

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-6075

Minutes September 27, 2021

The regular meeting with committee reports of the Board of School Directors, convened in the Community Board Room at 6:01 p.m. with Mrs. Maria Ziolkowski, Board President, presiding.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Board Members Present: Mrs. Harenza, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips (via Zoom), Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner (via Zoom), Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, and Mrs. Ziolkowski

Board Members Absent: Mrs. McAvoy.

Administrative Staff Present: Mr. Scoboria, Dr. Woodard, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Arnst, Mr. Cafoncelli.

Attendees: Alex Gabryluk, Technology Support
An audience sign-in sheet is included as part of these official minutes.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Facilities Committee Workshop – October 6, 2021 – 4:30 p.m.
Community Board Room
- Committee of the Whole Meeting – October 11, 2021 – 4:45 p.m.
Community Board Room
- School Board Business Meeting – October 25, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
Community Board Room

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representatives Bianca Flowers and Emily Diehl reported on the following Items:

Clubs and Activities

- Service Club students are working with the Wyomissing Borough in preparation for this year's Spooky Hollow event that hosts Halloween festivities for our community. Activities include face painting, carnival games, and a haunted house. Many other JSHS clubs participate as well with set-up and facilitating activities.
- A group of Wyomissing Area students recently participated in the Autism Society of Berk's County's Autism Awareness Walk at First Energy Stadium on September 19th.
- Students at the JSHS participated in Spirit Week in September organized by the Student Council. Annual favorite activities include hallway decorating, Powder Puff Ultimate Frisbee, Knockout, Spirit Games, Wyo Inferno, Minute-to-win it, and more! Our junior-high students participated in an outdoor dodgeball competition as well. This is a favorite week for many students and is a great way to celebrate school spirit!

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- The Wyomissing Area Drama Club has begun rehearsals and preparations for this year's Fall Thing production which will take place on November 20th.
- Environmental club is taking advantage of the beautiful early fall weather and has a club hike scheduled at Blue Marsh coming up in early October.

Athletics

- Our Spartan girls soccer team currently holds a 7-0 record and is the only undefeated girls soccer team in Berks County.
- Our Spartan football team competed in this year's Homecoming Game on Saturday September 18th. At the game, we recognized our Class of 2022 Homecoming Court. The members of the Queen's court were Emily Shirk, Elizabeth Harenza, Julia Metri, Jabrea Flowers, Charlotte Lazarchick-Oberti, and Evelyn Ramirez. Evie was elected as this year's Maid of Honor and Jabrea Flowers is the 2021 Homecoming Queen. The members of the King's court were Andres Herrera, Aleko Zeppos, Brandon Vargo, Demetrios Scantzios, Aiden Mack, Levite Soto, Elijah Robertson, and Johnathon Leader. This year's Prince Elijah Robertson and King Andres Herrera were crowned during Spirit Games at the conclusion of Spirit Week.
- The JSBS is excited to offer Water Polo to our Spartan athletes this year in partnership with Exeter Township School District. Our Spartans on the team are William Fanning, Payton Wagner, Joshua Cole, Olivia Tipton, and Jonah Matteo.

LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Report – Mrs. Taylor reported the last meeting was held on September 16th and she was not in attendance. She believes most Board members received the “What Happened at the Meeting” email. She noted they honored Brian Gottshall, the Director of the Berks County Dept. of Emergency Services as the 2021 Outstanding Community Partner. The next meeting is scheduled for October 18th.
- B. Berks Career & Technology Report – Mr. Pottieger reported the meeting was held on September 22nd and was the first time in 18 months that they received a prepared meal in the restaurant by the students of the BCTC. He shared they are excited to have the restaurant back open and said for those that do not know, normally before the Board meetings the students prepare dinner and it is a very nice meal. Mr. Pottieger reported BCTC is pleased with the performance of their programs; having 21 of their programs considered 100 % competent or advanced and 10 programs that are 100% advanced. He reported they had good participation at the Oley

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Fair, and he also highlighted the results of the vote of their Health and Safety Plan saying it passed 14-2. The theme this year is *believe*, and they feel they are off to a really good start. He reported it was a very good meeting.

