

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2010-4207

Minutes October 25, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School with Mrs. Davis, Board President, presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Bamberger, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Helm, Mr. Larkin, Mr. Painter, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Seltzer and Mrs. Sakmann.

Administrative Staff Present:

Mr. Krem, Dr. Pulkowski, Mrs. Mason, Mr. Fries, and Ms. Garman.

Attendees:

Mr. Brian Boland, Kozloff Stoudt; Mr. Darrin Youker, Reading Eagle, and Shelley Filer, recording secretary. Audience sign-in sheet included as part of these official minutes.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the roll call by the Board secretary, Mrs. Davis welcomed everyone and noted that the Board met in executive session following the October 12, 2010 Committee of the Whole meeting and prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and no action was taken.

The following meeting schedules and locations were announced.

- Technology Committee Meeting – November 1, 2010, 3:30 p.m.
- Curriculum Committee Meeting – November 1, 2010, 4:30 p.m.
- Finance/Facilities Committee Meeting – November 2, 2010, 10:30 a.m.
- Policy/Personnel Committee Meeting – November 2, 2010, 5:00 p.m.
- Uniform Committee Meeting – Thursday, November 4, 2010, 5:30 p.m.
- Committee of the Whole – Monday, November 8, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
- Economic Development Committee Meeting – November 10, 2010, 7:00 p.m. Library Pro Room.
- School Board Meeting – Monday, November 22, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

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

Mrs. Sakmann then announced that the Curriculum Committee Meeting would be rescheduled.

PRESENTATIONS KEYSTONE EXAMS

Dr. Pulkowski provided background on the Keystone Exams and their implications to policy for graduation requirements. The Keystone Exams are a PDE initiative that Wyomissing Area is field testing in the

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Fall of 2010 in Algebra I, Biology, and Literature. The first operational administration of these exams will be in the Spring of 2011. These exams will eventually be substituted for the high school PSSA tests.

Under the new regulation and beginning with the class of 2015, students can meet graduation requirements through any of the following options determined by the district: Successful completion of courses and Keystone Exams; Rigorous, independently validated local assessments; AP or International Baccalaureate Exams; or any combination.

The implications of Keystones relative to grading and graduation consist of four options:

1. Keystone Exam counts for graduation and final exam as at least 1/3 of the final course grade.
2. Districts may count or not count score toward final grade in course, but students must score proficient or advanced to meet graduation requirement. (Choice of doing option 1 or option 2 must be for the course, not an individual teacher choice.
3. Individual districts or a consortium of districts may design and independently validate assessments, but there is no funding to do this.
4. AP scores in tested subject areas of 4 or better, but results don't arrive until mid-summer and graduation occurs in early June.

Keystone Exams can be taken as a paper/pencil test or an on-line test that is scored in real time.

Dr. Pulkowski also outlined several things the district will have to consider with the advent of Keystone Exams such as changes to our curriculum, instructional time, tracking students' completion of appropriate tests, how students who transfer from another state are handled, and our technology infrastructure if we give the tests on-line.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**ROUTINE
APPROVALS**

MEETING MINUTES

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

- September 13, 2010 Committee of the Whole Meeting
- September 27, 2010, Regular Business Meeting

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Larkin, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sakmann, second by Mrs. Seltzer, the Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Larkin, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon motion by Mr. Portner, second by Mr. Painter, payment of bills for the month of September 2010 was approved.

Mr. Fitzgerald questioned the \$40,000 spent on cyber/charter schools in one month. Mrs. Mason answered that we cannot control the amount spent because we cannot deny a student's choice to attend cyber/charter schools.

Mr. Portner asked how many of our students are cyber/charter schooled. Mrs. Mason responded the last time she checked it was about 25.

Mr. Fitzgerald also asked for clarification of the \$66,000 for real estate tax penalties. Mrs. Mason responded that it is TIF – they pay us then we pay the Redevelopment Authority.

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Larkin, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. FINANCE/ FACILITIES

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

1. Approved donation from the All-Sports Booster club in the amount of \$680.24 to be used for the purchase of video equipment.
2. Accepted letters of approval from PDE for PlanCon Part D, Project Accounting Based on Estimates and Plan Con Part E, Design Development for the West Reading Elementary Center.
3. Approved request for exoneration of per capita tax in accordance with Policy 605.
4. Approved real Property Tax Exemption Certification on parcel ID 96-4396-11-57-0440.

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Background information: The exemption has been granted per Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to taxes that become due on or after March 4, 2010. Exemptions are reviewed every five years by Veteran's Affairs for continued eligibility.

5. *Approved Budget Calendar for 2011-12 (see revised attachment).*

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Larkin, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

B. CURRICULUM/ TECHNOLOGY

A motion was made by Mrs. Sakmann, second by Mr. Fitzgerald to approved the following Curriculum and Technology items:

1. Approved in-home instruction for secondary student ID#203070 effective October 5, 2010 through December 3, 2010.
2. Approved Field Trip Request – Third grade to Valley Forge on a date to be determined.

