr. Scoboria, Dr. Woodard, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Arnst, and Mrs. DeRenzo.

Attendees: Jim Comerford, JSHS English Teacher
Alex Gabryluk, Technology Support
An audience sign-in sheet is included as part of these official minutes.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Ziolkowski welcomed all and announced upcoming meetings

- Facilities Committee Workshop – May 21, 2021 – 3:30 p.m. Community Board Room
- Board Business Meeting – May 24, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. JSHS Library
- Committee of the Whole Meeting / School Board Business Meeting – June 14, 2021 – 4:45 p.m. JSHS Library

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

ROUTINE APPROVALS

MEETING MINUTES

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

- April 12, 2021, Committee of the Whole Minutes

Yeas: Mrs. Harenza, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, and Mrs. Ziolkowski.

Absent: Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. Redner

Nays: None. Motion carried.

COMMITTEES

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**A. CURRICULUM
AND TECHNOLOGY**

Dr. Woodard shared that Mr. Jim Comerford, JSHS English Department Teacher and Mrs. Lisa DeRenzo, Principal WHEC, were in attendance. Mr. Comerford will speak about the new titles proposed to incorporate into 8th, 10th and Senior level courses and Dr. Woodard and Mrs. DeRenzo will share information regarding K-4 Literacy.

1. English Language Arts (ELA) JSHS Text Presentation – Mr. Comerford said the process began in September when the English Department created a reading pathways document for Grades 7-12 to identify the titles that students would read, regardless of their level of English. Mr. Comerford said they prioritized needs, began reading and exchanging titles, and networked with their local, state and national contacts to narrow down the book choices. They held weekly book talks and asked volunteers to read books for them. Mr. Comerford said they used all of this information to make the choices he would share with the Board tonight. He said every department meeting devoted time to the discussion of adopting new titles, and working with Dr. Woodard’s guidance they were able to formalize the process to ensure the best choices were made for students. He explained the next step is a summer Professional Development session to pair classic texts with contemporary novels. Mr. Comerford reviewed the list of proposed books and provided a brief background and synopsis on each title. He explained they chose titles that are related to age level and will engage student readers, and some Senior level books are cross-curricular and will help with college preparedness. He said these new books will not replace the current books, but will be prioritized and recommended above others. They are working on ways to incorporate student choice in the future. Dr. Woodard spoke about the collaboration and partnership they are developing with Albright College targeting middle grades to develop flexibility for project-based learning. Dr. Woodard said this will be a multi-year project, but she hopes it will begin with the partnership with Albright through District Comprehensive Planning.
2. K-4 Literacy - Dr. Woodard provided an overview of K-4 Literacy and explained they are transitioning from *Anthology Journey* into a balanced literary framework. She said they plan to start K-4 at WHEC and initiate staff development. Dr. Woodard said this is also a multi-year venture. She explained, the concept of balanced literacy combines engaging students in authentic literature; fiction, non-fiction, graphic texts and poetry, and also providing students with explicit phonics instruction as well. The success comes with a balanced approach. Balanced literacy allows individualization and

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identification of grade level text. Dr. Woodard said independent daily reading is a component that WASD is currently missing and this will provide. She said balanced literacy also incorporates shared writing; teaching how to compose, how to write narratively, composing informational text, and how to engage in poetry, and it provides the independent writing piece that is so important.

Mrs. DeRenzo said the time is right to implement balanced literacy as the inconsistencies of the past year resulted in student deficiencies and varying student needs. She said there is a great need to differentiate instruction to meet students at their current level and close the gap. Targeted, varied and multi-genre representation is of high interest to students and is the best way to meet those needs. She is excited to be able to create libraries in the classroom that are of interest to students. She provided an overview of the multi-year implementation plan beginning with the Launch Unit this fall. She explained the plan progresses with the Fiction Unit, Nonfiction Unit and Poetry Unit, K-4, bringing the writing piece into the program in 2022. Dr. Woodard said teacher development will include, on-site training with a Schoolwide facilitator as well as ongoing opportunities with grade level and small group instruction, demonstrations, analyzing student work, administrator support and instructional coaching on-site. Mrs. DeRenzo said she would like to attend a Board meeting in the fall to provide an opportunity for the Board to meet the instructional coach, and share the progress of the program. Dr. Woodard said the cost is covered by ESSER Funds and they are choosing to begin with ELA to target the current student deficiencies. She said the current math program will be used for one more year and will be addressed in the next school year. The instructional coach will be working in the building to support the balanced literacy implementation K-6.

B. FACILITIES

WHEC Crosswalk Update

1. Mr. Cafoncelli provided background on the WHEC Crosswalk Project and details surrounding the project to date. He said during the recent bid process the District received only one bid and that it was significantly higher than the construction cost estimate. Mr. Cafoncelli said the estimate had been determined pre-COVID and was based on similar projects around the County. After reviewing the bid with the contractor, Mr. Cafoncelli said cost increases were due to additional scope of project per PennDOT requirements and the District's Agreement with the Borough, as well as COVID related material cost increases. Mr. Cafoncelli feels

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the bid amount they received for the project is correct at this time. Mr. Cafoncelli reviewed the Board options; proceed and accept the bid, look to rebid the project as soon as possible, or delay the project one summer and rebid in Spring of 2022. Mr. Cafoncelli explained the WHEC Crosswalk project is a separate and a standalone project and is not part of the larger construction project the District is currently bidding. Mr. Cafoncelli said smaller projects such as the WHEC Crosswalk are often difficult to find contractors for. He said the bids on the WHEC Crosswalk are good for 90 days, and the District could choose to wait until the bids for the larger construction project are received to decide how to proceed with the WHEC Crosswalk project. Mr. Cafoncelli said the Borough does not participate in cost sharing for new construction, however, they will provide ongoing maintenance.

The Board advised Mr. Cafoncelli to wait for the larger construction project bids to be received at the end of the month, and based on those costs, the Board will decide how to proceed with the WHEC Crosswalk project.

Dr. Woodard spoke briefly about the WAVE program for next year and said a survey has been sent asking families for their interest to attend WAVE for the 2021/22 school year. Dr. Woodard shared that roughly one-third of WAVE students' parents responded to the survey, and those responses were mixed between wanting to return to in-person, wanting to stay virtual, or unsure of their interest at this time. Dr. Woodard said, based on this response, it would be difficult to staff WAVE classrooms for each grade level. She said in the upcoming weeks they will have to make a decision regarding the WAVE program for next year.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Waxler second by Mrs. Phillips to adjourn at 5:56 p.m.

Board Secretary