

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2011-4361

Minutes September 26, 2011

The regular 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 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. Bamberger, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Helm, Mr. Painter, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Sakmann and Mrs. Seltzer .

Board Member Absent Mr. Larkin

Administrative Staff Present: Mr. Krem and Mrs. Mason.

Attendees: Ashley Gold, Reading Eagle, Mr. Bruce Ure, Mrs. Janine Ure, Lena Ure, Chelsea Melcher and Shelley Filer, recording secretary.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the roll call by the recording secretary, Mrs. Davis welcomed everyone. Mrs. Davis announced that there were Executive Sessions on September 12, 2011 and before this meeting for discussions on real estate, personnel, and legal issues.

The following meeting schedules and locations were announced.

- Finance/Facilities Committee – Monday, October 3, 2011, 11:30 a.m.
 - Technology/Curriculum Committee – Date to be determined, but it will not be October 3 as previously scheduled.
 - Personnel/Policy Committee Meeting – Tuesday, October 4, 2011, 5:00 p.m.
 - School Board Meeting with Committee Reports – Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 6:00 p.m.
 - School Board Meeting – Monday, October 24, 2011, 6:00 p.m.
- All listed meetings are held in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School unless otherwise noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

ROUTINE APPROVALS

MEETING MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sakmann, second by Mr. Painter, the Board approved the following minutes.

- August 15, 2011 Board Meeting with Committee Reports
- August 22, 2011 Regular Business Meeting

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

Absent: Larkin

Nays: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sakmann, second by Mrs. Seltzer, the Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Mr. Fitzgerald questioned if due to impending adjustments that the approval should be moved to next month. Mrs. Mason responded that her recommendation would be to still approve it as all other accounts have been proved because the cash is our general operating fund. The problem is with the lock box account. We will approve the report next month with Lock Box proved.

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

Absent: Larkin

Nays: None. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon motion by Mr. Portner, second by Mrs. Seltzer, payment of bills for the month of August 2011 was approved.

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

Absent: Larkin

Nays: None. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CURRICULUM/ TECHNOLOGY

No items.

B. FINANCE/ FACILITIES

Upon a motion by Mr. Painter, and second by Mr. Fitzgerald, the Board approved the Finance/Facilities agenda items as follows:

1. Approved donation from the Wyomissing Area Education Foundation in the amount of \$281.50 to reimburse the cost of materials for the permanent tile mural of the hallway entrance to the auditorium.
2. Approved tax collection agreement with Mark Burkholder and Fulton Bank.
Background information: The Borough of West Reading Office of Tax Collector was recently declared vacant. The Borough has appointed Mr. Burkholder as the Tax Collector of the Borough of

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West Reading to serve for the remaining term, expiring January 2, 2012.

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

Absent: Larkin

Nays: None. Motion carried.

C. **PERSONNEL/
POLICY**

Upon a motion by Mr. Painter second by Mrs. Sakmann, the Board approved the Personnel/Policy agenda items as follows:

During discussion Mrs. Bamberger asked whether the appointments were new positions or replacements for open positions. She requested that there always be background information as an explanation.

1. APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS

a. Support Staff

- 1) **Kathy Morris**, Part-time Food Service Worker (Floater) at approximately 4 hours a day at a rate of \$9.67 per hour effective September 27, 2011.
- 2) **Marsha Blevins**, Part-time Cafeteria Monitor at WREC 2 ¼ hours a day at a rate of \$9.67 per hour effective September 27, 2011.
- 3) **Ginger Gantert**, full-time Business Office Secretary, at a salary of \$27,040, prorated effective September, 28, 2011.
Background information: Ms. Gantert is filling the vacancy created by the transfer of Charmaine Beck to Benefits Coordinator.

2. RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

a. Administrative Staff

- 1) **Aaron Roberts**, Principal, WHEC, resigned May 25, 2011, held for 60 days with an effective release date of July 22, 2011.
Background information: Mr. Robert's resignation was approved at the June 27, 2011 Board meeting with an effective date to be determined.

b. Professional Staff

- 1) **Kevin Maier**, Speech and Language Pathologist Jr/Sr. High School and West Reading Elementary Center resignation received July 25, 2011, updated effective date of last day worked as September 21, 2011.

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Background Information: Mr. Maier's 60 day hold obligation to the District placed his effective release date as September 22, 2011. Mr. Maier did not work on September 22, 2011.

- 2) **Brittany Reber**, Transition Coordinator, resignation received August 4, 2011, held for 60 days with an effective date of release as September 30, 2011.
- 3) **Michelle Geist**, Autistic Support Teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School, resignation received August 3, 2011, held for 60 days with an effective date of release as September 30, 2011.

c. Support Staff

- 1) Approve the resignation and separation agreement with Nancy Murray as per the attachment and authorize the appropriate officers of the Board to execute same.

d. Athletics

- 1) **Derek Sell**, Boy's Soccer, Varsity 2nd Co-Assistant Coach, rescind appointment as approved at the June 27, 2011 Board Meeting.
Background information: Mr. Sell was approved by the Board for this position but was unable to accept the position. This position was replaced by Eric Miller, Jr. who has been previously approved by the Board.
- 2) **Carey Manzollilo**, Field Hockey Varsity Head Coach, effective July 27, 2011.
Background Information: Ms. Manzollilo was approved by the Board for this position but was unable to accept the position. This position was replaced by Kelly Ferrandino who was previously approved by the Board.

e. Supplemental Staff

- 1) **Phillip Hornberger**, provider of interim assistance with athletic scheduling at the Jr./Sr. High School, end of interim position effective September 30, 2011.

