

# WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2007-3818

**Minutes** February 26, 2007

The regular meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School with Mr. Snyder, Board President, presiding.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Barnett, Mr. Deem, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Hinsey, Mr. Larkin, Mrs. McCready, Mrs. Sakmann, Dr. Shuttlesworth, and Mr. Snyder.

Administrative Staff Present:

Dr. Larson, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Riedel, Mrs. Motze, Mr. Dawson, and Mr. McDonnell.

Attendees:

Mr. Brian Boland, Kozloff Stoudt; recording secretary, Diane Schaeffer; and Mr. Youker, Reading Eagle. Sign-in sheet included as part of these official minutes.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

President Snyder welcomed the group and announced that an executive session was held on February 12, 2007, and also prior to this evening's meeting to discuss real estate matters, and the board took no action. He noted the next scheduled meetings would be held on March 19, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. and March 26, 2007, at 7:30 p.m.

It was also announced that a special board meeting would be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2007, to take action on the LERTA proposal and donation. He noted the Board is not ready to vote on Items V. LERTA Proposal and Item VI. Donation that are listed on page 4 of this evening's agenda.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

## LIAISON REPORTS

BCIU – Mr. Hinsey presented a book to Dr. Larson that was given to him as the district's representative to the BCIU Board. He explained that Robert S. Jefferson, current president of the NAACP's Reading Branch, and Frank L. Gilyard, president of the Central PA African American Museum and a local African American historian, presented the book, *Woven with Words, a collection of African American History in Berks County, Pennsylvania*, to each board representative for their district libraries. The book was the result of a collaborative partnership between the Reading Chapter of the NAACP and Penn State/Berks to create an awareness and educational material about the past and present contributions of African Americans in Berks County. They are hopeful that the book will serve as a foundation for future study and record of a rich past.

## APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Mrs. Barnett, seconded by Mrs. McCready, the minutes of the following meetings were approved and included as part of these official minutes.

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- Minutes of January 16, 2007 Board Work Session
- Minutes of January 22, 2007 Board Meeting
- Minutes of February 12, 2007 Special Board Meeting and Work Session

Yeas: 9.  
Nays: 0. Motion carried.

### PERSONNEL

Mr. Snyder noted that one item on the personnel report, the approval of supplemental spring athletic appointments for 2006-07, would be voted on separately.

### APPROVED PERSONNEL REPORT

Upon motion by Dr. Shuttlesworth, seconded by Mrs. Barnett, the Personnel Report for February 26, 2007, was approved and is included as part of these official minutes.

Yeas: Barnett, Deem, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, Larkin, McCready, Sakmann, Shuttlesworth, and Snyder.  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

### APPROVED SPRING ATHLETIC APPOINTMENTS

Upon motion by Mrs. Barnett, seconded by Mrs. Sakmann, the supplemental spring athletic appointments for 2006-07 were approved.

Yeas: Barnett, Deem, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, Larkin, Sakmann, Shuttlesworth, and Snyder.  
Abstain: McCready  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

### CURRICULUM

Upon motion by Mrs. Sakmann, seconded by Mrs. Barnett, the following curriculum items were approved:

### APPROVED REVISED PLANNED COURSES AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

Adopted secondary revised planned courses – Honors Economics and Modern Legal Concepts effective the 2007-08 school year and the Spartan Academy for elementary and secondary summer programs.

Yeas: 9.  
Nays: 0. Motion carried.

### FINANCE/BUSINESS OFFICE

President Snyder explained that the Act 1 Resolution authorizing the May 15, 2007, primary ballot question would be voted on separately.

Upon motion by Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mrs. McCready, the following financial/business items were approved:

### APPROVED FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial reports for January 2007.

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## APPROVED PAYMENT OF INVOICES

Payment of approved vendor invoices for the General Fund, Food Service, and Athletic Fund and 2003 G.O. Bond.

## APPROVED BCIU BUDGET FOR 2007-08

Berks County Intermediate Unit 2007-08 Budget.

*Background Information: Each of the eighteen Berks County school districts is presented with the Berks County Intermediate Unit's budget for approval by the Board of School Directors. The 2007-08 budget is \$1,796,033. The individual school district's contribution to the budget is determined by a prorated formula that considers the district's aid ratio and average daily membership. Wyomissing Area School District's contribution is proposed to be \$25,507.86. This is a 0% increase.*

Yeas: Barnett, Deem, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, Larkin, McCready, Sakmann, Shuttlesworth, and Snyder.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Cafurello, audience member and former board member, requested that the Act 1 resolution be read prior to the vote.