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Larkin, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

C. PERSONNEL/ POLICY

A motion was made by Mrs. Seltzer and second by Mr. Painter, to approve the Personnel and Policy agenda items.

1. RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

a. Support Staff

- 1) **Dennis Keglovics**, full-time Custodian (second shift) at WHEC, resignation effective October 11, 2010.

b. Supplemental Staff

- 1) **Dana Quinlivan**, French Club Advisor resignation, effective October 1, 2010.

c. Effective Date

- 1) **Andrew Hoffert**, Itinerant Learning Support Teacher and Special Education Department Chair at the JSHS, resignations effective October

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8, 2010.

Background Information: Mr. Hoffert's resignations with a date to be determined were approved at the August 23, 2010, School Board meeting.

2. LEAVES

a. Administrative Staff

- 1) **Brenda Steele**, Director of Food Service, a FMLA leave effective October 5, 2010, until a date to be determined.

b. Professional Staff

- 1) **Scott Angstadt**, Elementary Music Teacher, a FMLA leave effective October 4-18, 2010.

c. Support Staff

- 1) **Sheila Nastro**, part-time Crossing Guard at WREC unpaid leave November 1-9, 2010.
- 2) **Jared Reigel**, full-time Custodian (2nd shift) at the JSHS, FMLA leave October 14-19, 2010.
- 3) **Diana Swavely**, full-time Special Education Instructional Aide, FMLA leave September 24 - October 1, 2010.
- 4) **Lauren Yelinek**, full-time Special Education Instructional Aide at WHEC unpaid leave October 4-7, 2010.

3. APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS/RETURN FROM FURLOUGHS

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Rachel M. Sofia**, Itinerant Autistic Support Teacher District-Wide at M, Step 4, \$46,820 pro-rated, effective October 26, 2010, pending receipt of necessary documentation.

Background Information: Ms. Sofia graduated Cum Laude from La Salle University with her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education (K-6) and Special Education (N-12). She earned her Master's degree in Educating Children with Visual Impairments and Multiple Disabilities from Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Since August of 2004, she has taught at the Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia. Rachel completed her student teaching at Cynwyd Elementary School and Jenkintown Elementary

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School. This position is in place of the former Speech and Language position and represents no change in overall funding.

- 2) **Megan Devaney**, Learning Support Teacher at the JSHS, at M, Step 3, \$45,720 pro-rated, effective October 26, 2010, pending receipt of necessary documentation.

Background Information: Ms. Devaney graduated Cum Laude from Bloomsburg University with a B.A. in Elementary Education and recently earned a Master's in Education in Deaf H/H from Texas Women's University. She holds certifications in Elementary Education (K-6), Special Education (N-12), Middle School Mathematics (7-9) and Middle School English (7-9). Megan has taught at Springhouse Middle School since August of 2007 and provided intermediate school emotional support at Southern Lehigh since August of 2010. She completed her student teaching experience at Fairhill School in Philadelphia where she taught grades two and four. Ms. Devaney is replacing Andrew Hoffert.

b. Support Staff

- 1) **William C. Cary**, full-time Custodian (Floater) 8 hrs./day, \$12.31/hr. effective October 18, 2010, pending receipt of necessary documentation.

Background Information: Mr. Cary is filling the vacancy created by last month's transfer of Dennis Keglovics to second shift custodian at WHEC.

- 2) **Aimee K. Round**, part-time Library Aide at WHEC, at \$9.61/hr., with shared hours not to exceed the existing 29 hours per week, effective October 27, 2010, pending receipt of necessary documentation.

Background Information: Ms. Round is replacing Jennifer Allbee.

- 3) **Karl Schneiderhan**, part-time van driver, return from furlough, effective October 11, 2010.
- 4) **Benito Diaz**, transfer from full-time Custodian (2nd shift) at WHEC to full-time Custodian (1st shift) at WHEC with no change in hourly rate or number of hours worked, effective January 28,

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2011.

Background Information: Mr. Diaz will be filling the vacancy created by Richard Schlegel's retirement.

- 5) **William Harcar**, transfer from full-time Custodian (2nd shift) at the JSHS to full-time Custodian (2nd shift) at WREC with no change in hourly rate or number of hours worked, effective October 26, 2010.

Background Information: Mr. Harcar is replacing Michael Hawkins who transferred to the JSHS.

c. Effective Date

- 1) **Tony Alvarez**, Special Education Department Chair effective October 11, 2010.

Background Information: Mr. Alvarez's appointment, with a date to be determined, was approved at the September 27, 2010, School Board meeting.

d. Supplemental Staff

Activities:

- 1) **Jennifer Parker Scott**, Sr. High Drama Choreographer, 16.5 points, \$1,394.00, effective the 2010-11 school year, pending receipt of necessary documentation.
- 2) **Diana Swavely**, change from Homework Club Advisor, 15 points, \$1,268.00, to Homework Club Co-Advisor, 8.25 points \$697.00, effective the 2010-11 school year.

