

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2014-4835

Minutes October 27, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School with Mrs. Davis, Board Vice President, presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, Mrs. Davis asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. No one indicated their intent to record.

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Butera (by phone), Mrs. Davis, Mr. Heinly, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. Painter, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Reilly and Mrs. Seltzer.

Administrative Staff Present:

Mr. Stem, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Arnst, Dr. Babb, Mr. Cafoncelli, Dr. Jones, Mr. Kuhn and Mrs. Lengle.

Attendees:

Becca Gregg, Reading Eagle, and Shelley Filer, recording secretary. Audience sign-in sheet included as part of these official minutes.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Davis announced an Executive Session was held at 5:40 p.m. to discuss legal matters, and on October 21, 2014 to discuss personnel, negotiations, and a legal matter. No action was taken at either session.

She also announced at the November 10, meeting the Board will weigh options whether or not to proceed to the next level to appeal the Zoning Board's decision on denying the permit for the fence.

The following meeting schedules and locations were announced:

- Curriculum Committee Meeting – November 3, 2014, 12:00 p.m.
- Finance/Facilities Committee Meeting – November 5, 2014, 11:00 a.m.
- Personnel/Policy Committee Meeting – November 6, 2014, 12:00 p.m.
- School Board Business Meeting with Committee Reports – November 10, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
- Technology Committee Meeting – November 19, 2014, 12:00 p.m.

All listed meetings are held in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School unless otherwise noted.

Mrs. Davis provided an update on the Fall sports teams and their records to-date and the District 10 Chorus auditions and announced those who advanced from Wyomissing Area.

BOARD UPDATE

Mrs. McAvoy reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee met on October 21. The two topics discussed were the District tennis courts and the re-turf of the field. They discussed the report on the tennis courts indicating that the foundation is fine. Three to four layers need to be removed to reach the subsurface level. Resurfacing will begin as soon as possible. The committee is reviewing what option will be best for physical education classes, tennis team, and the community.

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2014-4836

Minutes October 27, 2014

The re-turfing needs to be done immediately for safety reasons. They will meet with the Borough to begin the process.

PRESENTATION

Dr. Babb shared the results of the School Performance Profile for WREC which for the second year in a row was 83.1 out of a possible 107 points. The score would be categorized as proficient. He reviewed changes in the math curriculum programming he hopes will improve math PSSA scores which were slightly lower than last year. Accelerated math teachers are also providing additional supports for struggling students. Reading results were slightly improved over last year and in all categories showed more than a year's growth according PVAAS data. Writing results showed students who scored advanced more than doubled from last year. Dr. Babb also shared highlights of WREC's ongoing SWEBS program and other activities including the revival of the Big Spartan/Little Spartan program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Proudfoot expressed his concerns about exposure to radiation due to the wireless connectivity for iPads in schools. He had spoken to Mr. Stem in the past and remains concerned with the District's direction with WiFi.

Fred Hafer, Jr. voiced his support for the fence project. His opinion is that the signatures on the petition circulated by the "Stop the Fence" group really represent only about 10% of the population and he's not sure that he, nor anyone else, knows how the other 90% feels. He received many signatures of community members who are in favor of the project on a letter of support he sent to the Borough. He feels the Zoning Hearing Board took great liberties in denying the permit based on the feelings of a small group of community members. He believes the District should appeal the decision.

Diane Straus, Mary Anne Gaza, Tom Straus expressed their appreciation for the Board and their support of the fence project.

Lisa Sohn questioned if it would be a good idea to revisit getting a public vote to assess public sentiment on the project.

Jessica LaManna explained that it is very difficult to overcome an abuse of discretion at the appellate level and will involve costly legal fees on both sides. She said all of that should be considered before the Board and Borough incur the legal fees of an appeal. She shared that her beliefs are based on her experiences overseeing legal cases.

Peter Carlino felt the Borough acted appallingly in rejecting the permit application and offered financial assistance with the appeal.

Carolyn Bamberger felt the legal issues are relatively simple and shouldn't be that costly. She urged the Board to postpone their decision allowing a

Minutes October 27, 2014

newly formed group of citizens time to collect some information she thinks will be helpful to the Board in making a decision. She shared the URL of a website that has been created.

Laurie Waxler urged the Board to appeal the Borough's decision and also felt that there were families in support of the project that would assist with the legal bills. She felt it was unfortunate that legal bills escalated to the point they did and felt it was unnecessary. She reiterated that from the start the project was to be funded by community dollars, thereby costing the taxpayers nothing.