- C. Berks EIT Report – Mr. Boyer said the meeting was held on August 23rd. He did not attend due to a conflict. Next meeting will be held next quarter.
- D. Wyomissing Area Education Foundation – Mr. McCaffrey reported they met on September 20th and they welcomed Andy Allenbach to the Board of Directors and Meg White attending her first meeting. They are actively recruiting some more members for treasurer, accountant and attorney. This weekend will be the Cornhole Tournament and the McCready fund was finalized that focuses on specific literacy projects in grade levels at WHEC. When using Amazon, order online at smile.amazon.com. Next meeting is October 18th at 6:30pm.
- E. Legislative Report – Mrs. Harenza reported, at the federal level in August the senate approved the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill that has a lot of different elements that would benefit schools. They have to work on budget reconciliation which is currently proposed at \$3.5 trillion and the House Ed and Labor Committee approved their portion of the Build Back Better proposal which would invest \$700 billion in childcare, universal pre-k, significant investment in school infrastructure; but it will take some time for the bill to pass the senate as it needs to be smaller. The President passed an executive order creating a multi-agency task force studying systemic changes creating hardships for Latino students who continue to face disproportionate impact during the pandemic. She reported at the state level, Governor Wolf proposed regulations for charter schools intended to hold applicants accountable for academic performance and ensure fiscal standards. PSBA unveiled a new advocacy campaign for members to involve local communities and chambers of commerce in charter school funding reform. PDE has proposed new regulations for charter schools also emphasizing accountability. As a note, charter schools are expected to receive \$3 billion in publicly paid tuition in the 2020-21 school year. She reported the House Health Committee voted 15-5 along party lines to ask a joint commission on documents to determine if the health secretary overstepped her power on the universal masking order and said the House returned early to address mask mandate but instead tabled 9 mandates that would have challenged the mask mandates. The House Education Committee pushed out broad based mandatory voucher plans and PSBA is very upset and advises Boards

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to address their legislators. PSBA feels it is very aggressive, and danger to school districts. Mrs. Harenza said she forwarded an email and list to Board Members to send a premade statement to legislators that we are against the voucher system. Mrs. Harenza shared a handout explaining the PSBA virtual conference.

- F. PTA – Mrs. Phillips said the 5th grade sleepover will be postponed for now. PTA will be working with administrators on bus driver appreciation day and PTA is hoping to do *One Book One School* this year and looking to see if that could be possible. Next meeting is November 2nd.

Mr. Pottieger forgot to mention the open house at BCTC West campus November 10th and East campus on November 11th and both are from 5:30-8:30pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ROUTINE APPROVALS

MINUTES

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

- August 9, 2021 Public Board Workshop Meeting Minutes
- August 9, 2021 School Board Business Meeting Minutes
- August 23, 2021 School Board Business Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Mrs. McAvoy.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon a motion by Mr. Pottieger, and second by Mrs. Waxler, the Treasurer's Report for August 2021 was accepted as presented.

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

Absent: Mrs. McAvoy.

Nays:None. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon a motion by Mrs. Taylor, and second by Mrs. Waxler payment of bills for the month of August, 2021 were accepted as presented.

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Yeas: Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, Mrs. Ziolkowski, Mrs. Harenza, and Mr. McCaffrey.
Absent: Mrs. McAvoy.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mr. Scoboria

**A. DISTRICT
HEALTH AND
SAFETY PLAN
UPDATE**

Mr. Scoboria said he will provide an update on the Health and Safety Plan tonight and commented on the excitement he heard in the voices of the two student Board Representatives from this evening, saying students are glad to be back in school with teachers on a daily basis. Mr. Scoboria reviewed important dates, such as the approval of the health and safety plan, the mandate of masking by the governor, and highlighted that schools have remained open, open house events have been held, students are participating in extra-curricular activities and BCTC is operating in-person. Mr. Scoboria said our transportation program has been able to stay staffed and operating and he is very appreciative of that.

