

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2006-3807

Minutes December 6, 2006

The reorganization meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Board Room with Mr. Snyder, Board President, presiding.

Pledge of Allegiance Following the pledge, the secretary called the roll of board members.

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

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Larson, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Riedel, Dr. Zerr, Mr. McDonnell, Mr. Babb, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Hartman, Mr. Laubach, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Motze, Mrs. Steele, Mrs. Simyak, and Mrs. Whye.

Attendees: Recording Secretary Diane Schaeffer, Mr. Brian Boland, Kozloff Stoudt, Mr. Youker, Reading Eagle. Sign-in sheet of attendees included as part of these official minutes.

President Snyder welcomed everyone and thanked Mrs. Steele for providing the table holiday decorations.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

There were no public comments on the agenda.

ACT 1 TAX STUDY RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Larkin reported that the Commission held a public hearing at 5:00 p.m., prior to the reorganization meeting and turned over a report and recommendation to the Board. He noted that the Commission recommends that the Wyomissing Area School Board place a referendum on the ballot to replace the .5% school district share of the Berks E.I.T. with a 1.5% personal income tax for the purpose of reducing the property taxes of eligible home owners.

TAX STUDY COMMITTEE DISCHARGED

Mr. Snyder thanked Mr. Larkin and the committee and requested a motion to discharge the Tax Study Commission. The Committee was discharged upon motion made by Mrs. Barnett and seconded by Mrs. McCready.

Yeas: 9.
Nays: 0. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dr. Larson introduced and welcomed new high school assistant principal, Mr. Michael Ashton.

LIAISON REPORTS

There were no liaison reports.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. Snyder asked for nominations to elect a president pro tempore.

A motion nominating Mrs. Sakmann as president pro tempore was made by Mrs. McCready and seconded by Mr. Larkin.

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There being no other nominations, Mr. Larkin moved, Mrs. McCready seconded, and motion carried to close the nominations.

Mrs. Sakmann was unanimously elected president pro tempore upon motion by Mr. Deem and second by Mrs. Barnett.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Mrs. Sakmann called for nominations for the office of president.

A motion was made by Mr. Larkin and seconded by Mr. Deem to nominate Mr. Snyder for president.

There being no other nominations, Mr. Fitzgerald moved, Mrs. McCready seconded, and motion carried to close the nominations.

Mr. Snyder was unanimously elected to the office of president upon motion by Mr. Deem, second by Mr. Larkin.

The president pro tempore then vacated the chair in favor of Mr. Snyder.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Snyder called for nominations for the office of vice president.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sakmann and seconded by Mr. Larkin to nominate Mrs. McCready for vice president.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Fitzgerald moved, Mrs. Sakmann seconded, and motion carried to close the nominations.

Mrs. McCready was unanimously elected to the office of vice president upon motion by Mrs. Sakmann and second by Mr. Larkin.

APPOINTMENT OF BERKS CAREER & TECH. CENTER REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Snyder was unanimously approved as representative to the Berks Career & Technical Center and Mr. Larkin as alternate, upon motion by Mrs. McCready and second by Mrs. Barnett.

APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE & PSBA LIAISON

Mr. Fitzgerald was unanimously approved as the legislative and Pennsylvania School Board Association liaison upon motion by Mr. Snyder and second by Mrs. Sakmann.

APPOINTMENT OF BERKS E.I.T. REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Barnett was approved unanimously as representative to the Berks E.I.T. Bureau and Mrs. McCready as alternate representative upon motion by Mr. Deem and second by Mrs. Sakmann.

BOARD LIAISONS

A list of Board liaisons and their assignments was included in the Board packet as follows:

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Committee	Board Liaison(s)	Administrator Liaison(s)
<i>Curriculum</i>	L. Sakmann	S. Riedel/J. Kennedy
<i>Finance</i>	J. Larkin & L. Fitzgerald	A. McDonnell/H. Larson
<i>Facilities</i>	D. Deem	A. McDonnell/M. Dawson
<i>Athletics</i>	J. McCready	B. Hartman/J. Motze
<i>Community Relations</i>	L. Sakmann & R. Hinsey	H. Larson
<i>Policy</i>	J. Barnett	J. Kennedy
<i>Personnel</i>	R. Shuttlesworth	H. Larson
<i>Technology</i>	L. Fitzgerald & R. Hinsey	T. Laubach/H. Larson

APPROVED
LIAISONS FOR 2007

A motion was made by Mrs. Barnett and seconded by Mrs. Sakmann to approve the liaison list as noted for 2007.