3. LEAVES

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Bridget Kozuch**, 6th Grade Teacher, WREC, FML effective on or about November 14, 2011 with a return date on or about January 17, 2012.

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- 2) **Amanda Kraft**, 2nd Grade Teacher, WHEC, FML effective on or about November 18, 2011 through the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

b. Support Staff

- 1) **Vernon Levensgood**, Part-time Food Service Worker, WHEC, unpaid leave of absence from September 12, 2011 to September 16, 2011.
- 2) **Lori Scargle**, Teacher Aide/Lunchroom Monitor, WHEC, unpaid leave of absence effective October 17, 2011 to October 21, 2011.

4. SUPPORT TEACHERS

Presented for approval is the following Support Teacher for the new Professional Staff Member for 2011-2012 School Year:

<u>Support Teacher</u>	<u>Inductee</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Melissa Siegfried	Jillian Jarosh	Spec. Ed. Teacher (LTS) (WREC)	\$500

5. POLICIES

Second Reading and Adoption of the following policies:

- 113 Special Education
- 113.1 Discipline of Students with Disabilities
- 113.3 Screening and Evaluations for Students with Disabilities
- 113.6 Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information (*New Policy*)
- 122 Extracurricular Activities
- 218.2 Terroristic Threats (*New Policy*)
- 222 Tobacco Use – Pupils
- 248.1 Relationships Between Adults and Students (*New policy*)
- 323 Tobacco Use – Employees
- 601 Fiscal Objectives
- 619 District Audit – Public
- 718 Service Animals in Schools

Rescind the following policy:

- 225 Students and the Police (*PSBA recommends deletion of policy*)

6. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE DISTRICT SUBSTITUTE LIST (See Attached)

7. ADDITIONS TO VOLUNTEER LIST (See Attached)

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

Absent: Larkin

Nays: None. Motion carried.

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OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Davis announced that the next WAEA negotiation meeting is October 25, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

Mrs. Bamberger presented an update on the status of the Reading Hospital appeals. Reading Hospital has a number of parcels in our school district, ten of which are tax exempt. The total assessed value of these parcels is \$137 million. The lost tax revenue on that is about \$3.8 million per year. They pay taxes on six parcels including The Highlands. During 2010 the Hospital decided to appeal the assessments on three of the six taxable parcels. Due to the significant dollars involved, it severely impacts our budget.

During the last year the District made attempts to contact the Hospital to negotiate some sort of settlement with them as well as negotiate a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreement. Many charitable institutions across the county enter into these agreements including many hospitals such as Lancaster General and Lehigh Valley hospitals in our area. Lancaster General's agreement gives the City of Lancaster and the school district a payment of \$1.3 million per year as their contribution to support their local government and schools. Lehigh Valley Hospital gives their local school district \$1 million per year. St. Joseph's Hospital donated their former property to the Reading School District. Reading Hospital gives our district nothing. Following a meeting in March 2011 with them, they issued a press release saying they wouldn't be giving us anything.

At the end of June, the Board voted to hire Joseph Bright, Esq. who is a recognized expert in Pennsylvania tax law to determine whether the use of the property is for a charitable purpose, which is required under the property tax exception law.

Through the month of July, we received some, but not all, requested information from the Hospital and on August 15, at the deadline, filed tax appeals. The appeals were filed on nine of the Hospital's properties. The hearing before the Board of Assessment Appeals is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on October 11, 2011.

Mrs. Bamberger showed blueprints of the main Hospital property in which a number of private, for-profit physician groups and other businesses are using and occupying significant space in buildings which have been tax exempt.

Mrs. Bamberger said she is optimistic that we have a strong case going into the hearing. She also said the Board would welcome the opportunity for continued dialogue with the Hospital to resolve the matter in an amicable way.

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Mrs. Seltzer also mentioned the article that appeared recently in the newspaper that said the Hospital is planning on breaking ground on a new surgical center valued at approximately \$190 million that will be funded from operating expenses without the need to borrow any money.

Mrs. Sakmann asked what our projected budget deficit is for next year. Mrs. Mason responded that it is about \$770,000 at this time with many caveats. The Hospital appeals makes up about 50% of that deficit or \$416,000 per year.

Mrs. Sakmann and Mr. Krem commented on the passing of Policy 248.1. The policy better defines the appropriate relationship between adult staff members and students. Mr. Krem mentioned that no such policy exists in any other school district in Pennsylvania. It sets specific parameters for acceptable relationships and behavior. If an individual goes beyond the parameters, there will be consequences.

NEW BUSINESS

Lena Ure, grade 2, presented \$9.64 to the Board in funds raised by a lemonade stand in support of a Spanish program at WHEC.

HEARING FROM WAEA

None.

HEARING FROM AFSCME

None.

HEARING FROM WAEF

None.

HEARING FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Chelsea Melcher shared the highlights of Spirit Week at the JSHS with a slide show presentation. Spirit Week culminated with a 70-7 win over Kutztown at the homecoming game.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Helm, seconded by Mrs. Seltzer to adjourn at 6:37 p.m. Mrs. Davis announced there would be an Executive Session immediately following the meeting.

Corinne D. Mason
Board Secretary