

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-5992

Minutes April 26, 2021

The regular meeting with committee reports of the Board of School Directors convened in the JSHS Library at 6:00 p.m. with Mrs. Maria Ziolkowski, Board President, presiding.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Board Members Present

Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mrs. Phillips (Zoom), Mr. Pottieger, (Zoom), Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, and Mrs. Ziolkowski

Board Members Absent:

Mr. McCaffrey, Mr. Redner.

Administrative Staff Present:

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

Attendees:

Rachel Kuhn - VOiCEup Berks, students – Morgan Welliver, Audrey Hurlleman, and Katie Schadler

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Committee of the Whole Meeting / School Board Business Meeting – May 10, 2021, 4:45 p.m., JSHS Library
- School Board Business Meeting – May 24, 2021, 6:00 p.m., JSHS Library

Mrs. Ziolkowski announced an Executive Session would be held following tonight's Board meeting to discuss personnel matters.

RECOGNITION

JSHS students will be recognized for the valuable community service projects they have completed in collaboration with VOiCEup Berks.

Dr. Woodard said this year has been challenging in a lot of ways, however, our Wyomissing Area students have identified ways to engage in community service and altruistic work. This evening we are proud to recognize several of our Wyomissing Area students who dedicated numerous volunteer hours within the different capacities of the youth volunteer Corps of Reading. Dr. Woodard introduced Rachel Kuhn, WASD parent, community member and co-founder of VOiCEup Berks which is an organization dedicated to connecting all sectors of Berks County to volunteer opportunities through a service learning model.

Mrs. Kuhn thanked the Board and shared the background and model of VOiCEup Berks. Mrs. Kuhn said the organization is student driven, and they work with students in all 18 districts in the County. Wyomissing Area has the third largest amount of kids in the program. Mrs. Kuhn said the program grew last year even during the pandemic and they engaged 562 students from 18 school districts and logged 5900 hours of service.

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Mrs. Kuhn introduced Morgan Welliver WASH senior, to speak about Youth Advisory Board (YAB). Morgan shared she has been involved since 6th grade. YAB includes many students in the county, they meet every two weeks to discuss what the community needs, what sparks interest and how they can help. They started out the year visiting Rock Hollow Woods, nature conservatory, and were able to see how Rock Hollow Woods used the money YAB had awarded them. The remainder of the year consisted of mostly Zoom meetings. They decided to focus their money in ways to actively encourage fighting for racial injustice and equality. They reviewed grant applications, and spoke with finalists to get to know them. They awarded this year's funds to a few different organizations who are doing great things with the award dollars. Morgan introduced Audrey Hurlleman, 8th grade student at WASH to speak about Canstructure. Audrey explained this is her third year working with Canstructure participating with the Youth Volunteer Corps of Reading. Canstructure is a building competition focused on teaching STEM concepts, raising awareness about food insecurities and collecting food for those in need, and also teaches leadership, teamwork and communication skills. At the end of the competition all food is donated to Helping Harvest. Audrey shared she has had fun being involved in Canstructure and created stronger bonds with her teammates. Audrey hopes to spread the word to get more involvement to have a bigger impact on the community and feels this is a good opportunity to have a District wide canned food drive. Audrey introduced Katie Schadler to speak about Stand Together Against Racism (STAR). Katie shared she is the co-founder of STAR and said the group was formed during a six-week summer project where 10-12 students met on Zoom to discuss certain topics like police brutality, direct action goals and personal experiences with racism. They developed a pledge to stand against racism and created a website. They have created an artistic display in the hallway of the JSHS and participated in a national stand-in against racism. Katie said being a part of the group has brought her optimism and sisterhood. She hopes advancing the STAR project in Wyomissing Area will allow students to sustain the difficult conversations about race. Katie thanked WASH for providing the resources to construct their project and the platform to hear their voices. She is hoping to continue to foster the next generation of STAR.

LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Report – Mrs. Taylor reported they met on April 15th. They discussed participation in Pennsylvania Advocacy Day which was held on April 8th. Mrs. Taylor said members of the IU met with various representatives at our state capital to discuss cyber school funding reform as well as other educational programs. She also reported, the IU held a

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vaccination clinic for teachers and other school staff, and they distributed approximately 5,200 vaccinations. Mrs. Taylor said they referenced in their newsletter the U.S. Education COVID-19 Handbook, which is from the US Government and targets ways to meet the social emotional needs of students, educators and staff. Mrs. Taylor urged anyone interested, to read the document. Next meeting is on May 20th.

- B. Berks Career & Technology Report – Mr. Pottieger reported they will meet on Wednesday April 28th and he will have a report at the next Board meeting. He can report they have named a replacement for Dr. Kraft.
- C. Berks EIT Report – Mr. Boyer reported they met on March 25th and that it was a short and informative meeting. He said they reviewed the audit report which was unmodified and is the highest rating you can receive. Mr. Boyer reported they extended the individual tax filing date from April 15th to May 17th. There was \$580,000 in excess revenue which is typical and was distributed amongst all municipalities and school districts. The next meeting is in June.
- D. Wyomissing Area Education Foundation – Mr. McCaffrey. No report.
- E. Legislative Report – Mrs. Harenza, no report.
- F. PTA – Mrs. Phillips reported they have not held a meeting so she does not have a report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ROUTINE APPROVALS

MEETING MINUTES

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

- March 22, 2021 School Board Business Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Mr. McCaffrey, Mr. Redner.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

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TREASURER'S
REPORT

Upon a motion by Mrs. Taylor, and second by Mrs. Waxler, the Treasurer's Report for March, 2021 was accepted as presented.

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

Absent: Mr. McCaffrey, Mr. Redner.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon a motion by Mrs. Waxler, and second by Mrs. McAvoy, payment of bills for the month of March, 2021 were accepted as presented.

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

Absent: Mr. McCaffrey, Mr. Redner

Nays: None. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Mr. Scoboria shared a few highlights. He congratulated the cast and crew of *Legally Blonde* and their efforts to work through the challenges of the COVID year. He said it was a great performance, and special congratulations to Director Mr. Alex Krick and staff. Mr. Scoboria shared results of the vaccine clinic held on April 25th stating, it was a great success and they had over 1,000 vaccine recipients. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Esterbrook of Esterbrook Pharmacies for making this happen. Mr. Scoboria thanked all those who volunteered, with a special thanks to two members of Mr. Cafoncelli's team, custodial staff members Gloria Claudio and Marcus Copeland for their extra efforts to help the day go smoothly. Mr. Scoboria said the second dose clinic will be held on May 16th. Mr. Scoboria shared a brief update on COVID 19, stating Berks County remains at substantial as determined by the incidence and positivity rates. He said there was a slight decrease, but we are still well over the markers to keep Berks in the substantial category. Mr. Scoboria said the District website Dashboard has been updated to include quarantine numbers and said the numbers have been fairly consistent. He said we will continue to monitor closely and provide updates on the website. Mr. Scoboria asked all to continue to be diligent in following the health and safety measures in place. Mr. Scoboria asked Dr. Woodard to share a brief update on the Hope Squad initiative and some other upcoming items.

Dr. Woodard said they have completed the process of identifying the Hope Squad advisors and the next step is to complete the training which will begin April 28th and conclude on May 19th. Dr. Woodard said there are multiple components to the training, focusing on how to recruit students, professional development of staff, training of staff and planning and hosting an orientation for parents of Hope Squad members to help them understand the goals and value of their student members to

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the community. Dr. Woodard reminded everyone of the link on our website to *ParentGuidance.org* for the resources they provide. Dr. Woodard also shared she is working with a local provider and scheduling an opportunity for yoga in some of the classrooms for students in phys. ed and personal fitness classes, along with mindfulness sessions for all faculty. Dr. Woodard also said at an upcoming Board meeting in May, Mrs. Lengle will be bringing several Student Assistance Program (SAP) team members to share statistics relating to cases and intervention throughout the District K-12, to review statistical changes through COVID compared to years prior. Dr. Woodard said she is looking forward to sharing that with everyone in May.

