

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2013-4688

Minutes November 25, 2013

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. Butera, Board President, presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Bamberger, Mrs. Butera, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Helm, Mr. Larkin, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. Painter, Mr. Portner and Mrs. Seltzer.

Administrative Staff Present:

Mrs. Vicente, Mr. Stem, Mr. Fries, Mr. Griscom, and Dr. Jones.

Attendees:

Howard Kelin, Esq of Kegel Kelin Almy & Lord, Matthew Nojiri, Reading Eagle, and Shelley Filer, recording secretary. Audience sign-in sheet included as part of these official minutes.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Butera announced that an Executive Session was held following the November 11, 2013 meeting and prior to this meeting to discuss personnel issues. No action was taken.

The following meeting schedules and locations were announced:

- School Board Reorganization – Tuesday, December 3, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
- School Board Business Meeting – December 3, 2013, following reorganization.

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

PRESENTATION

Mr. Stem and Mr. Griscom provided an update on the 21st Century Learning project in which a committee of teachers across the District are linking technology with educational needs. The committee has been focusing on how we are using technology to prepare students to be college- and career-ready. The Core Standards have been used to determine direct and indirect references to technology. This may also impact SAT tests as they are redesigned. The committee favors moving to a 1:1 environment – supplying all students with their own laptop or tablet. In order to be effective, this program will need to be supported with professional development. Mr. Griscom presented various options for supplying technology on a 1:1 basis that will remain within the existing budget of our master lease. Mr. Griscom said by choosing the hybrid laptop option in combination with a tablet we can outfit all students with minimal impact to the existing budget. Much of the software is run on the server which minimizes the power needed by the device. Mr. Griscom also provided an update on the iPad program and discussed its strengths and weaknesses as

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perceived by the teachers. Teachers overwhelmingly supported continuing the program; however, some suggested changes. The next step is for the committee to make a recommendation for which grade levels will start the initiative, identify applicable hardware and software, and evaluate where we are in the lease cycle.

RECOGNITION

Mrs. Butera presented outgoing four-year term members Mrs. Bamberger and Mrs. Helm with a plaque and gold membership activities plate for their service. (Mr. Larkin who most recently was filling an unexpired term due to a resignation received the same gifts of appreciation when he retired from the Board in 2011.)

BOARD UPDATE

Mrs. Butera provided an update on the proposed Spartan Pride Stadium Project in an effort to answer questions previously posed by residents in the community.

Mr. Kelin discussed the permit application process. On November 12, the District filed a miscellaneous permit application with Wyomissing Borough. On November 14, the District also submitted a building permit application. On November 20, the District's engineer was advised that a land development is needed as well.

Mrs. Davis reviewed the proposal being discussed by the Development Committee to refurbish and redesign the configuration of the tennis courts which is significantly less expensive than rebuilding them. She said she is hoping the Board would commit the \$50,000 that it would have cost to demolish the courts into refurbishing them. The other approximately \$100,000 could be raised through fundraising efforts or perhaps through a collaboration with the Borough because the community uses the courts more than the District.

Mr. Painter questioned if the fundraising efforts for the tennis courts would be separate from the fundraising for the fence project. Mrs. Davis thought the committee could be creative and flexible with the fundraising to meet the wishes of the donors.

Mrs. Davis questioned the solicitor if there was a way that the Board's intention to allow community access to the stadium field could be preserved that future Boards couldn't change. Mr. Kelin said it could be investigated; however, there is a general concept that an existing Board cannot unduly bind the hands of future Boards.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Several residents including Heidi Silverman, Jim Cardi, David Tierney and Mark Proudfoot raised additional questions regarding maintenance, safety, construction materials, public input, the tennis wall, etc. that were not covered in the earlier update on the project.

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Residents including Gail Freymoyer, Kimberly Lewis, Susan Larkin, and Colin Duncan expressed dismay that the Board is not considering that 650 residents have signed a petition opposing the project.

Mike Gyomber, boys' tennis coach, suggested that the District accept full financial responsibility for the tennis courts now so repairs could begin, but still accept fundraising monies to defray the cost.

Mark Proudfoot expressed concern about the 1:1 pilot program with regards to measuring radiation from wifi connectivity in classrooms.

Stephen Krupa asked questions concerning the consultant on the project, accident liability, and whether privately raised funds can be used to modify publicly owned land.

