

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2011-4368

Minutes October 11, 2011

The regular meeting with committee reports 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, Mr. Larkin, Mr. Painter, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Sakmann and Mrs. Seltzer.

Board Member Absent Mrs. Helm

Administrative Staff Present: Mr. Krem, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Vicente, Mr. Fries, Mr. Griscom, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Lampe, and Mr. Szabo.

Attendees: Ms. Carole Duran, Reading Eagle, and Shelley Filer, recording secretary.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following meeting schedules and locations were announced.

- School Board Meeting – October 24, 2011, 6:00 p.m.
- Technology Committee Meeting – Tuesday, November 1, 2011, 3:30 p.m.
- Personnel/Policy Committee Meeting – Tuesday, November 1, 2011, 5:00 p.m.
- Finance/Facilities Committee Meeting – Monday, November 7, 2011, 11:30 a.m.
- Curriculum Committee Meeting – Monday, November 7, 2011, 4:30 p.m.

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

Mrs. Davis announced that the Board met in Executive Session on September 26, 2011 and September 29, 2011 regarding Personnel. No action was taken.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance – Mrs. Mason reported that everything that was discussed at the committee meeting is presented on the evening's agenda.

B. Facilities – Mr. Larkin reported that the committee received an update from Mr. Fries on the change orders for the WREC project. Even with the change orders, we are still under budget. In addition, Mr. Fries had a study of our turf field conducted that determined, for its age, it is still in good condition. Although it has surpassed its life expectancy, we can probably still use it for 2-3 more years.

C. Curriculum – Mrs. Sakmann reported that Curriculum and

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Technology combined their meetings to discuss merits and deficiencies of our current software.

- D. Technology – Mr. Fitzgerald had nothing further to report.
- E. Personnel – Mr. Painter had nothing further to report than what is presented on the evening’s agenda.
- F. Policy – Mr. Portner reported that several policies were discussed that are on the agenda for first and second readings.
- G. Ad Hoc Committees
 - Community Relations – No report
- H. Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Report – Mrs. Seltzer reported that there is a meeting next week.
- I. Berks Career & Technology Center Board Report – Mr. Painter reported that the BCTC Board approved purchasing a parcel of land to build a CDL training center. The purchase price is expected to be recouped in about 4 ½ years.
- J. Berks EIT Report – Mr. Larkin suggested choosing a new representative before he leaves the Board so that person could accompany him to the next meeting.
- K. Wyomissing Area Education Foundation – Mrs. Lampe reported that WAEF will conduct a major donor campaign in November. They discussed in depth the communication systems for the JSBS and the rest of the District. They decided supporting it did not fit in their mission; however they offered to help in other ways. They would consider a special campaign for that purpose.
- L. Legislative Report – No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. CURRICULUM/ TECHNOLOGY

No items.

B. FINANCE/ FACILITIES

Upon a motion by Mr. Larkin, second by Mrs. Sakmann, the following Finance/Facilities items were approved:

During discussion Mrs. Bamberger explained that during our

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investigation of the tax exempt status of the Reading Hospital properties we decided to focus our efforts in one particular appeal; that being the main building. At the request of Mr. Painter, Mrs. Davis confirmed that counsel recommended that we withdraw the noted appeal.

1. Authorized the Solicitor to withdraw the appeal filed by the Wyomissing Area School District to Board of Assessment's decision granting real estate tax exemption to Reading Hospital and Medical Center for property at 401 Buttonwood Street, such appeal being filed at No. 10-21984, Berks County Court of Common Pleas.
2. Approved settlement agreement with parents of secondary student ID 204714.

Yeas: Bamberger, Davis, Fitzgerald, Larkin, Painter, Portner, Sakmann and Seltzer

Absent: Helm

Nays: None. Motion carried.

The remaining Finance and Facilities items were opened for discussion. Mrs. Mason noted that once the Fitness Center membership fees are approved, we will begin the process of advertising on the website and post notices at the field house to allow for about two months notice before the fees go into effect.

C. PERSONNEL/ POLICY

Upon a motion by Mrs. Seltzer, second by Mr. Larkin, the following Personnel/Policy items were approved:

During discussion Mr. Fitzgerald questioned whether the hours for Saturday detention were covered in the budget. Mrs. Davis responded that these duties were formerly covered by a position that no longer exists. Mr. Jones will make every effort to consolidate detentions to use as few Saturdays as possible.

1. APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Caitlin Frazer**, Long Term Substitute English Teacher, Jr./Sr. High School, effective long term sub date changed to September 28, 2011, replacing Mariel Jordan who is on leave under the FMLA.

Background Information: Ms. Frazer was approved by the Board as a long term substitute teacher on August 15, 2011 with an effective date on or about October 3, 2011. Due to Ms. Jordan's unexpected early departure under the FMLA, Ms. Frazer's effective date has been updated to September 28, 2011.

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2. RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

a. Supplemental Staff

- 1) **Phillip Hornberger**, provider of interim assistance with athletic scheduling at the Jr./Sr. High School, end of interim position updated effective date of last day worked to September 21, 2011.

Background Information: At the September 26, 2011 Board Meeting, the Board approved Mr. Hornberger's last day of employment as September 30, 2011; however, Mr. Hornberger completed his interim position on September 21, 2011.