Yeas: 9
Nays: 0. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF
SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING DATES

The Board discussed the schedule for the regular monthly meetings and work sessions in 2007 and no changes to the list were indicated.

Upon motion by Mrs. Barnett, second by Mr. Fitzgerald, the Board of School Directors approved the following meeting dates for 2007.

Yeas: 9
Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Work Sessions – 6:00 P.M.

- Tuesday, January 16
- Tuesday, February 20
- Monday, March 19
- Monday, April 16
- Monday May 14
- Monday, June 18
- Monday, July 16
- Monday, August 20
- Monday, September 17
- Monday, October 15
- Monday, November 12

Board Meetings – 7:30 P.M.

- Monday, January 22
- Monday, February 26
- Monday, March 26
- Tuesday, April 24
- Monday, May 21
- Monday June 25
- Monday, July 23
- Monday, August 27
- Monday, September 24
- Monday, October 22
- Monday, November 19
- Monday, December 3 (Reorg.)

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PERSONNEL

APPROVED PERSONNEL REPORT & ADDENDUM

Upon motion by Mrs. McCready, second by Mrs. Sakmann, the December 6, 2006, Personnel Report and Addendum were approved and included as part of these official minutes.

Yeas: Barnett, Deem, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, Larkin, Sakmann, Shuttlesworth, McCready and Snyder.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

CURRICULUM

Mrs. Sakmann thanked Dr. Riedel for putting together the new course proposal and matrix that were provided to the Board. Dr. Riedel commended the teaching staff for their assistance and new ideas.

APPROVED NEW COURSES

Upon motion by Mrs. Sakmann, second by Mrs. McCready, the new courses were approved for 2007-08.

Yeas: Barnett, Deem, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, Larkin, Sakmann, Shuttlesworth, McCready and Snyder.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

FINANCE/BUSINESS OFFICE

APPROVED CONRAD WEISER CONTRACT

Upon motion by Mrs. McCready, second by Mrs. Sakmann, the contract with Conrad Weiser School District for one secondary student ID#101458 for 2006-07 at a cost of \$27,675.47 was approved.

Yeas: Barnett, Deem, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, Larkin, Sakmann, Shuttlesworth, McCready and Snyder.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dr. Larson noted that the Board would set a meeting to take action on the Act 1 Commission's recommendation.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

The Board requested that the student enrollment report be provided on a quarterly basis instead of monthly, with figures indicating an increase or decrease in enrollment.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were made:

Mr. Brian Nugent, 1913 Sturbridge Drive, Wyomissing, addressed the situations involving his daughter and two incidents of verbal threats in the high school. He proposed the following initiatives – Fix the video cameras

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and monitors on a consistent basis, post teachers outside classrooms, take every verbal threat seriously, revisit the code of behavior and enforcement of rules, adopt a zero tolerance policy on violence, and develop a timely action plan on how the issue of violence is addressed.

Emily DeLucas, 458 Chestnut St., West Reading, spoke as a member of the senior class, and indicated they take their senior responsibilities very seriously, and there has been a spike in disciplinary problems that is of concern.

Dr. Larson complimented Emily on her comments and thanked her for her interest and attendance at the meeting. Dr. Larson said that students can be leaders and deal with circumstances; parents are the next facet to the solution by being inclusive to all folks in the West Reading and Wyomissing communities. Dr. Larson said the change in demographics was discussed during her interview process, and she addressed it in her state of the district report. She also noted that she will be following up with a number of families and looking at some immediate steps. She invited anyone who wished to share comments to reach her at 484-883-7786.

Mark DiPillo, 428 Old Mill Rd., Wyomissing, voiced concern about theft and threats and said he addressed the issues with administration who were slow to respond or non-responsive. He said that administrators and teachers need to be engaged in finding solutions.

Sharon Berman, 29 Devonshire, Wyomissing, stated she hopes the group moves forward. She indicated that she wants the teachers involved but does not want them acting as "policemen," when their job is in the classroom as an educator.

Mr. Nugent asked Dr. Larson to expand on the immediate incentives.