John Larkin, Jr. asked whether lacrosse games could be played at Flannery Field. Eric Krupa also suggested a field in West Reading as an alternative.

Patricia Ori suggested listing the project as a question on a ballot.

ROUTINE APPROVALS

MEETING MINUTES

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

- October 15, 2013 Business Meeting with Committee Reports
- October 28, 2013 Regular Business Meeting.

Yeas: Bamberger, Butera, Davis, Helm, Larkin, McAvoy, Painter, Portner and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon a motion by Mr. Portner second by Mrs. Bamberger, the Treasurer's Report for October 2013 was accepted as presented.

Yeas: Bamberger, Butera, Davis, Helm, Larkin, McAvoy, Painter, Portner and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon a motion by Mr. Painter, second by Mrs. Helm, payment of bills for the month of October 2013 was approved.

Yeas: Bamberger, Butera, Davis, Helm, Larkin, McAvoy, Painter, Portner and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CURRICULUM/ TECHNOLOGY

Upon a motion by Mrs. Seltzer, and second by Mrs. McAvoy, the Board approved the Curriculum/Technology agenda items as follows.

1. Approved Program of Studies 2014-15.
2. Approved Overnight Field Trip Request – Performance trip for WAHS Chorale and Drama members in New York, NY, March 14-15, 2014.

Yeas: Bamberger, Butera, Davis, Helm, Larkin, McAvoy, Painter, Portner and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

B. FINANCE/ FACILITIES

Upon a motion by Mr. Portner, and second by Mrs. Davis, the Board approved the Finance/Facilities agenda items as follows.

During discussion, Mrs. Bamberger asked for clarification on the donation from Patient First. Mr. Stem explained that this is the second year we have received these funds as part of their community outreach program.

Mrs. Butera thanked the donors for their generous contributions.

In response to Mrs. Davis' question about the timeline of the re-turf project, Mr. Fries said he anticipates the project will be underway late April or early May.

1. Approved 2013-14 budget transfers in the amount of \$5,700.
2. Approved donation from Patient First in the amount of \$1,023.13 to be used to reimburse the purchase of book bins and related supplies at WHEC.
3. Approved the following donations from Citizens Social Committee of Wyomissing Hills:
 - \$500 towards registration fees for the after school Science Explorers program
 - \$500 towards band and orchestra rental fees, not to exceed 50% of the fee per student.

Background information: These donations are to be used for students in need of financial assistance who wish to participate in these programs.

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4. Approved the following donations from the Wyomissing Area Education Foundation:
 - \$3,107.82 to be used to purchase ten mobile whiteboards and dry-erase supplies to create a “360° kinesthetic library lab” at the JSHS.
 - \$10,335 in EITC funds for reimbursement of interactive whiteboards purchased by the district in July 2013 for the Wyomissing Area Junior Senior High School.
 - \$520 to be used to frame artwork created during a Japan-US cultural exchange program for the permanent collection.
5. Approved the purchase of 32 walkie-talkies for Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center and West Reading Elementary Center from Radio Maintenance Inc. in the amount of \$10,042.45.
Background information: This purchase will be made from district Capital Project funds.
6. Approved agreement with Berks County Intermediate Unit for instructional services in accordance with the Title I Reading Program in the amount of \$7,015.68
Background information: These services are required for District residents who attend non-public schools.
7. Approved agreement with Berks County Intermediate Unit for emotional support services for selected students in grades 4-6 for the 2013-14 school year.
Background information: The monthly fee for these services will be \$16,508 with an effective start date to be determined.
8. Approved Change Order No.1 for Contract No. 2 Hayward Baker, Inc. for the Stadium Field Subsurface Project in the amount of (-)\$38,652.
Background information: The contract with Hayward Baker, Inc. is a unit price type contract where we pay only for the total quantity of grout drilling and grout placement completed. The contract includes a not-to-exceed price based on the engineer’s estimate. This change order documents that the work is complete and under the budget estimate.
9. Authorized administration to advertise and accept bids for the JSHS Re-turf Project.

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Yeas: Bamberger, Butera, Davis, Helm, Larkin, McAvoy, Painter, Portner and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

C. **PERSONNEL/ POLICY**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Seltzer, second by Mrs. Helm, the Board approved the Personnel/Policy agenda items as follows.

1. RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT/TERMINATION

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Athena Elzer**, Part-time Library Aide, WHEC, resignation effective November 22, 2013.
- 2) **Aimee Round**, Part-time Library Aide, WHEC, resignation effective November 15, 2013.

