

WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

NOVEMBER 18, 2019

The Wattsburg Area School District Board of Education held their Regular Board meeting at the Wattsburg Area Elementary Center on November 18, 2019.

President Andy Pushchak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Bill Hallock, Mr. Josh Paris, Mrs. Julie Pikiewicz, Mr. Marty Pushchak, Mrs. Brenda Sandberg, Mr. Aaron Snippert, Mrs. Amanda Thayer-Zacks, and Dr. Andy Pushchak attended. Mr. Eric Duda was absent. Mr. Kenneth Berlin, Superintendent; Mrs. Rebecca Kelley, Assistant to the Superintendent; Mrs. Vicki Bendig Business Administrator and Attorney Christine McClure, Solicitor also attended.

Roll Call

The Fuel Up to Play 60 students led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Mrs. Sandberg, seconded by Mr. Snippert to approve the agenda and addendum as presented. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Agenda

Motion by Mr. Snippert, seconded by Dr. Hallock to approve the meeting minutes of the October 21, 2019 Regular Board Meeting, the October 28, 2019 Special Board Meeting and the November 11, 2019 Work Session. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

During school reports, Mr. Calabrese introduced Mrs. Pinzok who introduced the fifth grade Fuel Up to Play 60 students. The students produced a safety video to instruct students what to do in emergencies such as fire and weather when they are in different areas of the building. The video was viewed and will be used to teach the students at the elementary center.

School Reports

Mr. Paris introduced Mrs. Cage and the WAMS Girls' Cross-Country Team. The girls placed first in Districts and Regionals and were undefeated this season. Ashley Post set a running record last year and broke her own record this year by 5 seconds.

Mr. Miller introduced Mr. Rob Englert, the new assistant principal at the high school. Mr. Englert thanked the Board and said that he looks forward to working in the district.

Mrs. Cage introduced Garrett Kuhn. Garrett represented WASD at the PIAA State Championship race in Hershey, PA.

Sargent Oshop introduced Halle Swasing, a senior at SHS and ROTC Cadet. Halle has been awarded a full AFJROTC scholarship to Pittsburgh University where she will pursue Chemistry.

Mr. Casper and Mrs. Winstead represented the SHS Marching Band. The band was undefeated at their competitions this year and won the Class LMBA Championship title in October.

All students received certificates acknowledging their accomplishments. Dr. Pushchak shared that this is the Board's favorite part of the meeting. We are proud of our students and how they represent the district. He also shared that he and his family attended the fall play at Seneca over the weekend and it was nicely done

Attorney McClure made a statement on behalf of the Board (attached to the minutes).

The following guest/citizens addressed the Board:

- Danny Carter – Congratulated the students on their successes. He stated that he is concerned with the quality of the drinking water in the schools at the fountains. Also, he would like to see the activity bus brought back in some way. He then stated that he has no problems with the teachers but has a problem with the administration asking faculty if they have any problem with him. He requested that the football seniors and their parents be recognized since the last football game of the season was cancelled. Mr. Carter thanked the board.
- Rich Konkol – Said that the board should attend a Greene Township meeting and see how they run a meeting and model it. He questioned the fund transfers on the agenda, the roof inspection agreement, and the motion to open the head football coach position. Mr. Konkol then called for the resignation of the Board President and the Superintendent.

**Guest & Citizens
Comments**

Mr. Berlin answered the questions posed by Mr. Carter and Mr. Konkol on the reserve fund, activity bus, and head football coaching position.

- Jodi Gray – Questioned the fund transfers on the agenda, Exhibit E. She said she feels the board president and superintendent are no longer effective and has been in contact with the Attorney General, Auditor General, and Board of Ethics to file formal complaints. Mrs. Gray called for the resignation of the Board President and the Superintendent.

Mrs. Bendig explained Exhibit E (Budgetary transfers) and the purpose of budgetary transfers.

- The following individuals called for the resignation of the Board President and the Superintendent: Rebecca Percy, Troy Zaumseil, Aaron Hoover, Gloria Bird, Tina Ballus, Merle Lewis, Trina Dingle, Gary Zacherl, Brian Brown, and Wanda Seifert.