3. LEAVES

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Mariel Jordan**, English Teacher, Jr./Sr. High School, updated effective date of September 28, 2011 until the end of the 2011-2012 school term.
- 2) **Amy Stewart-Himes**, Elementary Teacher, WHEC, leave under FMLA, effective October 18, 2011 with a return date on or about November 8, 2011.
- 3) **Joseph Kollar**, Chemistry Teacher, Jr./Sr. High School, on leave under the FMLA effective November 11, 2011 with a return date on or around December 12, 2011.

4. ADDITIONAL HOURS

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Joelle Ostrich**, Teacher, Jr./Sr. High School, 2 hours, \$32 per hour for analyzing student data for student strategy assessments.

Background Information: The above summer work hours were not previously approved by the Board; however, the teachers were not aware that the time was not approved. The teachers each worked two hours analyzing student data and, therefore, must be paid.

- 2) **Melissa Devlin**, Teacher, Jr./Sr. High School, 2 hours, \$32 per hour for analyzing student data for student strategy assessments.

Background Information: The above summer work hours were not previously approved by the Board; however, the teachers were not aware that the time was not approved. The teachers

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each worked two hours analyzing student data and, therefore, must be paid.

- 3) **Lindsay Rada**, Teacher, Jr./Sr. High School, 2 hours, \$32 per hour for analyzing student data for student strategy assessments.

Background Information: The above summer work hours were not previously approved by the Board; however, the teachers were not aware that the time was not approved. The teachers each worked two hours analyzing student data and, therefore, must be paid.

- 4) **James Comerford**, Teacher, Jr./Sr. High School, 2 hours, \$32 per hour for analyzing student data for student strategy assessments.
- Background Information: The above summer work hours were not previously approved by the Board; however, the teachers were not aware that the time was not approved. The teachers each worked two hours analyzing student data and, therefore, must be paid.*

- 5) **Margaret Shomgard**, Teacher Jr./Sr. High School, to be approved to cover Saturday Detention responsibilities at the prevailing professional contracted hourly rate of \$32/hr. for the 2011-12 school year.

Background Information: Due to the reduction in staff, there was no one to cover Saturday Detentions. Interested teachers were identified to accept this additional responsibility on a rotating basis.

- 6) **Ryan Hassler**, Teacher Jr./Sr. High School, to be approved to cover Saturday Detention responsibilities at the prevailing professional contracted hourly rate of \$32/hr. for the 2011-12 school year.

Background Information: Due to the reduction in staff, there was no one to cover Saturday Detentions. Interested teachers were identified to accept this additional responsibility on a rotating basis.

- 7) **Joseph Allen**, Teacher Jr./Sr. High School, to be approved to cover Saturday Detention responsibilities at the prevailing professional contracted hourly rate of \$32/hr. for the 2011-12 school year.

Background Information: Due to the reduction in staff, there was no one to cover Saturday

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Detentions. Interested teachers were identified to accept this additional responsibility on a rotating basis.

5. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO SUBSTITUTE LIST (See Attached)

6. ADDITIONS TO VOLUNTEER LIST (See Attached)

7. POLICIES

Second Reading/adoption of the following policy:
218.1 - Weapons and Their Replicas

Yeas: Bamberger, Davis, Fitzgerald, Larkin, Painter, Portner, Sakmann and Seltzer

Absent: Helm

Nays: None. Motion carried.

The remaining Personnel and Policy items were opened for discussion. Mr. Portner clarified that Policy 221 – Dress and Grooming is being revisited because some of the regulations were difficult to enforce as written. Mr. Jones reported that the daily infractions are decreasing.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Davis reminded everyone that the rededication of WREC is scheduled for October 12 at 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. Bamberger reported on the hearing before the Board of Assessment earlier in the day. She indicated we filed protective appeals to give us the time to conduct a thorough investigation to challenge the tax exemption status of the Hospital's properties. Subsequent to August 15, 2011 we requested substantial information from the Hospital, only some of which has been provided. The decision was made to focus our continuing challenge on our strongest case which is the existence of for-profit businesses within the tax exempt property. At the morning hearing, we withdrew eight of our original appeals. Even if the property is a charity, it must be used to further the charitable purposes. Although our attorneys feel we have a strong case, a decision will not be forthcoming until November 2011. New appeals can be filed on a yearly basis. This appeal could amount to several hundred thousand dollars. Mrs. Davis publicly thanked Mrs. Bamberger for efforts.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked for an update on the status of the fire at the JSHS and the electrical outage. Mr. Fries reported that the electrical outage was not a district problem, but that of PPL caused by squirrels. The outage provided an unexpected benefit in that it was discovered a portion of the public address system at the high school was not plugged into the generator backup. That has now been corrected.

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The rooftop unit over the new hallway overheated and was contained to the unit. Trane Company has taken full responsibility for the fire and the damage. They have agreed to provide temporary heating and cooling as needed and will replace the unit which will take approximately six weeks. They will also perform air monitoring and have replaced the defective part responsible for the fire in our other units.

Mr. Painter, who happened to be in the Guidance Office when the power went out, commended Mr. Jones and his staff for how they handled the situation.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

HEARING FROM WAEA

None.

HEARING FROM AFSCME

None.

HEARING FROM WAEF

None.

HEARING FROM PTA

None.

HEARING FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Bamberger, seconded by Mr. Painter to adjourn at 6:31 p.m.

Corinne D. Mason
Board Secretary