**A. CURRICULUM/
TECHNOLOGY**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Waxler, and second by Mrs. McAvoy, the following Curriculum and Technology Item was approved:

1. Approve textbook adoption for JSHS Science Department for 2021/22 school year:
 - a. Physics Grade 9 – *Inspire Physics*, G9-12 Comprehensive Student Class Set (70 eSE, 35 print SE), - \$6,930.00
Background Information: Includes 6-year license.
 - b. Life Science – Grade 9 - Elevate Science, 160 consumable texts and digital license, - \$22,120.37.
Background Information: Includes 8-year license
2. Approve textbook adoption for JSHS Social Studies Department for 2021/22 school year.
 - c. AP European History – A History of Western Society Since 1300 for AP, print text, 30 copies, - \$3,778.20.

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

Absent: Mr. McCaffrey, Mr. Redner.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**B. FINANCE/
FACILITIES**

Upon a motion by Mrs. McAvoy and second by Mrs. Waxler, the following Finance and Facilities Items were approved:

During discussion Mrs. Harenza asked about item number 9; is there any cost in changing providers? Mr. Boyer reported it is less expensive.

Mr. Waxler asked about item number 8, the iPad purchase. How do we determine the price is fair; can we negotiate? Mr. Boyer said we get to see the price per iPad which is much more competitive than retail pricing, and is the educational pricing that Apple provides through their separate Apple Education Department. He said this provides good pricing and good financing which is important. He stated, although we do not have the ability to negotiate the price, it is the standard

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educational price and you would not be able to secure the same pricing at retail.

1. Approve administration and Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates to advertise Option 4 of the District Wide Building Renovation project on April 27th, 2021.
Background information: The bids will be due to the District on May 20th, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. for public opening in the Community Board Room.
Update: The public bid opening has been moved to May 27, 2021 at 2:00pm in the Community Board Room
2. Approve agreement with the Wyomissing Borough for the Traffic Signal Installation and Maintenance Identification and release.
Background information: This agreement is part of the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center Crosswalk project.
3. Motion to approve settlement of a tax assessment appeal by HCP Mezzanine Lender LPNC of tax parcel numbers 93-5307-18-20-4804 for a new assessment of \$2,831,750 for tax year 2021 and thereafter.
4. Approve additional depository for 2020-2021:
 - a. JP Morgan Chase
5. Approve agreement with JP Morgan Chase to provide commercial credit card services.
6. Approve donation in the amount of \$1,000 from the Wyomissing Hills Citizens Social Committee for 6th grade camp.
7. Approve the following WAEF donations:
 - a. Matter Monsters STEM Event - \$3,430
 - b. 2nd Grade Science Explorers STEM Event - \$3,187
 - c. Virtual Field Trip to Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts - \$420
 - d. Development of Elementary Classroom Libraries (WHEC) - \$6,844.55
8. Approve agreement with Apple Inc. to purchase iPads and laptop computers in the amount of \$486,478.25.
Background information: Equipment is part of normal replacement cycle and will be purchased using ESSER II funds.

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9. Approve secure shredding agreement with High Information Group.
Background information: Agreement replaces current shredding service agreement.
10. Approve fuel tank storage agreement with Wilson School District.
Background information: This agreement is for fuel storage, no cost associated with the agreement.
11. Purchase Laptops from LEVENO in the amount of \$72,867.00.
Background information: This is for normal replacement of laptops for support staff and student labs.
12. Approve budget transfers in the amount of \$2,000.

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

Absent: Mr. McCaffrey, Mr. Redner.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**C. PERSONNEL/
POLICY**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Waxler, and second by Mrs. Taylor, the following Personnel and Policy items were approved and ratified:

During discussion Mrs. Harenza asked what does a floater position do? Dr. Woodard said it is a contracted position and we would determine the grade level assignment based on enrollment; placing the teacher where the need is determined.

1. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

a. Professional Staff

- 1) Danielle Gingrich, Spanish Teacher, JSHS, resignation effective the last paid day January 17, 2020.
- 2) Melissa Velez-Hernandez, Long-term Substitute Spanish Teacher, JSHS, resignation effective last day worked April 16, 2021.

b. Hourly Support Staff

- 1) **Trevor Fidler**, Paraprofessional, JSHS, resignation effective last day worked April 23, 2021.
- 2) **Donna Gould**, Paraprofessional, JSHS, resignation effective last day worked April 6, 2021.

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- 3) **Jessica Pinkasavage**, Nurse Assistant, WHEC, resignation effective last day worked April 23, 2021.
 - 4) **Kimberly Tetley**, Secretary to the Elementary Principal, WREC, retirement effective last working day June 30, 2021.
 - c. Salaried Support Staff
 - 1) **Barbara DeMoss**, Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent, District Office, retirement effective last working day July 6, 2021.
2. APPROVED THE LEAVES OF ABSENCE PER ATTACHED.
3. APPOINTMENTS
- a. Professional Staff
 - 1) **Tiffany Bixler**, Elementary Floater Teacher, WHEC, M/Step 4 \$59,616, effective the beginning of the contracted 2021-22 school year. *Background Information: This position is being filled due to an internal transfer.*
 - b. Hourly Support Staff
 - 1) **Lynnette Alessandroni**, Full-time Nurse Assistant, WHEC, 7 hours/day at a wage rate of \$22.00/hour, ratification effective April 21, 2021. *Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.*
 - 2) **Deborah Camirand**, Part-time Cafeteria / Recess Monitor, WHEC, 3 hours/day at a wage rate of \$10.82/hour, ratification effective April 16, 2021. *Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.*
 - 3) **Joshua Robinson**, Full-time Paraprofessional, JSHS, 7 hours/day at a wage rate of \$12.59/hour, ratification effective April 15, 2021. *Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.*
 - 4) **Sarah Ruzenski**, Full-time WHEC Building Secretary, WHEC, 7 hours/day at a wage rate of \$14.22/hour, effective date pending successful completion of pre-employment paperwork.

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Background Information: This position is being filled due to a retirement.

- 5) **Lisa Taylor**, Part-time Paraprofessional, WHEC, 6.5 hours/day at a wage rate of \$12.59/hour, effective April 29, 2021.

Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.

c. Athletic Staff

- 1) **Gina Cavorsi**, Varsity Track Assistant Coach, JSBS, update effective date to April 15, 2021.

Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.

- 2) **Raunak Doshi**, Boys' Volleyball Assistant Coach, JSBS, at a stipend of \$2,043, ratification effective April 8, 2021.

Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.

d. Supplemental Staff

- 1) **Kami Fecho**, Extended School Year (ESY) Coordinator, for the 2021 Extended School Year (ESY) summer program at a stipend of \$3,250.

4. POSITION/HOURS/TITLE CHANGE

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Dana DiDonato**, Elementary Floater Teacher, WHEC, to 1st Grade Teacher, WHEC, no change in contract hours or wage rate, effective the beginning of the 2021-22 contracted school year.

Background Information: This position is being filled due to a retirement.

b. Hourly Support Staff

- 1) **April D'Angelo**, Part-time Paraprofessional, WHEC, to Full-time Paraprofessional, WHEC, 7 hours/day, no change in contract hours or wage rate, ratification effective April 6, 2021.

Background Information: This position is being filled due to a resignation.

5. VOLUNTEERS

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Yeas: Mrs. Waxler, Mrs. Ziolkowski, Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy,
Mrs. Phillips, and Mr. Pottieger, and Mrs. Taylor.
Absent: Mr. McCaffrey, Mr. Redner.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Waxler wanted to thank both Mr. Boyer and Mr. Cafoncelli for working with the Board through the budget and the construction project in the small committee meeting workshops. She hopes we could continue to have those types of meetings in the future as it was very helpful.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

None.

**RIGHT TO KNOW
REQUEST**

None.

**UPDATES FROM
ORGANIZATIONS**

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Waxler second by Mrs. McAvoy, to adjourn at 6:49 p.m.

Board Secretary