The Act 1 resolution authorizing the ballot question was read by the district solicitor and is included as part of these official minutes.

## APPROVED ACT 1 BALLOT QUESTION

Upon motion by Mrs. Barnett, seconded by Mrs. Sakmann, the Act 1 resolution authorizing the May 15, 2007, primary ballot question was approved. Resolution included as part of these official minutes.

Yeas: Barnett, Deem, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, Larkin, McCready, Sakmann, Shuttlesworth, and Snyder.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

## FACILITIES

Dr. Larson asked Mr. Dawson to provide an update on the steps taken to increase security.

Mr. Dawson reported that two cameras were repaired. As part of phase II, the recording device will be upgraded at WREC, and we will be able to network WREC and WHEC and view all the buildings. Door intercoms with video and audio will enable secretaries to see and hear individuals before gaining access to the building. He noted there was money left in the building project funds to cover the \$58,000 costs for phases I and II. There were 19 cameras at the high school and field house. There is an increase in cameras to 31 at the high school, 4 at WHEC and 3 at WREC.

## ATHLETICS

There were no agenda items to be discussed.

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Upon motion by Mrs. Sakmann, seconded by Mrs. McCready, the Board approved the 2007-08 school calendar. A copy included as part of these official minutes.

## APPROVED 2007-08 CALENDAR

Yeas: Hinsey, Larkin, McCready, Sakmann, and Snyder.  
Nays: Barnett, Deem, Fitzgerald, and Shuttlesworth. Motion carried.

## DONATION ACCEPTED

Upon motion by Mrs. McCready, seconded by Dr. Shuttlesworth, the Board accepted the donation of children's car seats for the district vans in accordance with Policy 702.

Yeas: 9.  
Nays: 0. Motion carried.

## APPROVED EXPULSION OF STUDENT

Upon motion by Mrs. Barnett, seconded by Mr. Deem, the Board approved the expulsion of secondary student ID100226 in accordance with the Expulsion Agreement and authorized appropriate officers of the Board to execute the Agreement.

Yeas: Barnett, Deem, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, Larkin, McCready, Sakmann, Shuttlesworth, and Snyder.  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

## APPROVED RESOLUTION TO PERMIT OFFER OF CONTRACTS

A motion was made by Mrs. McCready and seconded by Mr. Hinsey to adopt a resolution authorizing Superintendent, Dr. Helen H. Larson, to offer employment contracts prior to the adoption of a budget, but no sooner than March 1, 2007, and to offer contracts during the months of June, July, and August 2007, prior to the Board approval at its August 2007 Board meeting. Resolution enclosed as part of these official minutes.

Dr. Larson explained a reason for the request is to be competitive in the search for qualified candidates and the need to find individuals with dual certifications, particularly in special education. She also stated the Board may choose not to hold a meeting in July, and her goal is to act expeditiously in the hiring process to find the best possible candidate.

Mr. Fitzgerald noted the resolution was not discussed at work session. After further discussion, he suggested that the August meeting be held earlier in the month if there is not a July meeting, which the Board agreed is a good idea.

Yeas: Barnett, Deem, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, Larkin, McCready, Sakmann, Shuttlesworth, and Snyder.

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Nays: None. Motion carried.

### UPDATE ON ATHLETIC FIELDS

Dr. Larson provided an update on the athletic field. She reported that the 16-member Landscape Advisory Team, landscape architect, David Horn; Mr. Deem and Mr. Hinsey met numerous times and 7 options were identified and presented to the Board. A capital campaign was suggested and they spoke to Ms. Karen Iby, a public relations consultant, to get information on how to fund a project that is not part of the district's budget.

Mr. Snyder said the Board must grapple with the options and determine what they want to do and how to raise the money because taxes can't be raised to do this. He opened the topic to the Board for discussion by asking if they would support these options provided we have the funds to do so.

After further discussion about the options that were presented by the committee, the following comments were made.

Mr. Deem noted that the fields are so beaten down that if extra curricular programs are to continue, something must be done. Also, if use of the athletic field will have to be limited if it is not synthetic turf.

Mrs. Barnett stated she doesn't think the Board is ready to commit to anything but option 1.

