

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Work Session Minutes
May 14, 2007

The Wyomissing Area School District Board of School Directors' work session convened at 6:00 p.m. with President Snyder presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge, the secretary called the roll of board members.

Board Members Present: Mr. Deem (arrived 7:11 p.m.), Mrs. Barnett, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Hinsey, Mr. Larkin, Mrs. McCreedy, Mrs. Sakmann, Dr. Shuttlesworth (arrived 6:50 p.m.) and Mr. Snyder.

Administrators Present: Dr. Kennedy, Mr. McDonnell, Dr. Zerr, Mr. Babb, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Laubach, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Motze, Mr. Hartman, Mrs. Steele, and Dr. Larson.

Others Present: Diane Schaeffer, recording secretary; Pat and Bill Barrick, residents.

Mr. Snyder welcomed the visitors and announced that the Board would meet briefly in executive session to discuss personnel matters.

The Board reconvened at 6:27 p.m., and continued with the work session agenda.

Liaison Reports –

WAEF – Mrs. Sakmann reported that Mr. Tim Laubach would be joining the WAEF Board. She also announced the annual WAEF scholarships awards ceremony was held and information would be shared in their communications to the district.

BCTC – Mr. Snyder reported that the BCTC Board adopted its budget for next year.

Personnel –

Dr. Larson reviewed the Personnel Report with the Board including details on the five new professional staff.

Mr. Snyder noted the eight supplemental activity advisor resignations and questioned if the positions would be filled before the fall.

Dr. Kennedy responded, hopefully, but the individuals leaving the positions will be a “hard act to follow.”

Curriculum –

Dr. Larson introduced Mr. Jim Comerford, English Department Chair, who provided information on the English textbooks and summer reading list.

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Work Session Minutes
May 14, 2007

Dr. Kennedy explained that the proposed Act 80 day schedule for next year has two dates for the high school that will coincide with the elementary early dismissals to provide an opportunity for curriculum and strategic plan discussions.

Dr. Zerr indicated that the summer ESY program is similar to what was run the last two years with the only change being the additional hour for fourth grade autism students.

Finance –

Mr. McDonnell presented a PowerPoint proposal on the proposed final budget for 2007-08.

Dr. Shuttlesworth arrived at 6:50 p.m.

Mr. McDonnell explained the total increase of 4.97%, with the major impact from salaries, benefits, and debt service. The Board discussed the fund balance and their concerns for the future and the possibility of difficult decisions to cut programs. Dr. Shuttlesworth requested a spreadsheet showing debt service which Mr. McDonnell agreed to provide.

Mr. Deem arrived at 7:11 p.m.

Dr. Larson noted that the budget process would begin even earlier next year and they will begin to look at what could be cut.

The food service and athletic budgets were presented. The board discussed the possibility of increasing lunch prices by 10 cents.

Facilities –

Mr. Deem reported that he met with the finance liaison and determined that \$21,700, which was not budgeted, is needed for the first year of the field maintenance schedule.

Mr. Snyder reported that Wyomissing Borough officials are planning to have the tennis courts resurfaced and their expectation is that the district will share the cost. Dr. Larson indicated that she would contact them to discuss the situation since no prior communication was received and the cost was not considered when preparing the budget.

Mr. Deem provided information on the signage that will be located outside the district office and on the Evans Avenue side of the building at the pillars.

School Activities & Athletics –

Mrs. Motze provided a field use recommendation report and she asked if the Board had questions. Mr. Deem asked about the Hills fields that were not listed. Mrs. Motze indicated there is no need to restrict usage of those fields at this point. A suggestion was made that installing lights on the turf field would provide the ability to increase usage.

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Work Session Minutes
May 14, 2007

Mrs. Motze explained the change in academic eligibility requirements for students to participate in athletic activities.

Superintendent's Office –

A motion was made by Mrs. Sakmann and seconded by Mrs. McCready to approve the following policies for a first reading:

- 603 – Budget Preparation
- 604 – Budget Adoption
- 605 – Tax Levy
- 610 – Purchases Subject to Bid
- 618 – School Activities Funds

There was discussion on Policy 603 and Mrs. Barnett indicated on page 2 the item should be programs, services, or expenditures to be eliminated if referendum is rejected.

Yeas: 9.
Nays: 0. Motion carried.

There was no discussion on the remaining items on the Superintendent's Report.

Dr. Kennedy provided an explanation of the substitute calling services that are thought to be the best option for the 2007-08 school year in view of the retirement of the sub caller, Mrs. Brenner.

New Business –

The Board discussed the recent editorial in the newspaper regarding the West Reading Elementary Center and possible relocation. Mr. Snyder noted that it might be a good idea to set up an interview and provide information to avoid speculation. Mrs. Sakmann said we could respond via the website and agreed to prepare a counterpoint response to be discussed.

Public Participation – None.

Upon motion by Mr. Larkin seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald, the board adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Arthur J. McDonnell
School Board Secretary