- Nicole Lee – A new parent to the District, shared that her experience with the elementary center staff and administration has been excellent. She said that it is a wonderful district, feels the superintendent is running the district very well, and that good things are happening in the District.
- Bob Colvin – Expressed concern about tax increases, the \$3 million athletic project, deceptive FAQ document. He said a change is needed and called for the resignation of the Board President and the Superintendent.
- Lori Zaumseil – Expressed concern that board meetings are too brief and called for the resignation of the Board President and the Superintendent.
- Darren Galkowski – Stated that he supports the school board and the tremendous improvements that have been made in the past 6 years.
- Keith Mueller – Said that the new fields will benefit all the students, not just football. He stated that he does not see any secrets being kept; information has been made public. He closed by saying that people are asking for the resignation of two individuals who are trying to do the best for our school.
- David Buona – Said that our athletic fields are way behind. Cautioned those calling for resignations to be careful of what they wish for, reminding them that before Mr. Berlin, the District went through three (3) superintendents in three years. He believes that the board and Mr. Berlin are doing a fantastic job in leading the District.
- Fred Swasing - stated that it was nice for the board to recognize his daughter Halle's achievement of an AFJROTC scholarship but said that she learned in spite of the school board.
- The following students called for the resignation of the board president and superintendent: Tyler Biebel, Halle Swasing, and Brooke Cass.

Mr. Berlin recognized the outgoing board members and thanked them for volunteering to serve the District and Community. The members received an award recognizing their outstanding service.

Superintendent's Report

Motion by, seconded by to approve the following reports, payments and invoices as presented:

- Revenue & Expenditure Reports
 - General Fund: \$2,863,395.96
 - Capital Reserve Fund: \$3,581.71
- Checks and Invoices
 - [Exhibit A1](#) Checks Already Written: \$53,347.01
 - [Exhibit A2](#) Checks Already Written: \$7,906.92
 - [Exhibit A3](#) General Fund Bills: \$467,121.25
 - [Exhibit B2](#) Cafeteria Bills: \$38,479.95
 - [Exhibit C2](#) Capital Project Fund Bills: \$80,565.43

Business Administrator's Report

o [Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$64,791.40
Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Dr. Hallock to approve the budgetary transfers for the 2018-2019 school year as outlined in [Exhibit E](#). In a recorded roll call vote, Mr. Pushchak, Mrs. Sandberg, Mr. Snippert, Mrs. Thayer-Zacks, Dr. Hallock, Mr. Paris, Mrs. Pikiewicz and Dr. Pushchak voted to approve the budgetary transfers. Motion carried.

Budgetary Transfers

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Snippert to authorize the Business Administrator to transfer \$80,565.43 from the Committed Reserve Fund to the Capitol Project Fund. In a recorded roll call vote, Mr. Pushchak, Mrs. Sandberg, Mr. Snippert, Mrs. Thayer-Zacks, Dr. Hallock, Mr. Paris, Mrs. Pikiewicz and Dr. Pushchak voted to approve the budgetary transfers. Motion carried.

**Budgetary Transfer
Committed Reserve
Fund to Capitol
Project Fund**

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Snippert to approve the reallocation of the current credit limit as outlined in [attachment 1](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**WASD Reallocation
of Credit Limit**

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Dr. Hallock to approve Ken Berlin and Vicki Bendig to be district account fiduciaries for the WASD AFJROTC. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Account Fiduciaries
AFJROTC**

Motion by Mr. Snippert, seconded by Dr. Hallock to approve Roof Consulting Services LLC to provide a roof analysis, report and presentation as outlined in [attachment 2](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Roof Consulting
Services**

Motion by Mrs. Sandberg, seconded by Mr. Snippert to approve the following:

- The additions to the Kelly Educational Staffing Substitute List
 - Yvonne Bentley Emily Corbin Travis Pietkiewicz
 - Catherine Borgia Meagan Dubik
- The following appointments:
 - o 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.
 - o Kody Seymour as custodian, Level II, Class B, 7.00 hours/day, 205 days/year effective November 19, 2019.
- The following conference requests:
 - o 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.
 - o Vincent DiMichele to attend SCRIPT: Computer Science Strategic Planning Tool for School Districts on November 13,

**Kelly Educational
Staffing**

Appointments

**Conference
Requests**

2019 in Edinboro, PA at an estimated cost of \$26.10. Funds from Instructional Travel-Middle School.