Dr. Shuttlesworth noted that he has a problem with the timing of the field decisions when the West Reading Elementary Center is a major issue.

There was a suggestion of a limited capital campaign for option 1. Mr. Hinsey stated he felt as much money as possible should be raised.

Dr. Larson said the first goal is to get money for the "A" field, but it is critical to continue.

Mrs. Sakmann questioned if the tennis courts were vital. Dr. Larson responded that the physical education department uses them. She suggested that Mr. Horn return to explain the domino effect of pulling up the tennis courts.

Dr. Shuttlesworth indicated he is not in agreement with proceeding with option 1, and Mr. Fitzgerald stated his priority is not the fields.

Dr. Snyder said they must provide some direction to the advisory team on the fund-raising campaign. Mr. Boland also commented on fund—

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raising campaigns.

Mrs. Motze was asked to provide information on the projected use of the athletic fields. She said use of the fields would have to be limited, outside use restricted, and practices rotated.

Mrs. Barnett asked when groups would be notified.  
Dr. Larson responded they would be notified as quickly as possible.

Mrs. McCready said the Board must look at the big picture. She inquired if the fields would be ready for spring sports. Mr. Dawson responded that they would be ready.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

The Treasurer's Report and Tax Collector's Report are included as information with no action required by the Board.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. John Gallen, a resident of Wyomissing, requested information on the Board's plan to build a new school to replace the West Reading Elementary Center. Mr. Gallen stated he heard the Board was looking to obtain an 11 acre tract of land next to the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center.

Several residents voiced their concern about the loss of the Wyomissing Hills playground and park that was clearly intended to remain open, recreational space.

The Board continued dialog with the residents on possible building options or renovations of the current West Reading building. A resident asked if the land next to the Highlands was considered as an option. Dr. Larson said purchasing the land would be cost prohibitive.

A resident asked if another floor could be added to the current West Reading building. It was explained that the cost to add a floor and improve the current condition of the building would not be a good option. It was noted that to expand the building, the homes located between the building and the playground would have to be taken by eminent domain, which is a very difficult solution to the problem.

Dr. Larson informed the group that the Board is planning a community forum to provide information on the options outlined in the feasibility study prepared by Crabtree, Rohrbaugh Architects. She indicated that investigation of properties in the West Reading Borough was not fruitful, and Wyomissing is land locked, leaving few options.

West Reading Mayor Shane Keller spoke about the 1969 merger of West Reading and Wyomissing that resulted in the loss of their name and colors, and said if the only option now is moving out of West Reading,

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the Board will be taking the last bit of attachment away from the residents of West Reading.

The Board also assured the group that they are sensitive to the feelings of the West Reading citizens who fear the loss of their identity as well as the Hills residents who fear loss of their park.

The Board indicated that nothing has been decided, and the community will have an opportunity to attend the forum to be scheduled in the next week or two. Information will be posted on the web site. The Board's goal is to provide the best opportunity for the students.

Mr. Bill Murray questioned the Act 1 resolution because it doesn't say anything about what happens to personal income.

Attorney Boland explained that Act 1 was a legislative mandate, and the Board is required to follow the set format for the question.

Mr. Murray asked if the resolution permitting Superintendent Larson to offer contracts only for positions declared open.

Dr. Larson responded that the resolution states it only allows her to offer contracts for positions that are open due to retirement, resignation or termination.

Mr. Murray indicated his former recommendation that a professional be involved in the security of the district, and his feeling was that there was a better way to spend the \$58,000. He offered his expertise at no charge to the district.

Dr. Larson said a security firm was consulted, and the topic of security will be visited over and over again.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. McCready and seconded by Mr. Hinsey to adjourn at 9:57 p.m.

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Arthur J. McDonnell  
Board Secretary

## WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

630 Evans Avenue  
Wyomissing, PA 19610

February 26, 2007

### PERSONNEL REPORT

- I. Approve Administrator's Effective Retirement Date – **Dr. Janet E. Kennedy**, Assistant Superintendent for District Services/Elementary Education, effective June 28, 2007, in accordance with the resolution.
- II. Approve Long-Term Substitute Appointment – **Heidi Stobbart**, German teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School, based on B, Step 4, prorated at 60% salary, effective February 17, 2007, to the end of the 2006-07 school year, and based on B, Step 5, prorated at 60% salary, effective the 2007-08 school year.  
  
