

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2008-3887

Minutes February 11, 2008

The special meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School with Mr. Snyder, Board President, presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge, the recording secretary called the roll of Board members.

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Barnett, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Hinsey, Mrs. McCready, Mr. Larkin, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Sakmann, and Mr. Snyder.

Administrative Staff Present:

Dr. Larson

Attendees:

Diane Schaeffer, recording secretary.

INTERVIEWED BOARD CANDIDATES

The Board discussed the list of prepared questions that would be used in interviewing the six candidates for the opening created by the resignation of Mr. Deem.

It was agreed that Mr. Larkin would pose the questions to the candidates and each candidate would be limited to approximately 20 minutes.

It was stated that all the candidates will be encouraged to run in the next election.

President Snyder suggested and the Board agreed that they would hold an executive session at the conclusion of the interviews. A vote will occur before the public meeting is adjourned.

The following candidates were interviewed from 6:15 to 8:00 p.m.:

Kurt Althouse	Michael J. Rogers
Andrew Bowman	Michael T. Mitchell, Sr.
William P. Murray	Karen McAvoy

Following the interviews and an executive session, the Board reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

Dr. Pulkowski joined the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER

President Snyder called for a motion to appoint the new Board member.

A motion was made by Mr. Larkin and seconded by Mrs. Barnett to appoint Mr. Kurt Althouse as the new board member.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S
OFFICE**

Dr. Larson asked Dr. Pulkowski to provide information on the Classrooms for the Future Grant Funding.

Dr. Pulkowski shared the following information and requested the Board's approval to pursue Classrooms for the Future (CFF) grant funding for the 2008-09 school year.

Based on current technology tools in place (documented through the PATI, Pennsylvania Technology Inventory, data) and current levels of funding, Wyomissing Area School District would be eligible to receive approximately \$400,000.

Classrooms for the Future is designed to ensure there are laptops, digital cameras, interactive whiteboards, and LCD projectors in public high school English, math, science, and social studies classrooms across Pennsylvania. A robust companion professional development program and grant-subsidized CFF coach guarantee that high school teachers are prepared to integrate these and other technologies into their instructional practices.

Districts have local control and may determine which equipment they will deploy as well as how they will deploy it. Some schools have provided every core content area classroom with a full complement of equipment. Other districts have chosen to provide laptops for every student. Still others have deployed banks of computers in some classrooms, one-to-one computing in other content areas with classroom carts of mobile laptop computers in others.

Since Wyomissing Area is eligible to participate in Year 3 of implementation of CFF, it is advisable for a team of administrators, technology team members, and high school teachers to attend a CFF overview on March 5, 2008, to be prepared to apply for this grant.

She noted that more information on the initiative can be found at the PDE website.

Dr. Larson explained a second grant program, the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Grant and the request for approval to apply for up to \$100,000 from the grant program by the February 19, 2008 deadline.

She provided the following facts about the grant:

The U.S. Department of Education is providing \$96,000,000 in the form of competitive grants to school districts for the purpose of:

- improving and strengthening emergency management plans

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- training school personnel and students in emergency procedures
- coordinating with local government, law enforcement, public safety, public health and mental health agencies.

School districts applying to the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools grant program must address the four phases for emergency management: prevention-mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

She noted the length of the grant is from July 1, 2008, to January 1, 2010, with recipients being notified in June 2008.

Mrs. Barnett inquired why the request to submit applications for the grants must be brought for Board approval. Dr. Larson stated that it is advisable to obtain Board approval when the District applies for sizeable grants.

Dr. Larson and Mr. Larkin reported that discussion had taken place with the finance liaisons about the grants and the commitment to this may mean another position in the district, but not at this point.

Dr. Larson stated that she is fairly confident there is a person who would come to the district who has expertise and may be willing to serve as a consultant.

There was discussion about school resource officers and the ways other school districts are preparing to deal with emergency situations.

Mrs. Barnett asked that the Board look at all options in their planning.

APPROVED
SUBMISSION OF
GRANT APPLICATIONS

A motion was made by Mr. Portner and seconded by Mrs. Barnett to approve the submission of grant applications for the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Grant Program and the Classrooms for the Future Grant Program.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

FACILITIES REPORT

Mrs. McCready provided an update on the athletic fields.

Mrs. McCready proposed that now that the District has received a gift, the Board should challenge the community to match the \$480,000 donation and to complete the A field turf project. She reported she met with Mr. Horn from Architerra to discuss the timeline and what is entailed to complete each step. She noted that she would like to reconvene the field study team and see who is interested in working on a

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capital fund project.

Mr. Portner asked if the turf field was on the priority list. Mrs. McCready provided background information on the field study team and the work done by Architerra during the past year.

Mrs. Sakmann reiterated that the donation was designated for capital improvement, and a turf field will save the District money and time over the next 10 to 12 years.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Larson informed the Board she met with Mike Setley to discuss financing the refunding of the bonds, and the fees would have been \$5,000 more than the proposal presented by RBC Dain Rausher.

After further discussion by the Board, it was agreed that the parameters should be a minimum savings of \$200,000 and the resolution giving direction to RBC Dain Rausher for the purpose of financing the refunding of the General Obligation Series of 2003 and 2003A, be approved as prepared by the solicitor.

APPROVED RESOLUTION TO FINANCE BOND REFUNDING

A motion was made by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mr. Hinsey to set the parameter to be \$200,000 minimum to finance the refunding and approve the resolution as prepared by the solicitor giving direction to RBC Dain Rauscher. (Copy of resolution to be included as part of these official minutes.)

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Corinne D. Mason
Board Secretary