Angel Helm urged the Board to move forward with the appeal to let the law decide whether a school district can erect a fence on its own property as much as it would renovate a gymnasium, a classroom, or a roof.

William Murray questioned the status of the LERTA. He asked if the Board was handling the issue themselves or is a committee involved. He referenced a meeting in September at which the District's position regarding the LERTA was shared. He also asked specific questions regarding the apartments that were involved in addition to the hotel.

Susan Larkin said whether someone is for or against the fence is irrelevant because a denial was given two times. She said that losing isn't fun and suggested that if the Board has supporters of the fence project who were willing to assist financially with the appeal the Board should encourage them to direct those dollars toward other things that matter such as aides, supplies and the teachers' contract.

Melissa Carlino expressed her appreciation for what the Board members do for the District. She was dismayed by the negativity surrounding the fence project directed at the Board through postcards and email and encouraged them to appeal. She also expressed that her child's school does a fantastic job.

Albert Silveri said he was most bothered by the process that took place before the Zoning Hearing Board. For wrongdoing to take place and have people stand by and do nothing is wrong. He urged the Board to pursue an appeal. He stated that community members should be able to donate their funds as they see fit and he also offered to contribute to a legal fund.

Randy Hinsey urged the Board to appeal the decision of the Zoning Board which he feels was based on emotion. The proposed fence will protect the field, protect our interest in the field, and cut down on liability issues, especially knowing there has been a problem with sink holes on the field.

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2014-4838

Minutes October 27, 2014

ROUTINE APPROVALS

MEETING MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Painter, second by Mrs. McAvoy, the Board approved the following minutes:

- September 8, 2014 Business Meeting with Committee Reports
- September 22, 2014 Regular Business Meeting

Yeas: Butera, Davis, Heinly, McAvoy, Painter, Portner, Reese, Reilly and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon a motion by Mrs. Seltzer, second by Mr. Painter, the Treasurer's Report for September 2014 was accepted as presented.

Yeas: Butera, Davis, Heinly, McAvoy, Painter, Portner, Reese, Reilly and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon a motion by Mrs. Reilly, second by Mr. Portner, payment of bills for the month of September 2014 was approved.

Yeas: Butera, Davis, Heinly, McAvoy, Painter, Portner, Reese, Reilly and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CURRICULUM/ TECHNOLOGY

No items

B. FINANCE/ FACILITIES

Upon a motion by Mrs. Seltzer, second by Mr. Painter, the Board approved the Finance/Facilities agenda items as follows.

During discussion Mr. Portner said the designation of the fund balance was discussed at the Finance Committee Meeting on October 21. By law, only 8% of the fund balance can remain undesignated. Mr. Boyer reported at the end of 2013 there was a \$1.4 million surplus. He explained that that we exceeded budgeted revenue by \$419,000, mostly due to EIT tax sale revenue. Expenses were under budget by \$986,000, \$700,000 of which was from wages and benefits of five open administrative positions in transition from resignation to hiring of a replacement.

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2014-4839

Minutes October 27, 2014

Mrs. Davis commended Mr. Boyer on the decision to pay off the capital lease, and the Board, past and present, for having the discipline to put money away for the increase in PSERS.

1. Approved end-of-year budget transfers for 2013-14 in the amount of \$118,967.61.
2. Approved exonerations from per capita tax in accordance with Policy No. 605.
3. Approved Resolution 10-27-14-01 approving the Plan of Merger between the Berks County Tax Collection Committee and Berks EIT Bureau.
4. Approved 2014-15 Facilities Use Agreement with YMCA of Reading and Berks County for use of the pool for athletic practices and events in the amount of \$6,000.
Background information: This is a renewal of last year's agreement. There are no changes in terms or cost.
5. Approved Healthcare Staffing Agreement with Medical Staffing Network at a rate not to exceed \$41 per hour for per diem health professionals.
Background information: In the event that nurses from our District substitute list are not available, qualified healthcare professionals will be provided to substitute for the District's nursing staff. Rates vary depending on professional license and type of day worked.
6. Approved 2014-15 special education enrollment agreement with Wilson School District for one secondary student in the amount of \$45,667.71.
7. Approved natural gas bid awarded through the Berks County Intermediate Unit to UGI Energy Service and Direct Energy for the 2015-16 year.
8. Approved designation of fund balance for the year ending June 30, 2014 as follows:
 - a. (Non-spendable)
Prepaid expenses/inventory \$ 12,094.86
 - b. (Restricted) Grants \$ 33,879.11
 - c. (Committed)
Transportation software \$ 23,000.00

