

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-6006

Minutes May 10, 2021

The meeting of the Board of School Directors convened in the JSBS Library at 5:56 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, 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. Cafoncelli, Mr. Arnst

Attendees:

Alex Gabryluk – Technology Support
An audience sign-in sheet is included as part of these official minutes.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Scoboria shared a few announcements and highlights of recent District events and reported Berks County remains in the Substantial category, however, new cases and test positivity have decreased. Locally we have seen a drop in cases, as well as quarantine numbers. Pennsylvania issued an update last week; the Attestation Order will end on June 1st which affects mandatory school closings based on cases. Indoor and outdoor event limits will end on June 1st, however, face covering requirements remain. Mr. Scoboria asked everyone to continue to follow the guidelines regarding face coverings outlined in the District Health and Safety Plan. Mr. Scoboria said they are waiting for more detail to come from the Department of Health and the state, and he will provide an additional update at the May 24th meeting. He said the goal remains to have 5-day in-person instruction for the start of the next school year. Mr. Scoboria reviewed the latest updates to the ESSER funding and said we do not anticipate a negative budget impact. He hopes to share more information as it becomes available. Mr. Scoboria said the summer ESY program would be held this year, the TIPS program (Teachers in the Park) will be at the Stonehouse and additionally, at the JSBS and WREC, there will be a more traditional

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summer school with instruction targeting students who have a need for additional learning or completion of courses.

Mr. Scoboria reviewed the possibility of changes regarding ESSER fund allocation based on the new government guidance. Mr. Scoboria explained how the District will utilize ESSER funding while waiting for additional information from the state.

**A. FINANCE/
FACILITIES**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Waxler and second by Mrs. Taylor, Finance and Facilities Items 1 through 5 were opened for discussion.

Mr. Boyer provided a Budget update to the Board:

Mr. Boyer thanked the Board for their hard work and guidance on this budget, as well as Mr. Scoboria, Dr. Woodard and administration for their help throughout the process. Mr. Boyer said budget development was a little different this year, but still carries forward the WASD mission and vision statement. Mr. Boyer highlighted items included in the budget and their affect on revenue and expenditures.

During Discussion:

Mrs. Waxler asked for clarification that cyber charter tuition is based on budget and not per student. Mr. Boyer said it is determined by a formula based on budget and average daily membership and may be different for every school district in the commonwealth.

Mr. Boyer reviewed uncertainties such as the state budget, enrollment, real estate assessments, and federal funding all which may have an impact on the WASD budget. These items will be monitored and updates provided to the Board. Mr. Boyer reviewed current budget status, including the current deficit before tax increase and explained changes that occurred since the last Board update. Mr. Boyer reviewed the effects to the budget deficit with scenarios of a 1.5% and 2% tax increase. He reviewed the committed fund balances including PSERS.

During Discussion:

Mr. McCaffrey asked how long have we had the PSERS account and asked for clarification that we have not used the PSERS funds at all since we created the account. He asked, what did we use to cover our PSERS costs? Mr. Boyer said we have had the account for eight years and we used the uncommitted funds for two of the years to cover PSERS costs, and other times we used one-time revenues to cover any PSERS costs.

Mrs. Waxler asked for clarification on the allowable use of the PSERS account. Must it only be used for PSERS? Mr. Boyer said you can uncommit and re-commit fund balance each year. It is one-time funding. The PSERS funds have been kept in

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place as we are uncertain how high the costs may go. He said it seems to be flattening, but we are still unsure.

Mr. Boyer concluded the presentation by saying, next steps are to determine the percentage of tax increase, either 2% or 1.5% as presented on tonight's agenda, place the proposed final budget for public review for 30 days, and approve the final budget on June 14, 2021.

During Discussion:

Mrs. Taylor asked about the need for yearly tax increases in relation to budget surplus/deficit. Mr. Boyer explained what happens when we outperform the budget. He reviewed the effect of increased taxes and their result on the budget, the impact of one-time revenues and why tax increases each year are necessary.

Mrs. Waxler asked for clarification; if Tower Health proceeds and is successful with their appeal for exemption, WASD would lose \$400,000? Mr. Boyer said yes, the District would lose that revenue and right now that is an uncertainty.

