

# WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2011-4294

## Minutes April 11, 2011

The regular meeting with committee reports of the Board of School Directors convened at 6:01 p.m. in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School with Mrs. Davis, Board President, presiding.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, Mrs. Davis asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. No one indicated the intent to record.

Board Members Present: Mrs. Davis, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Helm, Mr. Larkin, Mr. Painter, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Seltzer and Mrs. Sakmann.

Board Member Absent Mrs. Bamberger

Administrative Staff Present: Mr. Krem, Mrs. Vicente, Mrs. Mason, Mr. Fries, Mrs. Morett, and Mr. Roberts.

Attendees: Mr. Brian Boland, Kozloff Stoudt, Mr. David Kostival, Reading Eagle, and Shelley Filer, recording secretary. Audience sign-in sheet included as part of these official minutes.

### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the roll call by the Board secretary, Mrs. Davis welcomed everyone and noted that executive sessions were held April 4, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.; Personnel Committee executive session April 5, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. and another session would be held immediately following this meeting.

The following meeting schedules and locations were announced.

- Uniform Committee Fashion Show - April 12, 2011, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium
- School Board Meeting – Tuesday, April 26, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

All listed meetings are held in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School unless otherwise noted.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Finance – Mrs. Helm reported the meeting was held April 11. Discussion focused on increasing fees for field and facilities use.
- B. Facilities – The committee met April 4 primarily to review and recommend approval of the change orders for the West Reading project.
- C. Curriculum – Mrs. Sakmann reported the committee met April 6. She commented on the items slated for approval and then deferred to Mrs. Vicente for an explanation on the Reading Apprenticeship program. Mrs. Vicente said this is an opportunity to join a state

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initiative for a five-year professional development plan for science teachers, social studies teachers and English teachers at the JSHS at no cost to the district. It will provide increased engagement in text for students.

- D. Technology – Mr. Fitzgerald reported the meeting was held on April 4. Updates from the Technology department were discussed.
- E. Personnel – Mr. Painter reported that Mr. Griscom discussed the necessary internship hours. Also discussed was the method to select the next JSHS principal. Applications are being reviewed hoping to find someone with principal experience. JSHS teachers have been invited to meetings to share the criteria they deem most important in new leadership. This information will be shared with the interview team. The assistant principal/dean positions will be filled after securing the new principal so that person may have input on the decision.
- F. Policy – Mr. Portner reported that the committee met April 5. There are four policies and an attachment on the agenda for first reading.
- G. Ad Hoc Committees
- Economic Development – No report
  - Community Relations – Although there was no recent meeting, Mrs. Seltzer reported that the issue of bullying is a topic of many meetings throughout the district. Going forward, the Community Relations Committee will focus on education regarding bullying and its prevention with community focus groups.
  - Uniform – Mrs. Sakmann reported the fashion show is April 12 and will be student-run with the help of volunteers and parents. Information on the uniform process is on the website. She thanked Mrs. Bamberger for her help with the project. Surveys will be mailed next week.
- H. Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Report – Mrs. Seltzer reported that at the meeting two weeks ago the main topic was budget woes. A tour was given of the new transportation facility.
- I. Berks Career & Technology Center Board Report – Mr. Painter reported that the main topic was the budget. Our portion represents a 10% increase from last year because our BCTC enrollment increased from 34 to 41 students.
- J. Berks EIT Report – No report.

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K. Wyomissing Area Education Foundation – No report.

L. Legislative Report – Mr. Fitzgerald reported there is a legislative breakfast in May. It is an opportunity to meet state representatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Annemarie Melcher asked whether the Board was willing to reconsider their stance on eliminating the kindergarten aides based on comments from the public at the special board meeting April 7. She reiterated her position that the elimination would be detrimental to the students. Mrs. Sakmann assured her the Board had the best interests of students in mind when they made the difficult choices they did. Mrs. Seltzer responded that she would be visiting the kindergarten classrooms later in the week.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

**A. CURRICULUM/  
TECHNOLOGY**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Helm and second by Mr. Painter, the following Curriculum and Technology items were approved:

1. Approved Field Trip Request Improvised Shakespeare Company Performance/Miller Center at RACC, Friday, April 29, 2011.
2. Approved overnight field trip request – National History Bowl Championship, April 16-17, 2011, Washington, DC.
3. Approved homebound instruction for secondary student ID#200594 effective approximately April 3, 2011 to a date to be determined.
4. Approved application for Reading Apprenticeship program.  
*Background information: Reading Apprenticeship is a research-based instructional framework which supports middle and high school students at all levels to develop positive literacy identities and engage with challenging academic texts.*

Yeas: Fitzgerald, Helm, Larkin, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer and Davis.

Absent: Bamberger

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**B. FINANCE/  
FACILITIES**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Helm and second by Mrs. Seltzer, the following Finance and Facilities items were approved:

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1. Approved Change Orders for the West Reading project:
  - a. Change Order GC 010 - \$13,249. Fir-out teaching walls on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors.
  - b. Change Order GC 011 - \$12,357. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor stud wall to replace demolished CMU walls.

Yeas: Fitzgerald, Helm, Larkin, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer and Davis.

Absent: Bamberger

Nays: None. Motion carried.

The other items under the Finance and Facilities were opened for discussion. There were no comments or questions.

## C. PERSONNEL/ POLICY

The Personnel and Policy items were opened for discussion. There were no comments or questions.

## OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Davis announced that Mrs. Devlin, advisor to the student council, will assist in the process of selecting a student representative to the Board. The hope is to have a student representative selected to begin serving in September.

Mrs. Davis also announced that the speaker for graduation will be Katrina Szish. A former graduate of Wyomissing Area, she also graduated from Harvard and is a television host, correspondent, and journalist.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Davis mentioned the Reading Eagle section listing student athletes of the year. Several Wyomissing Area students are featured.

Mrs. Davis met with Mrs. Steele, Director of Food Services, as part of her ongoing process of meeting individually with administrators to better understand their roles and concerns. During a discussion on the Wellness Committee, it was suggested there be Board representation. Mrs. Seltzer volunteered to be the Board representative.

Mrs. Vicente reported that senior Jennifer Helinek has been selected to the All National Honors Choir. She is one of 150 singers across the nation to be selected for this honor. The choir will perform in Washington, DC at the end of June.

Mrs. Seltzer reported that she and Mrs. Bamberger toured the modular classrooms being assembled for the West Reading project. The

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classrooms are expected to arrive on site at the end of April.

Mrs. Seltzer also mentioned that plans are moving forward to erect a flagpole and plaque at the soccer field in memory of Sean Flannery. The next committee meeting is April 20.

**HEARING FROM  
WAEA**

None. Mr. Fitzgerald mentioned that negotiations are ongoing and there is another meeting this week.

**HEARING FROM  
AFSCME**

None.

**HEARING FROM  
WAEF**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Sakmann, seconded by Mr. Portner to adjourn at 6:32 p.m.

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Corinne D. Mason  
Board Secretary