

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-5986

Minutes April 12, 2021

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 4:49 p.m. in the JSHS Library with Mrs. Maria Ziolkowski, Board President presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

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

Board Members Present: Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger (Zoom), Mr. Redner (Zoom), Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, and Mrs. Ziolkowski.

Board Members Absent:

Administrative Staff Present: Mr. Scoboria, Dr. Woodard, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Cafoncelli, and Mr. Arnst.

Attendees: Mr. Todd Vukmanic – Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates.
Alex Gabryluk – Technology Support
An audience sign-in sheet is included as part of these official minutes.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Ziolkowski welcomed all and announced upcoming meetings

- Facilities/Budget Workshop – April 19, 2021 – 4:15 p.m.
Community Board Room
- School Board Business Meeting – April 26, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
JSHS Library
- Committee of the Whole Meeting – May 10, 2021 – 4:45 p.m.
JSHS Library

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

ROUTINE APPROVALS

MEETING MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mrs. Waxler second by Mrs. McAvoy the Board approved the following minutes:

- February 8, 2021, Committee of the Whole Minutes

Yeas: Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, and Mrs. Ziolkowski.

Absent at time of vote: Mr. Redner.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

COMMITTEES

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A. FACILITIES

Mr. Cafoncelli introduced Mr. Vukmanic to provide a construction update.

1. Construction Update Presentation – Mr. Vukmanic reviewed the expected timeline/procedures to submit and release bids, based on Board approval. Mr. Vukmanic said they will bid for 4 weeks and receive the bids on the Thursday before the May Board meeting, which allows 2-3 days for review, and a recommendation for the Board at the May meeting. Mr. Vukmanic provided an overview for WHEC sharing slides of aerial photos and drawings being submitted to the Borough and County for land development, process and scope. He is expecting approval in June. Mr. Vukmanic reviewed a color-coded building plan specifying the timeline of construction phases, beginning June 2021 through June-October 2022. He shared high level interior drawings of various classrooms, administrative area, nurse’s suite and multipurpose room, showing elevations, windows, bathrooms, and fixed equipment. Mr. Vukmanic said these drawings have been reviewed with staff. He explained the items to be bid as alternates and shared construction drawings, engineering drawings and renderings of outside elevations.

Mr. Vukmanic reviewed drawings for WREC explaining the scope of the project and items to be addressed.

Mr. Vukmanic reviewed the JSHS construction updates that will focus on the 1938 building and cafeteria addition. He shared grading and storm water drawings, building plans and drawings of scope of work, including a color-coded building drawing specifying the timeline of construction phases. Mr. Vukmanic reviewed slides of high-level interior drawings of classrooms, nurse’s suite, media center, and library. Dr. Woodard explained how classroom spaces in the library would be utilized as collaborative learning opportunities. Mr. Vukmanic reviewed a drawing for the updates to the transportation office area, as well as the bathrooms and cafeteria addition. He shared structural drawings and drawings of the Fieldhouse upgrades. Mr. Vukmanic spoke about the upgrades to the courtyard area, explaining the options available. Mr. Vukmanic showed renderings of outside elevations and also shared a suggestion to add signage to the front of the JSHS entrance.

Mr. Vukmanic reviewed the project cost estimate, including budget overages, alternate bid items, and ways to find cost savings so that final projections will be more in line with current budget. He also discussed the option of moving some

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parts of the project to a future WASD maintenance item and ways to finance. Mr. Boyer said these types of discussions would require Mr. Phillips from RBC to attend a Board meeting to explain options.

Mr. Vukmanic reviewed the future milestone dates highlighting committee meetings and Board meetings for approval of bid submissions and bid approval. The start of construction is scheduled for June 14, 2021, pending Board approval, with final anticipated project completion date of October 30, 2022.

2. Construction Summary – Mr. Cafoncelli reviewed the District Wide Renovation Project Summary which highlights and outlines the construction items the project will cover as well as a financial summary explained by Mr. Boyer.
3. WHEC Crosswalk – Mr. Cafoncelli reviewed the WHEC crosswalk project. He explained this project was identified and Board approved in February, 2020. The project includes 15mph signs that need to be relocated per PennDOT. Mr. Cafoncelli said the project was waiting for approval of a maintenance agreement between the District and the Wyomissing Borough. The agreement has been completed and will be on the April 26, 2021 agenda for Board approval. After Board approval, the project will move forward and occur over the summer. Mr. Cafoncelli reviewed drawings depicting the scope and said this is a very small project.

B. CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Woodard explained she would review textbook requests in the areas of Science and Social Studies as well as, PSSA, Keystone and AP testing information, and report on summer remediation projects for this year.

1. Textbook Approvals – Dr. Woodard shared she has received a request for a Physics Text. She said the text is aligned to NGSS standards, and has positive elements that use Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning format for students to state a claim, provide evidence, and support that with reasoning. Dr. Woodard shared the importance to get students to do this across disciplines and said the current text does not support this as it is older. Dr. Woodard said the new text is interactive, links to real life situations and has excellent visuals, as well as being compatible with any device, Schoology and Google. Dr. Woodard shared the request is for

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a 35-print class set and a 6-year digital license at a cost of \$6,930.00.