Mr. Boyer stated the full slide presentation contains information on the importance of long-term planning in relation to tax increases, the amount of *Fair Funding* as well as other informational items.

During Discussion:

Mr. Pottieger questioned possible section/classroom size reduction based on enrollment. Mrs. Waxler asked when do those decisions need to be made? Mr. Scoboria explained best practice is to complete teacher assignments by July. He noted, if enrollment changes and a section is not needed, that section could be held, but ideally this would be determined before teacher assignments are made.

Mrs. Phillips asked about the possibility of kindergarten registration increasing. Mr. Scoboria explained the variables that could occur with next year registration and what the District knows at this time. Mr. Boyer said in past years we have been within 1% of projections.

Mr. Pottieger asked about registration deadlines. Mr. Scoboria said there is not a hard deadline, but the District attempts to get as many as possible to complete enrollment in the spring.

Mr. Scoboria said administration plans to review structural suggestions in comparison with state and county information and determine where cost reductions could occur as part of a long-term plan.

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Mr. McCaffrey made a motion, second by Mrs. Taylor to approve item 1b, 2% tax increase. Upon discussion, the motion and second were withdrawn.

During Discussion:

Mr. Pottieger asked, is there a reason a vote is needed on the tax amount tonight? Mr. Scoboria explained that one of the two amounts must be decided tonight so the final proposed budget, including the impact of the chosen amount, could be prepared and presented to the public for 30 days as required. The Board vote on June 14 would determine the final tax amount to be chosen, but for tonight there needs to be a clear path forward.

Upon discussion, the Board agreed by consensus to amend the original motion. With agreement from Mrs. Waxler (motion) and Mrs. Taylor (second), withdraw Item 1a and separate Items 1b and Items 2-5.

Amended Motion: Upon a motion by Mrs. Waxler and second by Mrs. Taylor, the following Finance and Facilities Item 1b was approved:

1. Resolved, by the Board of School Directors of Wyomissing Area School District as follows:
 - b. The proposed Final Budget of the School District for the 2021-2022 fiscal year in the amount of \$40,716,730 with a Real Estate Millage Rate of 32.5441 on form PDE 2028 as presented to the School Board shall be considered the proposed Final Budget of the School District for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and shall be made available for public inspection after this date.
Background information: 2.0% mill real estate and interim tax increase. The increased millage is .6381.

1000 Instruction	\$23,575,822
2000 Support Services	11,132,952
3000 Operation of Non-Instructional Services	1,116,712
4000 Facilities, Acquisitions & Construction	0
5000 Financing Uses	3,871,964
Total General Budget Expenses	\$39,697,450
5900 Budgetary Reserve	\$ 1,019,280

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

Absent: Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. Redner.

Nays: Mrs. Waxler, Mrs. Ziolkowski. Motion Carried.

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New Motion: Upon a motion by Mrs. Waxler and second by Mrs. Harenza, the following Finance and Facilities Items, 2-5 were approved:

2. Appoint Steven Pottieger as Board Treasurer for the term July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 with no wage payments.
Background information: Per school code, the Board shall annually, during the month of May elect a treasurer to serve for one year, beginning the first day of July following such election.
3. Approve Agreement of Educational Services with Hogan Learning Academy, LLC for 2021 Extended School Year services for Student ID# 302739. Cost per day is \$420.
Background Information: Agreement services dates are 6/28/2021 through 8/6/2021.
4. Approve Agreement of Educational Services with Hogan Learning Academy, LLC for the 2021 – 2022 School Year for Student ID# 302739. Cost per day is \$425.
Background Information: Agreement service dates are 8/23/2021 through 8/19/2022 and includes ESY services.
5. Approve interscholastic student accident insurance premium in the amount of \$7,160 for 2021-2022.
Background information: Savings of \$713 over the 2020-2021 rate. Coverage is through the Philadelphia Insurance Companies.

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

Absent: Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. Redner.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**C. PERSONNEL/
POLICY**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Taylor, and second by Mr. McCaffrey the following Personnel and Policy items 1-8 were approved and ratified:

During Discussion:

Mrs. Harenza asked about the 2.5 fulltime instructional coaches; realizing we are using ESSER funds in this budget for those positions, in a year without ESSER funds, is there funds in the budget to sustain these positions? Mr. Scoboria said we are only funding those positions for a short time with ESSER funds then they will transition over and will be funded by the budget.

