

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2020-5900

Minutes October 12, 2020

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 4:47 p.m. in the JSHS Cafeteria with Mr. Redner, Board President, presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

Following the pledge of allegiance, Mr. Redner asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. Mr. Arnst indicated he will be recording the meeting.

Board Members Present
via Zoom:

Mrs. Harenza (present by phone) Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, and Mrs. Ziolkowski.

Administrative Staff
Present:

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

Attendees:

Dr. Corbett Babb, Principal WREC,
Kami Fecho, WREC Teacher,
Kristin Allen, WREC Teacher,
Todd Vukmanic – Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates
Sheri Piveteau, Recording Secretary

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Redner announced upcoming meetings

- School Board Business Meeting – October 26, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
- Committee of the Whole Meeting – November 9, 2020, 4:45 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Mr. Boyer read the emailed comments:

Kate Cirulli, 1437 Cleveland Ave., Wyomissing, PA

Comment made regarding plan for students to return to 5 day in-person instruction. Comment about the need for seniors to have access to teachers and guidance counselors – in-person. Requested senior families given option to return full time.

Jillian Gosselin, 397 Oak Terrace, West Reading

Comment to voice support for in-person, 5 days/week. Thanked teachers for their hard work, but feels the benefits of in-person instruction outweighs the risks.

Raegan Peters, 2047 Lincoln Court, Wyomissing, PA

Comment made regarding WAVE and Schoology, suggesting more uniformity. Also comment regarding PowerSchool posting assignment inconsistencies.

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Colette Huber, 1416 Reading Boulevard, Wyomissing, PA
Commented on rumored large number of failing grade communication letters being sent to JSHS students, requested truth to the rumor, and number of failing grades at this same point last year. Asked about possibility of upper-classmen returning to 5 days of in class instruction.

Lori Scargle, 1330 Cleveland Avenue, Wyomissing PA
Commented on return date or plan for kids to return to school.
Comment made about Hybrid schedule not working, kids not learning; struggling and failing. Feels it is time for the kids to return to school.

Colleen Zeppos
Comment made asking for a way for kids to log in through zoom on their days off to watch teachers live. Thanked all for their hard work to educate kids.

Mr. Scoboria thanked the residents for their comments and indicated that Administration will send a communication to each.

ROUTINE APPROVALS

MEETING MINUTES

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

- August 10, 2020, Committee of the Whole Minutes

Yeas: McAvoy, McCaffrey, Phillips, Pottieger, Redner, Taylor, Waxler, and Ziolkowski.

Absent: Harenza.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

COMMITTEES

Mr. Scoboria noted the order of the meeting would change with Curriculum and Technology presenting first, Facilities following second and Finance to be third.

A. CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

1. **Update on Health and Safety Plan** - Mr. Scoboria introduced the PowerPoint Presentation, saying this review was in three parts. The first part is related to medically based information. The second part, the West Reading Elementary Team will share “a day in the life at West Reading” from a teacher’s perspective. This information would be repeated in meetings going forward with JSHS and WHEC. Dr. Woodard will close the presentation with successes/challenges and items to consider moving forward.

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Mr. Scoboria reviewed the key points of the Health and Safety Plan; where the District was now in the Hybrid/WAVE model, procedures and protocols being followed, and the hard work and sacrifices made by students, employees and parents/guardians. Mr. Scoboria shared slides from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) outlining the guidance for instructional models and the levels of transmission in Berks County which dictate the recommended instructional models. Mr. Scoboria also reviewed PDE's and Wyomissing's COVID-19 Dashboards. Mr. Scoboria concluded with the Medical Review Team's concerns, feedback and recommended strategies, and a final slide sharing the District enrollment as of September 28, 2020 by grade and model, either Hybrid or WAVE.

Mr. Scoboria turned the presentation over to Dr. Woodard. Dr. Woodard shared that over the course of the next few meetings we would be featuring teachers from the buildings to share their experiences teaching in the Hybrid/WAVE Model. Dr. Woodard introduced Dr. Babb, Principal of WREC along with Kami Fecho, 6th grade Social Studies teacher as well as WAVE Homeroom teacher, and Kristin Allen, 6th Grade Math/Hybrid teacher.

Dr. Babb spoke about the challenges, excitement and sometimes frustrations to the start of the year. He is thankful to have had the reentry plan model early so they could plan their return to the school year by engaging in summer meetings to discuss instructional approaches. Dr. Babb explained how his team came together and identified their blended instructional approach highlighting the synchronous and asynchronous learning models, how they would build from last year, summer reading, and implementing successful remediation.