Dr. Woodard shared a request for Life Science text and stated this text is consumable along with a digital component and includes content-specific vocabulary as well as academic vocabulary which helps bring student focus to words that they may struggle with but are not science related. Dr. Woodard said the text has connections to math and literacy, diagrams that are more age appropriate, and questions that challenge students to provide evidence based rational for decisions. This supports content standards and critical thinking skill development. The cost for 160 consumable texts and digital license for 8 years is \$22,120.37.

Dr. Woodard reviewed a request for AP European History text stating it is the most widely used text for AP Euro course and closely aligned to the new AP Euro College Board standards and requirements. Dr. Woodard explained the text contains special exercises on evaluating visual and written sources, contains updated bibliographies for enrichment reading and research, and each of the four periods of the text contains document-based questions and a longer essay question. Dr. Woodard said the request is for 30 copies of the printed text at a cost of \$3,778.20.

2. Assessment Testing Update – Dr. Woodward said the PSSA testing window opens next Monday, April 19th and begins with Grades 3-8 with ELA and then Math, followed by Grades 4-8 Science. Dr. Woodard said they decided to continue with the original testing window that PDE had created and not extend the window which was an option. Dr. Woodard said they are working to address the stress and anxiety levels of both students and teachers. She shared that the state has recognized, test results validity and reliability will be questionable due to the pandemic. Dr. Woodard said they will not be able to utilize the results for a long time as they will not be released until the November time frame and therefore will not be relied upon by the District for student assessment and achievement. Dr. Woodard spoke about students who are quarantined for the majority of the testing window and said they will not be expected to participate in state testing.

Dr. Woodard spoke about WHEC 3rd and 4th Grade students who are taking the tests for the first time and the ways teachers are working to alleviate stress. Dr. Woodard shared that Ms. Stem, the WHEC counselor, has created a

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developmentally appropriate slideshow informing students of the tests, and a special schedule has been created to be lighter in the afternoons and free of any heavy academics.

Homework will not be assigned during the two weeks. Dr. Woodard shared that WREC is piloting online PSSA assessments and they will have an online practice session to help with the adjustments. WREC will follow abbreviated class schedules for the afternoons of PSSA testing days to lower the schoolwork demands over the testing window and will not assign homework on those days. Dr. Woodard said for the JSHS students, a meeting will be held with all 7th and 8th graders to review the tests, schedule and expectations. No additional tests or quizzes will be administered on PSSA testing days.

Dr. Woodard explained Keystone testing is administered in Algebra 1, Biology and English Literature and said, this Spring we will be administering Biology and Literacy. We will wait until December 2021 to administer Algebra 1 to allow more time to master the content. Dr. Woodard said per the state, students who were enrolled and successfully passed the trigger courses in 19/20 are not required to take the Keystone assessment related to the course and shall be deemed proficient for purposes related to high school graduation requirements. Dr. Woodard said WASD will follow the PA State direction and not require the test for those students, unless a student requests to take the test. Dr. Woodard reviewed a flowchart for ACT 158 requirements which details the proficient pathways for graduation requirements relevant to Keystone testing. Dr. Woodard said a communication will be sent to the families impacted so they can decide.

Dr. Woodard spoke about AP exams and said students will be allowed to opt out of those tests and a refund would be provided. Dr. Woodard reviewed the number of students who are taking the exams and the number of those who are dropping all or some exams. Dr. Woodard cited the primary reason had to do with colleges not offering credit for a course. Dr. Woodard said conversations could occur regarding the necessity of the AP assessment in future years.

Dr. Woodard also reported, the state does not provide a way for students to be tested at home, therefore, WAVE students have to be brought into the buildings to be tested. Dr. Woodard said those WAVE students who are of testing age,

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will be brought in on Wednesdays to be tested when there are not many students in the building.

Dr. Woodard spoke about summer remedial learning opportunities and said for WHEC, *Teachers in the Parks* will be offered at *The Stone House* and will be a 6-week program offered on Tuesday/Thursday with transportation from WHEC and WREC provided, as well as lunch. Focus will be to engage students who are below levels in ELA and Math. Dr. Woodard said for WREC, a 6-week in-person instruction will occur at the school, on Tuesday/Thursday mornings. Transportation will be provided from WHEC as well as lunch. The focus will be on ELA and Math. Dr. Woodard said at JSHS there will be a mix of in-person and online opportunities available for students and will focus on students who have demonstrated challenges in online learning. In-person instruction will be offered for core subject areas and will be taught by WASD teachers engaging in WASD curriculum. Dr. Woodard stressed the importance of 4th quarter learning and said now that more students are in-person each week, she hopes this will have a positive effect on those students currently targeted for summer remediation. Dr. Woodard expects to provide an update on the status of these students in May.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Ziolkowski announced an Executive Session would be held after this meeting for legal matters.

A motion was made by Mrs. Waxler second by Mrs. McAvoy to adjourn at 7:10p.m.

Board Secretary