- Matthew Calabrese to attend Supervision Leadership Academy on 12/17/19, 1/14/20, and 3/3/20 in Edinboro, PA at an estimated cost of \$543.30. Funds from Professional Development.
- Elizabeth Oslak-Diehl to attend Youngstown State University Counselor Day on December 6, 2019 in Youngstown, OH, at an estimated cost of \$125.28. Funds from Professional Development.
- Paul Semrau to attend NWPACT Rolling with Robots at Rocky Grove on November 14, 2019 in Franklin, PA at an estimated cost of \$61.48. Funds from Professional Development.
- A. Roger Shaw as an addition to the 2019-2020 Service Substitute List.
- The tuition reimbursements as outlined in [Exhibit F](#).

Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Service Substitutes
 Tuition
 Reimbursement**

Motion by Dr. Hallock, seconded by Mr. Snippet to approve the following:

- Homebound instruction for a 12th Grade Seneca High School Student effective November 25, 2019 anticipated through February 14, 2020.
- The affiliation agreement between Edinboro University and Wattsburg Area School District for counseling students to intern at Wattsburg as outlined in [Exhibit G](#).

Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Homebound
 Instruction

 Affiliation
 Agreement
 EUP/WASD**

Motion by Dr. Hallock, seconded by Mrs. Pikiewicz to approve the following transportation requests.

**Transportation
 Requests**

Group Requesting:	Date:	Destination:	Estimated Cost:	Funds By:
Spanish I & II Class	Friday, December 6, 2019	La Mexicana, Painesville, OH Tereros, Erie, PA	\$503.00	Student Activities
Chick Chat Club (Gr. 5-8)	Monday, November 25, 2019	Erie Humane Society Maria's Pizza	\$358.00	WAMS Field Trip Substitute
Chorus	Friday, December 20, 2019	WAEC	TBD	Student Activities

Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Thayer-Zacks, seconded by Mrs. Pikiewicz to approve the following:

- The additions to the WASD Volunteer List as outlined.
 Sarah Brown Darren Galkowski Nicole Lee Stacey Marie
 Desmond Drake Christopher Karns Lindsay Lynch Debra Rogosky

WASD Volunteers

Christopher Fox Diane Kinnear

- The resignation of William Kuhn, Audio/Visual Director effective November 8, 2019.
- Donald Einhouse as weightlifting coach effective November 18, 2019
- The resignation of Jeremy Bloeser as middle school cross country coach effective November 10, 2019.
- 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 as outlined in [Exhibit H](#).
- To open the position of the Varsity Football Head Coach.

Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

There is no report for the Erie County Technical School nor the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit.

Dr. Pushchak thanked the out-going Board members for their service to the District.

There being no other business before the Board, upon motion by Dr. Hallock, seconded by Mr. Snippert, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

**Extra-Curricular
Resignation**

**Athletic
Appointment
Resignation**

**Organization of
Non-Curricular Club**

**Open Athletic
Position**

**ECTS
NW PA Tri-County
Intermediate Unit**

Signature on File
Vicki Bendig
School Board Secretary

ⁱ Pro-rated for the 2019-2020 school year

The Board is aware of claims, accusations and threats that have been circulating on social media. Some of those statements have been made during our public comment time.

The members of the Board and the administration realize that you may not agree with some decisions. You have every right to disagree and to voice that disagreement, at Board meetings and on social media. The District does not shirk from open criticism and good faith disagreements.

However, there are limits to statements that are leveled even against public officials. Statements that are intended to harm the reputation of a public official, and that includes Board members, administrators and teachers, that are intended to lower that person in the estimation of the community or to deter third parties from associating or dealing with that person are considered to be defamatory. Even if the statement involves a matter of public concern, if it is negative, causes actual harm and is made with actual malice by knowing that the statement is false or if the statements are made with reckless disregard for the truth, these statements are actionable as defamatory libel.

To be clear, all actions taken by the current Board as well as the present administration have been in accordance with the Public School Code, Board Policy, the Open Meeting Law and all other applicable laws. Any accusation to the contrary is false or is made with reckless disregard to truth or falsity. Please think about what you say and what you post. False, defamatory statements will not be tolerated at board meetings. Social media postings are also subject to the law of defamatory libel. Individuals who declare their opinions publicly in social media forums are legally responsible for their commentary and may be held personally liable for anything they write or present online.