

**WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Work Session**

November 11, 2019

The meeting of the Board Work Session convened on November 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Wattsburg Area Elementary School.

Dr. Bill Hallock, Mr. Josh Paris, Mr. Marty Pushchak, Mrs. Brenda Sandberg, Mr. Aaron Snippert, Mrs. Amanda Thayer-Zacks, and Dr. Andy Pushchak attended. Also, in attendance were Mr. Ken Berlin, Superintendent; Mrs. Rebecca Kelley, Assistant to the Superintendent and Attorney Christine McClure. Mr. Eric Duda and Mrs. Julie Pikiewicz were absent.

Roll Call

Dr. Pushchak announced that before moving along with the agenda, he would like to make a brief statement. The WASD voices have been heard...loud and clear. The voters have been heard...loud and clear. Recent events are recognized by this board and be the president of the board. Issues regarding how the board recently made their decision to approve the outdoor athletic facility project fueled efforts during the recent school board election. Many publicly stated they were not against the project but were against the process how the school board went about the approval of the project. Be assured the board is made up of reasonable people that have the best interest of students and tax payers in mind. Moving forward, the board recognizes that they need to improve or enhance any processes that brought concerns to our community. Next Monday, we will honor five school board members at their last meeting for their many years of service to the students and tax payers of the Wattsburg Area School District. We will thank them for their 4, 6, 8, and 16 years of board service. And in December we will swear in five new board members. We are excited to welcome these new board members and we look forward to the new perspectives each of them will bring including working together as a new board to analyze and review processes with their fresh voices to better inform and engage the community. After reflecting on recent events in our school district and community, the board acknowledges that certain issues must be addressed moving forward. The continuing board members along with newly seated board members will work together to address the issues and to best serve the students and tax payers of the Wattsburg Area School District.

Dr. Pushchak also recognized our veterans and all veterans for their service to our country not only on Veteran's Day but every day. And we remember in a special way, those veterans who have given the ultimate sacrifice so we may continue to live free today.

Danny Carter addressed the board with concerns. He expects to be listened to when he brings a concern to the administration's attention. He feels that the handbook needs to be followed. He also feels the activity bus needs to be back in service.

Guest
and
Citizen
Comments

Rich Konkol addressed the board stating he has no loyalty to the school or district he is simply a voter and tax payer. He feels the maintenance on the new turf

fields will be more intensive than anyone thinks. He also feels that the field project being pushed through raised a lot of red flags to tax payers.

Joy Biebel challenged the board to engage students and listen to their input. Students need to be heard. The public was outraged by the lack of transparency of the board regarding the turf project. She stated the recent election results were public vote to change things on the board this year and that she sees more changes coming in the 2021 election.

Lori Zaumseil stated that when the community share their concerns, they are frustrated with the board because the board does not listen. She also said that their frustration with the board does not extend to the two members who voted against the turf project, Mrs. Sandberg and Mr. Snippert. She stated that the Board and district decisions ultimately fall on the President of the Board and the Superintendent.

Jodi Gray stated the election write in is not personal. She stated the board has lost the tax payers trust and all the community frustration could have been avoided if the board would have just waited a few weeks for the November Board meeting to approve the turf project.

Mr. Berlin gave the Treasurer's Report of the General Fund Balance of \$11,180,584.60, the Capital Projects Fund \$1,878.39 and a review the of Checks Already Written totaling \$53,347.01. A full report will be given at the November 18, 2019 Board meeting.

Treasurer's
Report

The Board discussed the budgetary transfers for the 2018-2019 school year. This item to be placed on the November 18, 2019 agenda.

Budgetary
Transfers

The Board discussed the Kelly Substitute additions. This item to be placed on the November 18, 2019 agenda.

Kelly Substitutes

The Board discussed the personnel appointments of Anna Strnisha as a long-term substitute Social Studies Teacher at Seneca High School anticipated November 11, 2019 through February 24, 2020 at Bachelors, Step 1. And Kody Seymour as custodian, Level II, Class B, 7.00 hours/day, 205 days/year effective November 19, 2019. This item to be placed on the November 18, 2019 agenda.

Personnel
Appointments

The Board discussed the following conference requests:

- Hillary Barboni, Emily Ewings, Meagan Baltes, Stephanie Krzak, Amy Kerr, Janice Sayers, Mary Kate O'Connell, Joni Swackhamer, Ebbie Shores, Michelle Pisano, Brittany Smiley, Heather Baden to attend Getting on Track to Read by 3rd Grade on November 19, 2019 in Edinboro, PA at an estimated cost of \$876.30. Funds from Professional Development.
- Vincent DiMichele to attend SCRIPT: Computer Science Strategic Planning Tool for School Districts on November 13, 2019 in Edinboro, PA at an estimated cost of \$26.10. Funds from Instructional Travel-Middle School.

Conference
Requests

This item to be placed on the November 18, 2019 agenda.

The Board discussed tuition reimbursements. This item to be placed on the November 18, 2019 agenda.

Tuition
Reimbursements

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| The Board discussed the homebound instruction for a 12th Grade Seneca High School Student effective November 25, 2019 anticipated through February 14, 2020. This item to be placed on the November 18, 2019 agenda. | Homebound Instruction |
| The Board discussed the affiliation agreement between Edinboro University and Wattsburg Area School District for counseling students to intern at Wattsburg. This item to be placed on the November 18, 2019 agenda. | Edinboro Affiliation Agreement |
| The Board discussed the transportation requests and ratification of field trips since the last meeting. This item to be placed on the November 18, 2019 agenda. | Transportation Requests |
| The Board discussed the resignation of William Kuhn, Audio/Visual Director effective November 8, 2019. This item to be placed on the November 18, 2019 agenda. | Extra-Curricular Resignation |
| The Board discussed the appointment of Donald Einhouse as weightlifting coach effective November 18, 2019. This item to be placed on the November 18, 2019 agenda. | Athletic Appointment |
| The Board discussed the resignation of Jeremy Bloeser as middle school cross country coach effective November 10, 2019. This item to be placed on the November 18, 2019 agenda. | Athletic Resignation |
| The Board discussed the organization of a non-curricular AP Club at Seneca High School. The purpose of this club is to raise funds for various Advanced Placement events, study materials and charity groups. This item to be placed on the November 18, 2019 agenda. | Organization of Club |
| There are no reports for Erie County Technical School and the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit this evening. | |
| There being no further business, by motion by Dr. Hallock, seconded by Mr. Snippert, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM. | Adjournment |

Signature on File
Aaron Snippert
Assistant Board Secretary