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2014-4840

Minutes October 27, 2014

d. (Committed)	
Pay-off capital lease	\$ 801,242.00
e. (Committed)	
Transfer to Capital Reserve – Future	
One to One technology	\$ 250,000.00
f. (Committed)	
Transfer to Capital Reserve – Future	
capital projects	\$ 250,000.00
g. (Committed) Curriculum Enhancements	\$ 462,700.71
h. (Committed) PSERS	\$ 3,230,274.00
i. (Committed)	
Vehicle/Equipment Replacement	\$ 275,823.00
j. (Assigned) Budgetary Reserve	\$ 179,817.00
k. (Unassigned)	<u>\$ 2,549,018.77</u>
	\$ 8,067,849.45

Background information: The total increase to fund balance from the previous fiscal year is \$1,197,570.

Yeas: Butera, Davis, Heinly, McAvoy, Painter, Portner, Reese, Reilly and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

C. PERSONNEL/ POLICY

Upon a motion by Mr. Portner, second by Mrs. Reese, the Board approved the Personnel/Policy agenda items as follows.

Mrs. Davis thanked Mrs. Bahner for her service to the District.

1. RESIGNATION

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Nicole Bahner**, .5 ESL Teacher, WREC, update effective date of resignation to October 31, 2014.

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Jill Werley**, 2nd Grade Teacher, WHEC, Family Medical Leave on or about February 4, 2015 with a return to work date on or about May 8, 2015.

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2014-4841

Minutes October 27, 2014

- 2) **Mary Hollinger**, School Nurse, WHEC, Intermittent Family Medical Leave beginning September 29, 2014 until on or about December 2, 2014.

b. Support Staff

- 1) **Linda Bentz**, Coordinator Child Accounting/Central Registration, District Office, Intermittent Family Medical Leave beginning November 5, 2014 until on or about January 28, 2015.

3. APPOINTMENTS

a. Supplemental Staff

- 1) **Hailey Doyle**, Varsity Swimming-Assistant Coach, for the 2014-15 Winter Sports Season at a stipend of \$1,418.
- 2) **Stacy Fritz**, Head Cheerleading Coach for the 2014-15 Winter Sports Season at a stipend of \$1,268, pending completion of employment requirements.
- 3) **Jamie Rahn, Jr.** High Girls' Basketball-Head Coach for the 2014-15 Winter Sports Season at a stipend of \$2,155, pending completion of employment requirements.
- 4) **Adam Ressler**, Varsity Boys' Basketball-Assistant Coach for the 2014-15 Winter Sports Season at a stipend of \$2,349, pending completion of employment requirements.
- 5) **Todd Zechman, Jr.** High Girls' Basketball-Assistant Coach for the 2014-15 Winter Sports Season at a stipend of \$1,564.

4. POSITION CHANGE/TRANSFER

a. Support Staff

- 1) **Linda Hettrick**, ratify position change to 2nd Shift Custodian, WREC, at an hourly wage rate of \$11.00, effective October 23, 2014.

5. SUBSTITUTES

a. Professional Staff (Additions)

- 1) **Jason Bingaman**, Teacher
- 2) **Andrew Beilhart**, Teacher
- 3) **Carmen Ebersole**, Teacher
- 4) **Janelle Ferrara**, Teacher
- 5) **Jessica Gable**, Teacher
- 6) **Jesse Jones**, Teacher

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2014-4842

Minutes October 27, 2014

- 7) **Ainsley Matz**, Teacher
- 8) **Christopher Palmer**, Teacher
- 9) **Sara Scheirer**, Teacher
- 10) **Roxanne Vallejo**, Teacher
- 11) **Suzanne Wetherhold**, Teacher

6. VOLUNTEERS

7. POLICIES

Second reading and approval of the following policies:

- 112 Guidance Counseling
- 333 Professional Growth Requirements – Administrative Employees
- 433 Professional Growth Requirements – Professional Employees

Yeas: Butera, Davis, Heinly, McAvoy, Painter, Portner, Reese, Reilly and Seltzer.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

UPDATE FROM ORGANIZATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Reese, seconded by Mr. Portner to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.

Board Secretary