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Dana Quinlivan**, Guidance Counselor, Family Medical Leave on or about January 13, 2014 followed by a Leave of Absence with a return to work date to be determined.

b. Support Staff

- 1) **Linda Hettrick**, Custodian Foreperson, District-wide, unpaid leave of absence November 4, 2013 to November 7, 2013 with a return to work date of November 8, 2013.
- 2) **Mary Lieberman**, Special Education Instructional Aide, WREC, Family Medical Leave effective November 20, 2013 to December 6, 2013 with a return date of December 9, 2013, followed by intermittent Family Medical Leave beginning December 9, 2013 until on or about February 20, 2014.
- 3) **Linda Tucker**, Food Service Worker, JSHS, unpaid leave of absence, effective November 18, 2013 through November 22, 2013.
- 4) **Gloria Claudio**, Custodian, JSHS, intermittent Family Medical Leave beginning September 5, 2013 until a date to be determined.

3. APPOINTMENTS

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Ginger Johnson**, Long Term Substitute Guidance Counselor, JSHS, at a wage rate based upon B/Step 1 (\$40,720) pro-rated in accordance with effective start date on or about January 13, 2014. *Background information: This position is being filled as the result of a Family Medical Leave.*

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b. Support Staff

- 1) **Marsha DeHaven**, Food Service Worker-Floater, JSHS, part-time at 4-5 hours/day, \$9.89/hour, effective December 3, 2013 pending satisfactory completion of all employment requirements.
Background: Ms. DeHaven is filling a vacancy created as the result of a resignation during the 2012-13 school year.
- 2) **Kelly Maillie**, Special Education Instructional Aide, WHEC, part-time 6 ½ hours/day (32.5 hours/week), at \$11.55/hour, effective December 3, 2013 pending satisfactory completion of all employment requirements.
Background: This position is being filled as the result of a resignation at the end of the 2012-13 school year which in turn resulted in internal reassignments.

c. Supplemental Staff

- 1) **Amanda Hetrick**, Head Junior Varsity Girls Basketball Coach, effective November 26, 2013 for the 2013-14 sports season pending satisfactory completion of all employment requirements.

4. WORK OUTSIDE CONTRACT HOURS

a. Professional Staff

- 1) Requesting approval for the following teachers who have agreed to be tutors for the WHEC after school tutoring program scheduled for Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays effective on or about December 3, 2013 through the end of the 2013-14 school year at the WAEA wage rate for work outside contract hours:
 - a) Nancy Chaiko
 - b) Meredith Emkey
 - c) Stephanie Heffner
 - d) Amanda Kraft
 - e) Shauna Mehlbaum
 - f) Colleen Reinecker
 - g) Nancy Robinson
 - h) Doug Shuey
 - i) Amy Stewart-Himes
 - j) Jill Werley

Background information: Students will be tutored in math and reading. Funds are provided through the federal Accountability Block Grant.

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5. UPDATED POSITION DESCRIPTION

- a. Request approval of the updated position description for the position of Library Aide.

Background information: This updated position description which better reflects the current duties of the Library Aide.

6. SUBSTITUTES

Approved the addition of the following substitutes contingent upon satisfactory completion of all employment requirements:

a. Professional Staff

- 1) Katelyn Bucciaglia (Teacher) – Addition
- 2) Emilee Hart (Guest Teacher) – Addition
- 3) Tina Henderson (Guest Teacher) – Addition
- 4) Dana Borzellini (Teacher) - Addition

b. Support Staff

- 1) Tracy Vida (Aide) – Addition
- 2) Athena Elzer – (Aide) Addition
- 3) Pauline Watts – (Aide) Addition

7. VOLUNTEERS

Yeas: Bamberger, Butera, Davis, Helm, Larkin, McAvoy, Painter, Portner and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Larkin expressed his belief that the Board should consider the wishes of the 650 opponents when voting on the Spartan Pride Stadium project.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Seltzer voiced her support of the project especially in view of recent vandalism to the field.

Mrs. Davis expressed her gratitude to the outgoing Board members. Mrs. Bamberger and Mrs. Helm both shared parting messages with the Board.

UPDATE FROM ORGANIZATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Bamberger, seconded by Mrs. Helm to adjourn at 7:26 p.m.

Board Secretary