Dr. Babb introduced Kami Fecho to share experiences of a 6th grade WAVE teacher and Kristin Allen who will talk about 6th grade Hybrid class teaching. Ms. Fecho reviewed the daily schedule for 6th grade WAVE students in her class and shared an 88% success rate/student attendance. She shared the benefits of monitors and microphones in her class and some challenges with screen interaction. She highlighted the ability, as a WAVE teacher, to have 100% teacher time devoted to her students. She commended the ability to have breakout groups in WebEx as a great tool for small group and one-on-one time, and shared her thankfulness for all of the apps on the iPad that help with virtual learning.

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Ms. Fecho introduced Mrs. Allen to speak about Hybrid teaching. Mrs. Allen shared, as a 27-year veteran of teaching, this year was by far, the most challenging year for her. Mrs. Allen reviewed the Hybrid Schedule for a 6th grade student in her class and highlighted the synchronous and asynchronous learning, sharing also how the breakout rooms in WebEx have a positive impact on learning. Mrs. Allen spoke about the use of grade level aides and special education aides to meet individual student needs and also noted the variety of apps available to the students.

Dr. Woodard thanked the WREC Team for presenting and applauded all of their hard work. She continued the presentation speaking about educational successes; highlighting how students, staff and parents are successfully following the Health and Safety Plan, and how the Hybrid and WAVE models have been implemented so far with minimal setbacks. Dr. Woodard talked about how students and staff are excited to be at school and that there have been less behavioral issues. Dr. Woodard shared how the students are learning to use new tools and how to collaborate in this model. She also shared the challenges, such as the difficulty to ensure student engagement when they are not physically present in the building. Dr. Woodard shared the challenge of student accountability and how structure can be increased. She spoke about technology setbacks outside of WASD and reduced opportunities for labs and about the need to help students with learning challenges and reducing teacher stress.

Dr. Woodard reviewed a series of slides on Teacher Survey Feedback Results which covered responses to questions asked to teachers related to satisfaction with the current learning model, more in-person instruction for students, confidence in helping students who need academic support in the current learning model, and level of COVID-19 related safety measures and protocols in the building keeping students healthy. Dr. Woodard concluded by sharing ways to strengthen instruction such as increased instruction for young learners K-2 and targeted populations; IEP, ELL, BCTC. Increase synchronous learning for all students 2nd quarter and continue to increase technology for live stream as well as additional staff training and sharing of effective strategies.

Mr. Scoboria reviewed the final slides speaking about the considerations for increased in-person instruction such as, reducing physical distancing to 3-6ft from the 6ft we are

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currently implementing and consideration to continue to offer WAVE K-12. Parents would be given options to choose again. Mr. Scoboria also said class rosters would need to be adjusted and classrooms may need to be relocated. Mr. Scoboria noted staffing and equipment needs as well as students may need to be 1-2 students per seat on busses for transportation.

Mr. Scoboria reviewed the next steps the District would need to take explaining there would be a parent and guardian survey and a JSHS student survey. Mr. Scoboria said he would return to the Board with plans for grades K-2 increase to 4-5 days per week with a WAVE option and a possibility to return some students with IEP's, ELL needs and some BCTC students to 4 days in-person for 2nd quarter. Administration would work with athletic staff and coaches to update the Board and develop plans for winter athletics. Mr. Scoboria stated a communication would be shared with parents/guardians this week.

Mr. Scoboria concluded by saying he would like to bring the Health and Safety Plan back to the Board with some proposed changes.

B. FACILITIES

1. **Construction Overview – Mr. Vukmanic (Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates)** – Mr. Cafoncelli spoke to advise tonight's presentation was a framework, for Option 4, which the Board had previously approved. Next steps are to meet with stakeholders.

Mr. Vukmanic shared there are four phases before construction and tonight's presentation was on the schematic design. Mr. Vukmanic reviewed the phases of construction and explained Option 4, proposed scope of work to include: Select renovations and additions to WHEC and JSHS as well as improvements to WREC and HVAC improvements to the Fieldhouse facility.

Mr. Vukmanic reviewed existing site plans and building plans and explained proposed changes for both WHEC and JSHS. Mr. Vukmanic reviewed the next steps and construction timeline.

C. FINANCE

Mr. Redner shared that in the interest of time, the Finance portion would be included in the weekly update.

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ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. McCaffrey second by Mrs. Taylor adjourn at 7:12 p.m.

Board Secretary