Background Information: Ms. Swavely's appointment was approved at the June 28, 2010, Board meeting. She is unable to fulfill the duties as sole Homework Club Advisor and has requested to be a co-advisor.

- 3) **Corrine Suloff**, Homework Club Co-Advisor, 6.75 points, \$570.00, effective the 2010-11 school year.

Winter Athletics:

- 4) Approve Supplemental Athletics List for Winter Sports 2010-11.

Weight Room

- 5) **Kelly Ferrandino**, Substitute Weight Room

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supervisor, \$13.00/hr., effective October 15, 2010.

e. Support Teachers for the 2010-11 school year:

<u>Support Teacher</u>	<u>Inductee</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Melissa Siegfried	April Collins	LTS Learning Support	\$415.00
Rachel Unger	Megan Devaney	Learning Support	\$375.00
Donna Fischer	Rachel Sofia	Itinerant Autistic Support	\$375.00

4. ADDITIONAL HOURS

a. Professional Staff

- 1) **Brenda Phillips**, Science Teacher at the JSHS, to provide homebound instruction for one secondary student ID #203070, effective October 15, 2010, through December 3, 2010, for a shared maximum not to exceed 5 hours per week at the approved contracted rate.
- 2) **Timothy Hetrich**, Social Studies Teacher at the JSHS, to provide homebound instruction for one secondary student ID #203070, effective October 15, 2010, through December 3, 2010, for a shared maximum not to exceed 5 hours per week at the approved contracted rate.

b. Support Staff

- 1) The following Special Education Instructional Aides, 6 hours at their approved hourly rate to attend CPR-First Aid Heartsaver training at the Reading Hospital and Medical Center on October 11, 2010:

Elizabeth Barrer (WHEC)
Rupa Patel (WHEC)
Stacey Riegel (WHEC)

5. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE DISTRICT SUBSTITUTE LIST (attached to agenda)

6. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE DISTRICT VOLUNTEER LIST (attached to agenda)

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Larkin, Painter, Portner,
Sakmann, Seltzer and Davis.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

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OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Boland explained that the leases with St. James Church and Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church were amended to permit a holdover by the district in the event that construction of the West Reading Elementary Center is not completed on time. The leases have been amended to start December 18, 2010 and allow the district to extend the lease by 30-day intervals beyond June 30, 2011 in case the project isn't completed by the start of the 2011-12 school year. Both churches have approved the amendments and Mr. Boland asked that the Board approve them as well.

Upon a motion by Mr. Larkin, second by Mr. Portner, the Board approved amending the leases of May 24, 2010.

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Larkin, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board then recessed into Mr. Krem's office for a brief Executive Session.

Upon returning, Mrs. Davis asked Mr. Boland to explain a new motion to approve the mutual release agreement between Sheila Simyak and the Wyomissing Area School District.

Upon a motion by Mr. Portner, second by Mrs. Sakmann, the Board approved the agreement as presented.

During discussion, Mr. Boland explained that Mrs. Simyak filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The matter went to mediation. As part of the mediation there was a settlement of the matter for \$12,000. The district's out-of-pocket expense is a \$5,000 deductible that is being consumed in insurance defense costs. The balance of the attorney's fees will be paid by the insurance company. While liability has not been admitted, the insurance company felt the cost of defending the suit would be far more expensive than the settlement.

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Larkin, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, and Seltzer.

Abstain: Davis

Nays: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Davis provided highlights and accomplishments of several district fall athletic teams.

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Mr. Portner asked Mr. Krem to make a recommendation for revision of Policy 237 on electronic devices for the November 2 Policy Committee meeting. He also indicated they will be discussing the problems occurring with gum chewing in the schools.

Mrs. Bamberger reported that the Economic Development Committee and the Community Relations Committee are working together to develop a means to allow parents, students and community members to communicate with the Board.

Mrs. Seltzer asked that when reviewing the budget we take a hard look at the cost of so many coaches for athletics.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

HEARING FROM WAEA

Mr. Brian Ackerman shared the following accomplishments of faculty and students:

- Kid writing in Kindergarten – trained parents are in the classroom assisting students in learning to write.
- Grade 3 is conducting a food drive in conjunction with their Halloween celebration.
- Pennies for Peace coordinated by Kara Les, proceeds benefit the Central Asia Institute to help build schools. Students have reached their goal within the first two months of the campaign.
- Extra Mile Running Club – 200 students running on Tuesdays and Thursdays with guest runners who act as role models to help students set and achieve goals.
- WREC sleepover was a success.
- Tim Hetrich's US History class's lesson on the transcontinental railroad was featured in the Reading Eagle.
- Channel 69 covered a visit by someone who gave students at the JSHS first-hand knowledge of what it is like to live and raise a family in the Sudan.
- Under the direction of Chris Kersikoski and Jennifer Mangold, students are learning how to use GPS units to find coordinates on campus.
- Upcoming events were noted.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Sakmann, seconded by Mr. Portner to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Mrs. Davis announced that there would be an Executive Session immediately following the meeting.

Corinne D. Mason
Board Secretary