*Background Information: Mrs. Stobbart was approved for an emergency extended assignment as a substitute for Walter Wojcik, German Teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School, based on B, Step 4, prorated at 60%, \$127.18 per day, with no benefits, effective October 5, 2006. Mr. Wojcik resigned his position on January 16, 2007.*
- III. Rescind Appointment– **Joan Mathews**, SAT Tutorial Class Instructor, was approved at the January 22, 2007, board meeting but has declined the position.
- IV. Approve SAT Tutorial Class Instructor – **David Emes**, Verbal Instructor at the contracted rate for a maximum of 10 hours beginning February 2007.
- V. Ratify Support Staff Resignation – **Renee Copeland**, full-time, second shift, Custodian at the Jr./Sr. High School, resignation effective February 2, 2007.
- VI. Ratify Support Staff Termination – **James Rapp**, full-time Custodian, terminated upon death on January 23, 2007.
- VII. Approve Support Staff Resignation – **Iva Piorkowski**, part-time Food Service Worker at the Jr./Sr. High School, effective March 9, 2007.
- VIII. Approve Unpaid Leave Request – **April Bergen**, Special Education Instructional Aide at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center, effective on or about April 24, 2007, after exhaustion of available sick days, through the remainder of the school year.
- IX. Ratify/Approve Support Staff Unpaid Leave Requests
  - a. **Sylvia Kolesnik**, full-time Custodian at the Jr./Sr. High School, leave from February 13 until approximately March 14, 2007.
  - b. **Linda Nickey**, Teacher's Instructional Aide at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center, leave on February 20, 21, 22, 23, and 26, 2007.



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- c. **Teri Gallegos-Rosa**, Teacher's Instructional Aide at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center, leave from February 20-23, 2007.
  - d. **Lisa Schlappich**, part-time Special Education Secretary, leave from February 26-March 2, 2007.
  - e. **Linda Lamp**, part-time Food Service Worker at the Jr./Sr. High School, leave from March 5-8, 2007.
  - f. **Jennifer Wolfe**, part-time Special Education Instructional Aide at West Reading Elementary Center, leave from January 30 - February 5, 2007.
- X. Approve position guide for Energy Educator/Manager. (Copy included as part of Board packet.)
- XI. Approve part-time Energy Educator/Manager – **Christopher Nugent**, at an annual prorated stipend of \$20,500 effective February 21, 2007 for the 2006-07 fiscal year. (The stipend is the result of energy saving measures guaranteed by Energy Education.)
- Background Information: The actual revenue for the stipend is the savings realized from implementing Energy Educator's energy savings measure. If the savings fall short of \$20,500, Energy Educator pays the district the difference as per the contract.*
- XII. Ratify/Approve Support Staff Appointments –
- a. **Otto Esenwein**, part-time van driver, effective February 8, 2007, at \$11.35 per hour, pending receipt of all necessary documents.
  - b. **Patricia Kelly**, part-time Teacher's Instructional Aide/ESL at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center, 3 hours per day, \$9.09 per hour, effective February 9, 2007.
  - c. **John Kasopsky III**, full-time 12-month Maintenance Worker/Carpenter, 8 hours per day at \$21.40 per hour, effective March 1, 2007, pending receipt of all necessary documents.
  - d. **Julie Miller**, full-time, second shift, 12-month Custodian, 8 hours per day at \$9.94 per hour, effective February 20, 2007, pending receipt of all necessary documents.
- XIII. Approve Transfer of Support Staff – **Benito Diaz**, Grounds/Maintenance Worker, will transfer to a full-time, second shift, 12-month Custodian position, 8 hours per day with no change in salary, effective date to be determined.
- XIV. Approve Substitute Bonus Payment – Payment for the first semester of the 2006-07 school year is \$4,550.

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- XV. Approve Professional Employee Contract – **Nathaniel Miller**, secondary math teacher, has completed three years of satisfactory service as a temporary professional employee.
- XVI. Approve Supplemental Spring Athletic Appointments for 2006-07.
- XVII. Approve Supplemental Fall Athletic Appointment – **Jennifer Weist**, Varsity Girls' Volleyball Head Coach, 37 points, \$2,942, effective in the fall 2007-08 school year.
- XVIII. Approve District volunteer list.
- XIX. Approve substitute list for professional/support staff.