

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Work Session Minutes
September 17, 2007

The Wyomissing Area School District Board of School Directors' work session convened at 6:05 p.m. with President Snyder presiding.

PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

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

Board Members Present: Mrs. Barnett, Mr. Hinsey, Dr. Shuttlesworth (arrived 6:35 p.m.), Mrs. McCready, Mr. Deem, Mr. Larkin, Mrs. Sakmann, and Mr. Snyder.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Fitzgerald

Administrators Present: Mr. Ashton, Mr. Babb, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Simyak, Mrs. Whye, Dr. Speace, Dr. Zerr, Mr. Dawson, Mrs. Motze, Mr. Laubach, Ms. Garman, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Steele, and Dr. Larson.

Others Present: Diane Schaeffer, recording secretary. List of audience included as part of these official minutes.

Mr. Snyder welcomed everyone and Mrs. Mason took the roll call.

There were no comments on the agenda items. Mr. Snyder noted that since there were audience members who wanted to address the board, comments would be taken after the staff presentation and before the agenda item discussion.

Dr. Larson stated that Mr. Mike Miller and Mr. Rob Kucharczuk, high school and elementary school art teachers, would share a presentation at the board meeting on September 24.

Mr. Snyder asked for audience comments.

Resident Scott Helm, 1158 Old Mill Lane, Wyomissing, president of the local lacrosse club, was in attendance to discuss the possibility of lacrosse as a district sport. He provided materials to the board members and together with the club vice president, Ted Kolva, presented facts to encourage the board to seriously consider making lacrosse part of the district's athletics program.

Mrs. McCready noted that she met with Jen Motze and Mr. Helm earlier in the day and discussed the continued management of field usage which has brought the fields back to good condition.

Mr. Helm stated that he did not agree with administration's opinion that lacrosse should not be allowed on the field and that the group is very sensitive to the field use and they can use them properly. He noted they also wait until all the school's schedules are set and then they try to schedule their times on the fields.

Dr. Larson commented that it is a matter of looking at field usage and demands. The district must take all outside group requests into consideration.

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There was discussion by the board on how the requests by outside groups are prioritized when field use is being restricted. Mrs. Barnett stated that procedures are not in place.

Mrs. McCready stated that field use was restricted because of field conditions and it was confirmed that the fields were being overused.

Mrs. Motze noted that at their earlier meeting with Mr. Helm it was suggested that they look at their schedule and come back with an idea of their needs.

Mr. Kolva, 92 Wellington Blvd, Wyomissing, asked if becoming an approved school group would move them up the totem pole for field use.

Dr. Larson responded that it would, but it would mean that other community groups would have to be bumped.

Mr. Bill Murray, 320 S. Park Road, Wyomissing, reminded the group that when indoor track was suggested, there were similar problems.

Mr. Mike Mitchell, Sr., Cheltenham Drive, Wyomissing, questioned the field situation in relation to the proposal for artificial turf.

Mrs. McCready indicated that another turf field would solve the problem but another building project must be considered as well.

Mr. David Reeser, 300 Wyomissing Blvd., Wyomissing, stated he would appreciate it if the board would give it due consideration because lacrosse is a growing sport.

Liaison Reports –

Mrs. Barnett stated she met, as policy liaison, with Dr. Larson and shared her comments via a memo she distributed to the board.

Personnel –

There were no questions on the personnel report. Mr. Snyder noted that there was an addendum that included a support staff appointment for a part-time food service worker and an unpaid leave.

Curriculum –

Dr. Larson reported that a meeting was held to discuss Tech Paths and the recent AYP scores were discussed. All students must be 100% proficient in reading and math by 2014. The district did not meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) with the secondary special education population.

Mrs. Sakmann commented that the Foundation has decided to drop the offering of adult classes and is looking to increase contributions. She also noted that Corinne Mason and Tim Laubach have joined the WAEF Board.

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Finance –

Mr. Snyder noted that two items would be added to the Finance portion of the agenda for approval at the next meeting. Approval of bids to sell a saw bench, jointer, and chisel mortiser, and also a settlement agreement for a special education placement would be included.

A motion was made by Mrs. McCready and seconded by Mrs. Sakmann to award the bids for athletic training supplies as follows:

- o Collins Sports Medicine - \$941.57
- o Henry Schein, Inc. - \$2,213.77
- o Medco Supply Company - \$1,655.98

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

Nays: None. Motion Carried

Facilities – No agenda items. Mr. Dawson reviewed work completed over the summer and indicated a summary was included in the board packet.

Dr. Shuttlesworth asked if anyone met with the police about the weekend incident near the West Reading playground. Dr. Larson indicated Mr. Babb was aware of the situation and she met with police since the incident occurred on school property. She reported that the playground is locked at this point.

Mr. Snyder read a prepared statement about the formation of a building advisory council (BAC) to discuss the West Reading Elementary Center.

School Activities & Athletics –

Mrs. Barnett asked that the YMCA agreement for use of their pool be changed to indicate an individual's title rather than names.

Mrs. Motze provided an update on the district's sports program. Mr. Hinsey inquired how many county schools have lacrosse teams. Mrs. Motze responded Conrad Weiser and Wilson are seriously considering it.

Technology – Mr. Laubach provided an update on the revisions to the district's website.

Superintendent's Office –

There was no discussion on the superintendent's office report.

An enrollment report was provided to the Board and a question was raised as to how the number compared to last year. Dr. Larson indicated she would check but believed the increase to be approximately 36.

New Business – None.

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Old Business – There was a brief discussion on the superintendent’s goals. Some board members felt there were too many goals but the prioritization was on target. A board member stated it would be difficult to evaluate because there is nothing concrete.

Mr. Snyder said an executive session will be held at the conclusion of the Board meeting to discuss real estate.

Public Participation –

Mr. Kolva said there seemed to be some support for lacrosse after PIAA approval in 2009. He asked for an indication of when the group might have a response.

Dr. Larson responded that they will know by the end of the year after looking at the impact on the budget.

The Board was asked if a letter was sent to Antietam saying that the district would not play the field hockey game. Mrs. Motze stated they played Antietam this year with two boys on the team which surprised us, and parents were made aware of the situation.

Mr. Snyder asked if the district should be playing field hockey teams with boys on it. He requested that Joanne and Jen put the topic on the agenda for their next liaison meeting.

The board adjourned at 8:15 p.m. for a 5-minute break prior to executive session.

Corinne D. Mason
School Board Secretary