Mr. Scoboria stated the current positive case counts in the District total 10 students and 1 staff member. He commended the mitigation efforts in place. Mr. Scoboria explained how quarantine is assigned, and shared the District quarantine numbers chart through September 27th, stating this chart will be added back to the District Dashboard on the website tomorrow.

Mrs. Waxler questioned, if you were masked does it say 3-6 feet?
Clarification was given that it does.

Mr. McCaffrey asked about rapid testing. Mr. Scoboria said they will follow information received from the state regarding testing to see if it could be something the District could add.

Mr. Scoboria shared a slide from the CDC tracker illustrating county levels and explained a slide containing DOH COVID data for Pennsylvania. He reviewed the WASD face covering chart as presented in August as a reminder where the District is currently, given the high numbers in Berks county. Mr. Scoboria shared resources available to parents and community such as, WASD Student and Family Toolkit, the WASD Dashboard and FAQ, all of which are posted on the District website. Mr. Scoboria noted the Pfizer Vaccine clinic with Esterbrook Pharmacy and said the District will continue to monitor the availability of the booster vaccine and the possibility of a clinic hosted here at the District as well. Mr. Scoboria stated next steps are to continue to monitor

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Berks levels and guidance for schools; consider plan revisions as needed and continue to consult with medical advisors.

Mrs. Harenza stated she feels the Board obligation is to keep the community safe and keep kids in schools. Under quarantine regulations, the more kids we can get vaccinated, the more we can keep in schools. As the vaccine gets approved for kids under the age of 12 we need to make parents aware, if a child is vaccinated, he/she can avoid quarantine in schools. She asked if it needs to be a more formal Board action. She feels it is very important.

Mrs. Taylor asked a question regarding students being exposed at a party or sleepover. If we find out student B is positive and we know student B was at the sleepover, are we contacting parents? Mr. Scoboria said yes, we collaborate with DOH and involve those parents.

Mrs. Waxler commented to disagree with Mrs. Harenza and said she does not feel it is the job of the school district to promote a vaccine that parents are uncomfortable with; but if we are having a vaccine clinic and would like to remind parents that the vaccine will help with quarantine, that is fine, but she does not want to promote it from a Board perspective. She feels we are asking for trouble if we promote that as a District.

**B. FINANCE/
FACILITIES**

Upon a motion by Mr. McCaffrey and second by Mrs. Waxler the following Finance and Facilities Items were approved:

During discussion Mr. Pottieger questioned Item 4, asking what is *Keppley Behaviour Consulting* and what do they do. Mr. Scoboria said this is for students in our special education area. They also work with our staff to offer suggestions for behavior interventions as well.

Mrs. Harenza asked where was the student lounge going. Mr. Cafoncelli said Dr. Jones identified the lounge space will be next to the concession area in the hallway space. It will have soft seating and charging stations.

Mrs. Taylor asked if any of the cost of the sound system was approved by donations or fund raising. Mr. Boyer said small amount was donated by the soccer boosters. The item on the agenda is listed as gross amount, not net cost.

1. Approve the following donations:
 - a. \$1,300 for student lounge area in JSBS from the Class of 2020
 - b. \$500 from the West Reading Summer Basketball League

