

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-6104

Minutes November 8, 2021

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 4:46 p.m. in the Community Board Room with Mrs. Maria Ziolkowski, Board President presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

Following the pledge of allegiance, Mrs. Ziolkowski asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. Mr. Arnst indicated he will be recording the meeting.

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger (arrived at 4:45pm), Mr. Redner (arrived at 4:51pm), Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, and Mrs. Ziolkowski.

Board Members Absent:

None.

Administrative Staff Present:

Mr. Scoboria, Dr. Woodard, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Arnst, Mr. Cafoncelli, and Dr. Jones.

Attendees:

Alex Gabryluk, Technology Support

An audience sign-in sheet is included as part of these official minutes.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Finance Committee Workshop – November 17, 2021, 4:00 p.m., Community Board Room
- School Board Business Meeting – November 22, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Community Board Room

Mrs. Ziolkowski announced an executive session would be held following tonight's meeting to discuss a legal issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ROUTINE APPROVALS

MEETING MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. McCaffrey second by Mrs. Taylor the Board approved the following minutes:

- October 11, 2021 Committee of the Whole

Yeas: Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, and Mrs. Ziolkowski.

Absent at time of vote: Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner.

Absent: None.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

COMMITTEES

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**A. CURRICULUM/
TECHNOLOGY**

Curriculum/Technology – Mrs. Waxler/Dr. Woodard/Dr. Jones

Dr. Woodard shared they would like to present some exciting items that match the work being done with the Board and the strategic planning process as well as with the comprehensive planning. These items affect students K-12.

The purpose of the meeting is to introduce some concepts for authentic learning experiences for our students, empowering our students to create their own futures.

Dr. Woodard reviewed the key areas of focus being, student schedule adjustment, increased partnerships with universities and local school districts and WASD graduation credits.

Dr. Woodard spoke about the *Why* for adjusting the student schedule citing research and data provided by the medical community supporting the need for increased sleep for teenagers. Dr. Woodard said they have found that students who do have a later start time, do not go to bed later. Research has found that getting the recommended amount of sleep helps students maintain their physical health, emotional well-being and school performance.

Dr. Woodard discussed increased partnerships with local industry, universities and school districts. Such as a focus on continued collaboration with local schools to increase the variety of academic opportunities for students; JROTC, Mandarin Chinese, and BCTC Diversified Occupations Program, which is strictly for seniors who would be in the workplace for part of their day and paid for their time.

Dr. Woodard reviewed on campus academic offerings at local colleges, such as dual enrollment through Albright College SRI Program and early college program at RACC. The RACC early college program would enable students who are planning to attend RACC after graduation, to take 6 credits at RACC, on campus in the 2nd semester of their high school senior year.

Dr. Woodard said the local partnerships will provide students with alternatives to Pennsylvania's statewide requirement of attaining proficiency on the three end-of-course Keystone Exams with ACT 158 implementation for the class of 2023.

Dr. Woodard reviewed the statewide graduation requirement number compared with the current WASD credit requirement and suggests a reduction in the requirement; not reducing the rigor, but introducing opportunity for authentic education experiences to better prepare students for success after high school graduation.

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Dr. Woodard shared, next steps would be to hear from stakeholders; administration, staff, WAEA leadership, parents and students.

Logistics impacted include bell schedules, principal collaboration, BCTC, transportation, communicating with Albright and RACC and collaboration with local school districts.

Dr. Woodard said, ultimately, we would reconvene in January for an update on progress and propose the 2022-23 program of studies for approval which would incorporate many of these pieces.

Mr. Pottieger asked, why decrease the credits? Why can't we consider the experience to be the credit? Dr. Jones said, they would be, they are credited courses. He provided some examples.

Mrs. Taylor asked if we start later and end later, how does this impact the afterschool activities and jobs?

Dr. Jones said they would do their best to not impact those activities, and would work to have no impact, such as absorbing 7 minutes of homeroom into first period. The current schedule for students is 7:34-2:15, teachers 7:25 -2:55. Classes are 41 minutes long.

Mrs. Waxler asked if we have any seniors enrolled in the current senior BCTC program? Dr. Jones said he is not aware of any of our students enrolled in that program.

Mrs. Waxler asked if there are scholarships available for students at RACC? Mr. Scoboria said there are some ways that scholarships could be offered for dual enrollment students.

Mrs. Waxler asked, regarding transportation; not all kids have access to cars and transportation. Dr. Jones said that is a challenge. We partner with Wilson and split the cost, but that is the challenge with internships and right now that is the student's responsibility.

Mrs. Waxler asked, if they are in SRI and coming in on two mornings, what classes are they alternating with? Dr. Woodard explained, they are actually at SRI every morning and coming here in the afternoon, similar to BCTC.

Dr. Woodard said we will provide transportation to the SRI program and with RACC as well.

Mrs. Waxler asked, regarding alternate pathways for Keystones, do those cover all three keystones? Does one pathway completion cover all three keystones? Dr. Woodard said yes, if evidence based, they do cover

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all three, but it is more complicated than that and Dr. Woodard will review in depth at another meeting.

Mr. McCaffrey asked do we have access to the national clearing house to see where students end up? Dr. Woodard said, yes, we do have access to the clearinghouse again.

Mr. McCaffrey asked, with students leaving classrooms are we looking at cutting teachers jobs? Mr. Scoboria said they met with the Association and will be meeting with them again. Dr. Woodard and Dr. Jones met with teachers at Wilson and found teachers there are in the process of developing high interest classes. They found student interest in electives went up.

Mr. McCaffrey suggests to look at options for students who are involved in sports and provide flexibility with PE courses.

Mrs. Taylor asked, what about students who already have a part-time job? Dr. Jones said they can roll that right into the program. Mrs. Taylor is also concerned about reducing staff. You get one credit per year per class for a 6-day cycle class. Are we phasing classes out? Dr. Jones said we are not looking at phasing anything out, but they will have to review and see what classes will we run with less requests.

Mrs. Taylor asked, do we allow students to leave if they have study hall near end of day? Dr. Jones said we do not currently have that but are considering that.

Mrs. Ziolkowski asked if we have career ready survey. Dr. Jones said yes, we do.

Mrs. McAvoy shared there will be a change order coming for Wyomissing Hills involving the replacement of a sidewalk.

Mrs. Taylor asked if it is correct that the playground at the Hills is being relocated? Mr. Cafoncelli said yes, it is getting shifted a little bit.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Redner second by Mrs. Phillips to adjourn at 5:57 p.m.

Board Secretary