

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Work Session Minutes
February 21, 2006

The Wyomissing Area School District Board of School Directors' work session convened at 6:02 p.m. in the Community/Board Room.

Board Members Present: Mrs. McCready, Mrs. Barnett, Mr. Deem (arr. 6:05 PM), Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Hinsey, Mr. Larkin, Mrs. Sakmann, and Mr. Snyder.

Board Member Absent Dr. Shuttlesworth

Administrators Present: Mr. McDonnell, Dr. Riedel, Mr. Hartman, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Babb, Mrs. Motze, Dr. Zerr, Mrs. Whye, Mrs. Steele, and Dr. Dietz.

Others Present: Brian Boland, Kozloff Stoudt; Ken Phillips, RBC Dain Rauscher; Staff members Amy Beadle and Gail Porrazzo.

I. Personnel –

The Superintendent briefed the Board on the personnel items that will appear on next week's agenda.

II. Curriculum –

Mrs. Whye presented the textbooks being proposed for the upcoming 2006-07 school year that would be included in the budget.

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

III. Finance –

Mr. McDonnell briefed the Board on the final audit report for June 30, 2005, and pointed out that the district received a clean opinion from the audit firm and the financial statements are free of material misstatement and are fairly presented. He also shared some of the items on the management letter with the Board.

Mr. Ken Phillips from RBC Dain Rauscher presented two funding options for the \$1.4 million for the Jr./Sr. High School renovation project, including a bond pool and a bank loan. In addition, he presented another proposal to borrow \$2.4 million, with the additional \$1 million to be used for any other projects the Board approves over the next three years. Also discussed were RBC's fees for the borrowing and the additional bond counsel and bank fees.

Mr. McDonnell presented the debt service budget for the 2006-07 school year and discussed various debt service scenarios that included borrowing for the Jr./Sr. High School project and the additional borrowing for the potential District Office renovation project, noting that these two funding scenarios would not have to impact the 2006-07 tax millage.

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

IV. Facilities –

Mr. Dawson updated the Board on the Jr./Sr. High School project and the status of the auditorium.

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Mr. Dawson and Mr. McDonnell discussed the Special Education/Technology/Business Office Project and distributed copies of the needs assessment for the project. There was much discussion by the Board and administration surrounding the need for the project, and most recognized that some type of solution had to occur to address the lack of confidentiality of students and employees.

Mr. McDonnell commented that the architect's estimate for the project is \$849,000 not \$1 million as previously discussed. He went on to emphasize that this is a very conservative estimate that includes significant contingency dollars due to the multiple phasing of the project. The phasing is needed to allow the 12-month operation of the areas being affected to continue to function during the construction.

Mrs. McCready stated that she felt they should wait to move forward with the project until the new superintendent begins in July to get the person's input.

After much discussion, the Board President asked for an informal opinion from the Board on whether to move forward. Three board members wanted to move forward with the project as presented, three board members wanted to wait until the new superintendent begins, and two did not comment on their preference. President Snyder commented that they should probably wait until the new superintendent has begun to make any big decisions regarding construction, but they can revisit this when everyone is present, possibly at the next meeting.

V. School Activities & Athletics –

The Superintendent briefed the Board on the supplemental athletic appointment of the senior high boys' soccer head coach that will appear on the next agenda.

VI. Technology –

There were no items on the agenda.

VII. Policy –

The Superintendent informed the Board that the policies listed would appear on next week's agenda for adoption.

VIII. Community Relations –

There were no items on the agenda.

IX. Other Items –

Board members were reminded to complete and return the Statement of Financial Interests to the District Office by May 1.

X. Discussion Items –

Dr. Dietz noted that the Board should be pleased with the results of the survey on full-day kindergarten that was prepared by Dr. Kennedy.

Mrs. Whye distributed materials to the Board reviewing the summer school program.

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Mr. McDonnell asked President Snyder if he should add an agenda item for next week regarding the \$1.4 borrowing for the Jr./Sr. High School Project. Mr. Snyder responded that it should appear on the agenda.

XI. Public Comments – None

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m., and Mr. Snyder announced that the Board would meet in executive session for personnel reasons.

Arthur J. McDonnell
School Board Secretary