

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Work Session Minutes
July 17, 2006

The Wyomissing Area School District Board of School Directors' work session convened at 6:03 p.m. in the Community/Board Room.

Board Members Present: Mrs. Barnett, Mr. Deem, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Hinsey, Mr. Larkin, Mrs. McCreedy, Mrs. Sakmann, Dr. Shuttlesworth, and Mr. Snyder.

Administrators Present: Dr. Riedel, Mr. McDonnell, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Laubach, Dr. Zerr, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Motze, Mrs. Whye, Mrs. Simyak, Mr. Hartman, Mr. Babb, and Dr. Kennedy (Acting Superintendent).

Others Present: Dr. Helen Larson and Mr. Brian Ackerman

I. Personnel –

Dr. Kennedy reviewed the personnel items and mentioned the blank items, particularly the information on the maternity/child rearing leaves, would be supplied by the next meeting.

Dr. Shuttlesworth asked if any of these personnel items on the agenda were not included in the original budget. Dr. Kennedy responded none of these positions were new.

There was no discussion on the alternative education placement agreement.

The Board agreed to place the personnel items on the next agenda.

II. Curriculum –

Dr. Kennedy explained the Camp Conrad Weiser contract and indicated the per camper amount would be provided prior to approval next week.

III. Finance –

Dr. Kennedy reviewed the grant funding and accountability block grant.

Mr. Snyder asked about Act 1, Taxpayer Relief Act, and what the District is doing administratively.

Mr. McDonnell gave a brief explanation of Act 1 and announced there would be a PSBA session on September 7 at the BCIU on the state-mandated Local Tax Study Commission. He encouraged board members to attend and indicated more information will be provided to the board prior to the session.

Mr. Snyder asked Dr. Larson if she had any input, and she said she would be working with Mr. McDonnell to prepare a presentation in August.

The Board agreed to place the finance items on the next agenda.

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IV. Facilities –

Mr. Dawson provided an update on the high school project.

Mr. Deem brought up the issue of lack of a sign on Cambridge Avenue for the building. He noted that it was discussed with Mr. Dawson, and as the Facilities Committee liaison, Mr. Deem asked the board if it could be investigated. The board approved and instructed Mr. Dawson to proceed. It was noted that there might be some money in the project that could be used since it was initially eliminated due to being over budget.

V. School Activities & Athletics –

Mr. Deem asked why there were two coaches listed for girls' tennis.

Mrs. Motze explained that the two individuals worked out an agreement to split the existing number of points and there were no additional points added, just a split of current points.

The Board agreed to place the school activities & athletics items on the next agenda.

VI. Technology –

Mr. Laubach reviewed the Apple Lease, Follett, and ZUMU Software agreements listed on the agenda and provided an update on the implementation of the new phone system.

VII. Policy –

Dr. Kennedy asked if Mrs. Barnett, the Policy liaison, and the Board agreed to a first reading of the revised policies as listed on the agenda.

The Board accepted the policies as submitted for a first reading and will consider them for adoption at the next meeting.

VIII. Community Relations –

Dr. Kennedy announced that delivery of the community newsletter was delayed due to flooding at the printers' business location in West Reading, but it should be mailed by August 1.

IX. Other Items –

Mr. Snyder asked for two volunteers to serve as voting delegates at the PSBA Legislative Policy Council meeting in Hershey on October 12, 2006. Mr. Fitzgerald volunteered, and other board members were asked to give it consideration.

X. Discussion Items –

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- A) Dr. Kennedy discussed part-time teacher salary proration based on steps, which is not currently addressed in the teachers' contract. She noted that she would be talking to the part-time teachers about the issue and finding a solution to getting the part-time teachers on a pro-rated salary step.
- B) Mr. Larkin asked about the steps the administration takes in researching proof of residency. Several board members are concerned that there may be students in the district that are not residents.

Dr. Kennedy assured the members that several proofs of residency are required when children are enrolled in the district.

- C) Dr. Kennedy reviewed the enrollment in first grade and expressed concern that the numbers are reaching the top of the threshold for adding another instructor. The board discussed the existing guidelines for enrollment, and Dr. Kennedy recommended adding an additional first grade teacher. The board agreed to move forward and secure another 1st grade teacher.
- D) Dr. Kennedy commented that the district has an existing contract with the BCIU for 10 hours per week of speech and language services, but more hours are needed than the BCIU can provide. She recommended that we contract for additional part-time speech and language services and an ad be placed in newspapers soon.
- E) Dr. Kennedy indicated a student moved into the district with an IEP indicating a one-on-one aide is required which is an additional person than was indicated in the budget. She also noted that an additional part-time aide was added to the original budget.

Dr. Shuttlesworth asked for the cost factor in hiring an aide, and Mr. McDonnell responded it would depend on their experience, but typically around \$9 an hour plus any district-paid benefits.

- F) Mr. McDonnell distributed policy 707 Use of School Facilities, procedures, and a fee schedule. He commented that the policy basically followed the PSBA recommendation with very few changes, but the fee schedule and procedures were very different from the currently used documents. The fee schedule changed from four categories to three. The form that would have to be completed prior to community use would have the fee schedule included. The requestor would be given a copy of the procedure document along with a form to request use of the facilities.

Mr. McDonnell asked the board for feedback on the policy and procedures and said that the committee had been working very hard in several meetings to put together the first draft. The document that was not included as part of the packet was a description of the groups currently using the facilities and what categories they were in. The committee will meet with the superintendent to discuss where those groups would fall in the new procedure document.

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There was much discussion from the board about the fees, the merits of charging all groups a fee (nominal for some and more for others). Facility use by non-profits was discussed, and some thought a fee should be charged all groups, and others felt some groups should be able to use the facilities free of charge. After a lengthy discussion of the merits of which groups should be charged, it was decided that several members of the committee would meet with the superintendent to make recommendations for categorization of the existing groups into the new procedure document and come to the board at the August meeting with their findings.

- G) Mr. Hartman explained the discipline process in the high school and noted there were 2400 referrals for discipline this past school year.
- H) The co-curricular report was included in the board members' packets for review.
- I) The elementary student suspension report was included in the board members' packets for review.
- J) Dr. Kennedy asked board members and administrators to insert the procedures for policy 808.1 Charging Against Cafeteria Accounts that they received into their manuals.
- K) Mr. Hartman explained that there will be no student exemptions from the mid-term exam. There will be an exemption from the final, but it will now take into consideration the first-term grade.
- L) The spring athletic season report was included in the board members' packets for review.
- M) The athletic year-end report was included in the board members' packets for review.
- N) It was reported that the West Reading Borough, through the Elm Street Project, had done some landscaping around the faculty parking lot on Obold St., at no cost to the district..
- O) Mrs. Simyak commented that the sensory playground at Wyomissing Hills Elementary is being worked on and hopefully will be completed by the beginning of school.

XI. Public Comments – None.

The work session adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Arthur J. McDonnell
School Board Secretary