

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2019-5577

Minutes January 14, 2019

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 4:17 p.m. in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School with Mrs. Ziolkowski, Board Vice President, presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ziolkowski asked if anyone would be recording the meeting.

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Larkin (arr. 4:18pm), Mrs. McAvoy (arr.4:18pm), Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Redner (arr. 4:53pm), Mrs. Taylor (arr. 4:55pm/dep. 7:02pm), Mrs. Waxler, Mr. Zeppos (arr. 4:41pm) and Mrs. Ziolkowski.

Administrative Staff Present:

Mr. Scoboria, Dr. Woodard, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Arnst, and Mr. Cafoncelli.

Attendees:

Marge Rumbaugh, Reading Eagle; Roxanne McMurtry, Herbein + Company; Brady Bagwan, Morgan Corp.; and Shelley Filer, recording secretary. An audience sign-in sheet is included as part of these official minutes.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- School Board Business Meeting – January 28, 2019

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ROUTINE APPROVALS

MEETING MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mrs. Waxler, second by Mr. McCaffrey, the Board approved the following minutes:

- November 5, 2018 Policy Committee Minutes
- November 5, 2018 Finance/Facilities Committee Minutes
- November 5, 2018 Curriculum/Technology Committee Minutes

Yeas: Larkin, McAvoy, McCaffrey, Phillips, Waxler, and Ziolkowski.

Absent: Redner, Taylor and Zeppos

Nays: None. Motion carried.

COMMITTEES

A. CURRICULUM/ TECHNOLOGY

1. STEAM Update

- a. Partnership with Morgan Corporation - Dr. Woodard introduced Brady Bagwan from Morgan Corp. who shared an overview of the partnership with the District.

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- Morgan Corp., a leading manufacturer of box trucks will offer an 18-week welding training program to attract seniors who have no definitive post-secondary education or career plans. They offer a paid external internship program with the availability of additional part-time employment leading to a full-time position as a production associate, while still earning credits toward graduation. Morgan Corp. also offers a tuition reimbursement program to allow their employees to pursue another field in Morgan Corp. Morgan Corp. will provide roundtrip transportation from school to their facility. Currently six students have expressed interest in the program that will begin later in January.
- b. Position Posting/Interviews – An LTS has been secured for Dr. Wengerd’s leave of absence. A few days of job shadowing will be provided for a smooth transition.
 - c. The STEAM teacher committee will discuss options for the future course offerings such as Intro to Engineering and biotechnology. Mrs. Waxler suggested offering engineering as an elective to gauge interest before adding a teacher position. Dr. Woodard said engineering would not be the only course in the proposed new teacher’s schedule. The position was posted to gauge internal interest and facilitate curriculum development for the 2019-20 school year. Mrs. Waxler is concerned about adding an additional position and believes programming and staffing should be reviewed to see if something could be eliminated to fund it. Mr. McCaffrey thought it would provide a better system to teach STEAM rather than in the silos in which it is currently taught.
2. PAsmart Grant – Dr. Woodard completed an application for the Advancing Grant including the funding for the curriculum development of the new STEAM courses and necessary equipment in the amount of \$217,000. The grant is competitive; notice of award is expected in the spring and funds would have to be used by June 2020 if awarded. Mrs. Larkin mentioned a list that was developed with possible partnerships with district parents who have local companies.
 3. Technology Assessment – Mr. Arnst provided an update on the results of the quantitative section of the technology audit. Data was pulled from the BrightBytes survey of parents, faculty, and students as well as Help Desk tickets, student support requests, interviews with JSHS Student Council reps, and the JSHS 1:1 Committee discussion. Areas surveyed included environment/devices/infrastructure such as access to computers, quality of computers, and quality of LCD

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projectors and whiteboards; and technical support such as response time and resolution to issues that disrupt instruction and completion of Help Desk tickets. The next steps will include meetings with focus groups, sharing statistics with the staff, and developing a three-year technology plan. The qualitative section of the audit has been delayed due to the medical emergency of the BCIU representative conducting the audit.

4. Field Trip Requests – Requests for overnight trips for sixth-grade camp at Camp Conrad Weiser and a Ski Club trip to Vermont will be on the January 28, agenda for approval.
5. Homebound Instruction – A request for homebound instruction will appear on the January 28, agenda for approval.

B. FINANCE

1. 2017-18 Audit Presentation – Roxanne McMurtry from Herbein + Company presented an overview of the 2017-18 audit results for the Board’s review. She previously met with the members of the Finance Committee, Mr. Scoboria, and Mr. Boyer in December 2017 to discuss the results in greater detail. The auditors issued an unmodified opinion, the highest opinion able to be issued, on both the financial statements and the federal awards. There was one finding for which a corrective action plan was implemented.
2. 2019-20 Budget Presentation – Mr. Boyer outlined the steps and timeline to approve a preliminary budget illustrating the need for the exceptions to the Act 1 Index. Steps include posting the proposed preliminary budget for public inspection, publishing notice of intent to adopt a 2019-20 Preliminary Budget, and notice of intent to apply to PDE for the referendum exceptions by February 28. Further budget discussions will continue until the final budget is adopted by June 30. The maximum level of tax increase with the exceptions would be 3.79%. Mr. Boyer outlined the preliminary expenditure budget versus the preliminary revenue budget leaving an approximate deficit of \$3.2 million. The Board still has the ability to opt out of the exceptions and hold a possible tax increase at the Act 1 Index of 2.3%; however, administration recommended staying the course and approving the preliminary budget and continuing to work on reducing the deficit. Mr. Boyer also indicated that continued use of fund balance will negatively impact the District’s bond rating when seeking financing for the JSHS Phase III project.
3. Real Estate Tax Exoneration – Mr. Boyer received a request from a taxpayer to exonerate the penalty due to extenuating circumstances. He will provide the Board with a copy of the letter for their review.

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4. Tuition Contracts – Tuition contracts for three special education placements will be on the agenda for approval.
5. Bad Check Recovery Services – Fulton Bank has discontinued bad check recovery services. A request to approve a contract with the recovery service, at no cost to the District, will be on the agenda for approval.

C. FACILITIES

1. Outdoor Classroom – Bogia Engineering provided a sketch of the outdoor classroom with three-tier seating for 30 students, an area for whiteboard technology, and ADA sidewalk access. Construction costs are estimated at \$58,000. The next step is the permitting process with the Borough of Wyomissing and advertising for bids.
2. Flannery Field Renovation Project – The permitting process is ongoing and running smoothly. The project is on pace to advertise for bids in February, possibly in two parts – one bid for the track renovations and another for the fencing. The timeframe for completion of the renovations is between the end of Spring sports and the beginning of Fall sports.
3. Feasibility Study – The bid process is underway. Three firms were contacted to submit bids – AEM Architects, Crabtree Rohrbaugh, and Bogia Engineering. The request was also posted on the website to invite other firms to submit bids.
4. Act 44 Grant – The District has received the guaranteed \$25,000 award.
5. JSHS Cafeteria Tables Replacement – The current cafeteria furniture will be replaced with a combination of 36 rectangular and circular tables to maximize space, provide easier egress, and increase capacity by 30 seats as recommended by the Safe Schools Advisory Committee. The cost of the tables is \$45,000.
6. TORO Rotary Broom – Mr. Cafoncelli requested the purchase of a rotary broom for snow removal at WHEC for improved efficiency and safety, and reduction in the need for salting walkways.

D. PERSONNEL

1. Mr. Scoboria said the listing of routine personnel items received to date was included in the Board packet.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. McCaffrey seconded by Mrs. Larkin to adjourn at 7:04 p.m.

Board Secretary