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1. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

a. Athletic Staff

- 1) **Stacy Fritz**, Cheerleading Head Coach, JSHS, resignation effective last day worked September 13, 2019.

2. APPROVED THE LEAVES OF ABSENCE PER ATTACHED.

3. APPOINTMENTS

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Christopher Grasso**, Science Teacher, JSHS, M/Step 11, \$73,325, effective the beginning of the contracted 2021-22 school year.
Background Information: Mr. Grasso received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Penn State University and a Masters in the Science of Teaching from Rowan University. He was previously employed by Upper Darby School District. This position is being filled due to a retirement.
- 2) **Laura Noey**, Instructional Coach Grades K-6, WHEC/WREC, M/Step 2, \$57,407, effective the beginning of the contracted 2021-22 school year.
Background Information: Ms. Noey received a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies and Early Childhood Studies from Radford University and a Masters in the Art of Teaching from Mary Grove College. She was previously employed by Boone County Schools and is currently employed as an LTS at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center. This position is a new position created as part of the 2021-22 budget.

b. Hourly Support Staff

- 1) **Sarah Ruzenski**, Full-time WHEC Building Secretary, WHEC, 7 hours/day at a wage rate of \$14.22/hour, update effective date to May 10, 2021.
Background Information: This position is being filled due to a retirement.

4. POSITION/HOURS CHANGE

a. Professional Staff

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- 1) **Kami Fecho**, 6th Grade Teacher, WREC, to Instructional Coach Grades 7-12, JSHS, no change in contract hours or wage rate, effective the beginning of the 2021-22 contracted school year.

Background Information: This position is a new position created as part of the 2021-22 budget.

- 2) **Elizabeth Toigo**, .5 English Teacher, JSHS, to .5 English Teacher, JSHS, and .5 Instructional Technology Coach, District-wide, M+45/Step 5, \$65,858, effective the beginning of the contracted 2021-22 school year.

Background Information: The .5 FTE Instructional Technology Coach position is a new position created as part of the 2021-22 budget.

5. WAGE INCREASES

a. Professional Staff

Request approval for the following teacher(s) to receive course credit salary advancement (column movement) in accordance with the terms of the MOU between WAEA and the District, per the effective dates noted below:

- 1) **Devon Benensky**, JSHS, from B+15/Step 5 to M/Step 5 (\$60,908) effective the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

6. APPROVAL OF NEW POSITIONS

a. Professional Staff

- 1) Request authorization for administration to create the following positions as part of the 2021-22 budget:
 - a) Full-time Instructional Coach Grades K-6, WHEC/WREC, effective the beginning of the 2021-22 contracted school year.
 - b) Full-time Instructional Coach Grades 7-12, JSHS, effective the beginning of the 2021-22 contracted school year.
 - c) .5 Instructional Technology Coach, District-wide, effective the beginning of the 2021-22 contracted school year.

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- d) Full-time Math Intervention Specialist, WHEC, effective the beginning of the 2021-22 contracted school year.
- e) Full-time Reading Specialist Grades 5-8, WREC/JSHS, effective the beginning of the 2021-22 contracted school year.

Background Information: These positions will be funded with Federal ESSER Funds and have been added to address learning loss due to COVID-19.

7. SUBSTITUTES

- a. Hourly Support Staff (Deletions)
 - 1) **Davina Minton**, Food Service

8. VOLUNTEERS

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

Mrs. Taylor raised a question about the Town & Gown event saying they have not met since pre-COVID. She wondered if there was talk to resume those meetings? Mr. Scoboria said they will reach out and see if there is interest to get one back on the schedule.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS None.

RIGHT TO KNOW REQUEST None.

UPDATES FROM ORGANIZATIONS None.

ADJOURNMENT Mrs. Ziolkowski said an Executive Session would be held following tonight's meeting to discuss a personnel item.

A motion was made by Mrs. Phillips second by Mr. McCaffrey, to adjourn at 7:07 p.m.

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Board Secretary