Dr. Larson said the first item is to increase visibility, and teachers will be visible as classes change and will be reminding kids about hall conduct. Secondly, passes will be used at lunchtime to control bathroom use.

Student Sara Nugent said that information should be communicated to the student body about what constitutes violence or a threat and what the consequences are.

Diane Malloy, 325 Greenbriar Rd., Wyomissing, commented that her child was being bullied and it took many tries to get it to stop. The district needs to adopt zero tolerance policy, no matter who is involved.

Lindsay Bricker, 334 Chestnut St., West Reading, said that punishment must be the same for all.

Bill Murray, 327 Park Road, Wyomissing, stated that a security professional should be included in the group meeting when remedies are being discussed.

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Mr. Nugent inquired if the cameras were working.

Dr. Larson responded that in October, Mr. Dawson, Director of Buildings & Grounds, was instructed to do a security audit, and they are working.

Mr. Malloy, 325 Greenbriar Rd., Wyomissing, asked if it is policy for a parent to be called if there is an incident?

Dr. Larson said it is a good practice to communicate with parents.

Mr. Nugent said the parents are not called, and students are not allowed to use the phone. Sara Nugent said she could not use the phone in the office but was able to use the phone in the guidance department.

Ms. Robin Altman, 838 Old Lauers Lane, said she is a child psychiatrist and there is a covert environment and kids do know about it. Her suggestion would be to gather the kids for a focus discussion and explore the situations.

Dr. Larson reported that she has met with Mrs. Nugent and offered a suggestion that they meet again with a couple of parents and enlist the aid of experts such as Robin Altman and Reverend Route. Dr. Larson indicated she could be contacted and would like to meet with a small group while options to correct problem areas are being explored.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Snyder noted that the Board met in executive session prior to the 7:30 meeting. He thanks the residents for attending and expressing their concerns and wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Mrs. McCready, seconded by Mr. Larkin, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Arthur J. McDonnell
Board Secretary

Wyomissing Area School District
Personnel Report
December 6, 2006 Board Meeting

- I. Approve Administrator Appointment – **Michael W. Ashton**, Assistant Jr./Sr. High School Principal, effective date to be determined, at \$76,000 per year prorated.

Background Information: Michael W. Ashton received his bachelor's degree in secondary education, biology and general science and his master's degree in curriculum and instruction with emphasis on instructional leadership from Penn State University. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in public administration with an emphasis on instructional leadership at Immaculata University having successfully completed his written and oral competencies in October 2006. Since May 2004 he has served as the middle school assistant principal for Eastern Lancaster County School District. He was previously employed as a science teacher in the Manheim Township and Cocalico school districts.

- II. Approve Position Guides –

- a. Assistant Elementary Principal
- b. Assistant High School Principal

- III. Approve Administrator Contract – **Dr. Shelly M. Riedel**, Assistant Superintendent, effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010.

- IV. Extend Maternity Leave – **Shana Berg**, Elementary Teacher at West Reading Elementary, extend leave to include the second semester of the 2006-07 school year.

- V. Approve Support Staff Unpaid Leaves –

- a. **Jennifer Wolfe**, part-time Special Education Aide at West Reading Elementary Center, unpaid leave on November 1, 2, and 3, 2006.
- b. **Marcy Wilkes**, part-time cafeteria aide at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center, unpaid leave on January 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, 2007.

- VI. Approve Support Staff Resignation Date – **Evelyn Gechter**, Food Service Worker at the high school, effective November 30, 2006.

Background Information: Mrs. Gechter's retirement was approved on August 28, 2006, to be effective in September, but she agreed to remain an employee until a replacement was found.

- VII. Approve District volunteer list.

- VIII. Approve substitute list for professional/support staff.

Wyomissing Area School District
Addendum to Agenda
December 6, 2006 Board Meeting

BOARD REORGANIZATION

- I. Appoint representative and alternate to the Earned Income Tax Bureau for a one-year term.

PERSONNEL

- I. Approve Support Staff Termination – **Scott Haga**, Custodian, termination effective December 7, 2006.
- II. Approve Support Staff Unpaid Leave – **Linda Long**, Teacher’s Instructional Aide at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center, effective January 2, 3, 4, 5, 2007.
- III. Approve Additional Support Staff Hours – Approve up to 500 additional hours at minimum wage for **Scott Matz**, summer technology helper.