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2. Approve tuition agreement with New Story, LLC for student #302468 for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$299 per day.
3. Approve service contract with Keystone Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service to provide interpretation services.
4. Approve service agreement with Keppley Behavioral Consulting, Inc. to provide behavioral and education services. Agreement is not to exceed 850 hours at the rate of \$90 per hour.
Background information: no increase over 2020-2021 rate.
5. Approve change order #1 for Jay R. Reynolds, Inc. in the amount of \$12,991 at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center to add domestic water and sanitary piping to five kindergarten classroom sinks via the existing pipe tunnel.
6. Approve change order #1 for Uhrig Construction in the amount of \$6,054.12 at the Junior Senior High School to remove existing window in stair 7 and provide a temporary operable opening to accommodate material handling to 2nd floor during phase 1 work and to provide additional markerboards in Classrooms A212 and A213.
7. Approve change order #1 for Hirneisen Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$13,223 at the Junior Senior High School to provide fire rated bonnets over light fixtures in new fire rated acoustical tile ceiling and to relocate electrical panels as required per revisions to the building code.
8. Approve new custody account with Univest Bank and Trust Company for 2021-2022. Signatories on the account will be:
 - a. Maria Ziolkowski, President
 - b. Steven Pottieger, Treasurer
 - c. Mark Boyer, Board Secretary
9. Approve proposal from AudioBahn for the supply, installation, system tuning and operator training of an audio system located at Flannery Field and the Baseball Field in the amount of \$30,130.

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

Absent: Mrs. McAvoy.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

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C. PERSONNEL/
POLICY

Upon a motion by Mr. Pottieger, and second by Mr. McCaffrey the following Personnel and Policy items were approved and ratified:

During discussion Mr. Pottieger asked about Item 5b, asking if this stipend is higher than normal because he is taking on both roles? Mr. Boyer confirmed the position could not be filled for this school year.

The Board recessed for an Executive Session lasting for 12 minutes.

Upon agreement from Mr. Pottieger and Mr. McCaffrey, Mr. Scoboria amended the Personnel and Policy Motion as follows:

Amended Motion:

Upon a motion by Mr. Pottieger and second by Mr. McCaffrey, the following personnel and policy items were approved and ratified: Items 1 through 10 with the exception of Item 3,b,1.

1. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

a. Hourly Support Staff

- 1) **Corey Steele**, Custodian, JSHS, resignation effective last paid day August 27, 2021.

b. Hourly Support Staff

- 1) **Dean Murray**, Bowling Coach, JSHS, resignation effective last day worked March 12, 2021.

c. Supplemental Staff

- 1) **Kami Fecho, Jr.** High Field Hockey Asst. Coach, JSHS, resignation effective last day worked September 14, 2021.

2. REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE LEAVE OF ABSENCES PER ATTACHED

3. APPOINTMENTS

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Matt Redcay**, Provide administrative COVID-19 Case related support to WASD in addition to regular duties, for the 2021-22 school year at a stipend of \$2,500.

Background Information: WASD is required to complete contact tracing and make quarantine decisions regarding positive cases for students and

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employees. These duties extend through evenings, weekends and holidays and require significant administrative oversight.

b. Hourly Support Staff

1) *Item removed.*

2) **Jennifer Leck**, Cafeteria / Recess Monitor, WHEC, 3 hours/day at a wage rate of \$10.92/hour ratification effective September 24, 2021.

Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.

3) **Talitha Wolfe**, Cafeteria / Recess Monitor, WHEC, 3 hours/day at a wage rate of \$10.92/hour ratification effective September 7, 2021.

Background Information: This position is being filled due to an internal transfer.

c. Athletic Staff

1) **Anne Anders, Jr.** High Field Hockey Asst. Coach, JSHS, at a stipend of \$1,001 pro-rated to the portion of Fall Athletic Season worked, effective September 29, 2021.

Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.

4. REQUEST APPROVAL OF INTERN HOURS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 PER BELOW;

a. **Antonio Esposito**, District-wide, \$10.50/hour, ratification effective August 16, 2021 through June 30, 2022, not to exceed a total of 1,200 hours.

5. POSITION/LOCATION/STIPEND CHANGE

a. Hourly Support Staff

1) **Hannah Burton**, Part-time Paraprofessional, JSHS, to Full-time Paraprofessional, JSHS, 7 hours/day, no change in wage rate, ratification effective September 14, 2021.

Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.

2) **Diane Helm**, Part-time Food Service Worker, JSHS, to Full-time Paraprofessional, WHEC, 7 hours/day, at a wage rate of \$12.60/hour, effective October 1, 2021.

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Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.

- 3) **Reanna Martin-Watkins**, Part-time Instructional Aide, WREC, to Full-time Paraprofessional, WHEC, 7 hours/day, at a wage rate of \$12.60/hour, ratification effective September 20, 2021.

Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.

b. Athletic Staff

- 1) **Randy Skokowski, Jr.** High Boys' Soccer Head Coach, JSHS, at a stipend of \$2,838, ratification effective the beginning of the 2021-22 Fall Athletic Season.

Background Information: Mr. Skokowski has filled the role and responsibilities of both Head and Asst. Coach due to a vacancy that has remained unfilled.

6. WAGE INCREASES

a. Professional Staff

Request approval for the following teacher(s) to receive course credit salary advancement (column movement) in accordance with the terms of the MOU between WAEA and the District, per the effective dates noted below:

- 1) **Jessica Godek**, JSHS, from M/Step 15 to M+15/Step 15 (\$85,925) effective the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.
- 2) **Michele Hetrich**, WREC, from M/Step 15 to M+15/Step 15 (\$85,925) effective the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.
- 3) **Amy Kern**, JSHS, from B+15/Step 5 to M/Step 5 (\$60,908) effective the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

7. APPROVAL OF NEW POSITION

a. Substitute Support Staff

- 1) Request authorization for administration to create the following position to be used on a temporary basis as needed if an athletic trainer is on leave for an extended period of time at \$175/day as part of the 2021-22 budget:

a) Substitute Athletic Trainer

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8. SUBSTITUTES

a. Support Staff (additions)

- 1) **Grace Heckman**, Athletic Trainer, ratification effective September 13, 2021
- 2) **Kathryn Kready**, Crossing Guard, ratification effective September 7, 2021
- 3) **Albert Petrobone**, Crossing Guard, ratification effective September 7, 2021
- 4) **Taylor Richards**, Cafeteria/Recess Monitor and Instructional

b. Support Staff (deletions)

- 1) **Christian Ferrandino**, Custodian

9. VOLUNTEERS

10. POLICY

a. PSBA Election of Officers

- 1) President Elect (1 year term)
 - a) Abstain
- 2) **Vice President (1 year term)**
 - a) Allison Mathias
- 3) *PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees (Term ends Dec. 31, 2024) Vote for 3*
 - a) Nathan Maines (PSBA CEO)
 - b) Richard Frerichs – PSBA Past President
 - c) William LaCoff – PSBA Past President

Background Information: To comply with PSBA policy 108 as amended April 27, 2013 addressing how votes are cast by member entity boards. The Board Secretary will submit the votes electronically as required by October 16, 2021

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

Absent: Mrs. McAvoy.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Taylor questioned, when we use our logo and branding do we have to approve how it is used if it is something the District is in charge of? She explained, the PTA recently premiered new spirit wear. Some of the apparel has WA logo and some say *Wyomissing Spartans*. The word *Area* is missing. She noted the Board does not run the PTA but would like to know what they can do to remind the PTA that the correct logo is *Wyomissing Area*.

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Mr. Scoboria said for groups that are working with us, we can share a reminder to use the Wyomissing Area logo.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Harenza shared she is concerned about mental health. Could we as a Board have an update from administration, particularly a report from guidance. What are they seeing? Are kids struggling? What do kids need? Mr. Scoboria said we could consider this at a curriculum committee meeting.

Mr. Ziolkowski reminded there is an Executive Session scheduled after tonight's meeting for a legal issue.

**RIGHT TO KNOW
REQUEST**

None.

**UPDATES FROM
ORGANIZATIONS**

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Taylor second by Mr. McCaffrey, to adjourn at 7:13 p.m.

Board Secretary