

WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

DECEMBER 2, 2019

The Wattsburg Area School District Board of Education held their Organization meeting followed by the Regular Board meeting at the Wattsburg Area Elementary Center on December 2, 2019.

President Andy Pushchak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Jeremy Bloeser, Mrs. Amanda Farrell, Mr. Shawn Matson, Mr. Steven O'Donnell, Mr. Josh Paris, Mrs. Julie Pikiewicz, Mrs. Tara Pound, Mr. Marty Pushchak and Dr. Andy Pushchak attended. 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

Dr. Pushchak made a statement to the public (included with the minutes). Attorney McClure explained that by law, the Board is required to hold a reorganization meeting the first Monday of December each year. In order to not conflict with the school activities around the holiday season, the Regular Board Meeting will follow the Reorganization meeting. These meeting times were approved by the board last year at the Reorganization Meeting and advertised in accordance with all regulations.

During the Guest and Citizen Comments, the following people addressed the Board:

Guest and Citizen Comments

- Nicole Lee, Amanda Thayer-Zacks, David Buona, Bethany Pinzok, Shawn and Nicole Miller, Carrie Bloeser, and Eric Duda expressed support for Dr. Pushchak, Mr. Berlin and to the Board for the many positive changes they have done and are doing for the District. Many stated that the focus of advocacy should be placed on state government officials who are responsible for inadequate public-school funding.
- Students Halle Swasing, Lauren Colvin and Jace Wolf feel that no one listens to their concerns such as the lack of school spirit and vaping in the restrooms.
- Rich Konkol, Lori Zaumseil, Troy Zaumseil, Jodi Gray, and Joy Biebel requested that Dr. Pushchak not accept the Board President position if nominated. They would like people to feel engaged at the meetings and be able to speak openly and have the Board explain and answer questions. They would also like minutes of meetings to be made public before the next board meeting. Attorney McClure explained that minutes cannot be released until they are voted upon by the Board and are made official which is always done at the next successive meeting. Dr. Pushchak thanked all those who spoke this evening for their input.

Dr. Pushchak opened the floor for nominations for the Temporary Board President. Mrs. Pikiewicz nominated Mr. Pushchak. There being no further nominations, the Board elected Mr. Pushchak by a voice vote with no opposition.

Temporary Board President

Certificates of Election for the newly elected board members, Jeremy Bloeser, Amanda Farrell, Shawn Matson, Steven O'Donnell and Tara Pound were read by Mr. Pushchak as per School Code 402.

Certificates of Election

Mr. Pushchak administered the Oath of Office to Jeremy Bloeser, Amanda Farrell, Shawn Matson, Steven O'Donnell and Tara Pound as new Board Members.

Oath of Office

Nominations for Permanent President were opened. Mr. Paris nominated Dr. Pushchak and Mr. O'Donnell nominated Mrs. Pound and Mr. Matson. In a recorded roll call vote, Mr. Paris, Mrs. Pikiwicz, Mr. Pushchak, Dr. Pushchak, Mr. Bloeser and Mrs. Farrell voted for Dr. Pushchak. Mr. O'Donnell, Mrs. Pound and Mr. Matson voted for Mrs. Pound. Dr. Pushchak was elected as Permanent President.

Election of Permanent President

Nominations for Permanent Vice President were opened. Mr. Bloeser nominated Mrs. Farrell. Mr. O'Donnell nominated Mrs. Pound. In a recorded roll call vote, Mr. Bloeser, Mrs. Farrell, Mr. Paris, Mrs. Pikiwicz, Mr. Pushchak and Dr. Pushchak voted for Mrs. Farrell. Mr. O'Donnell, Mrs. Pound and Mr. Matson voted for Mrs. Pound. Mrs. Farrell was elected as Permanent Vice-President.

Election of Permanent Vice-President

Motion by Mrs. Pikiwicz, seconded by Mr. Paris that the Public meetings for Work/Study and Regular Board begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Wattsburg Area Elementary Center, 10780 Wattsburg Road, Erie, PA 16509 as follows:

Public Meetings for Work Sessions and Board Meetings

Work Sessions

January 13, 2020	May 11, 2020	September 14, 2020
February 10, 2020	June 8, 2020	October 12, 2020
March 9, 2020	August 10, 2020	November 9, 2020
April 13, 2020		

Regular Business Meetings

January 20, 2020	May 18, 2020	October 19, 2020
February 17, 2020	June 15, 2020	November 16, 2020
March 16, 2020	August 17, 2020	December 7, 2020 (following Re-organization agenda items)
April 20, 2020	September 21, 2020	

Board Reorganization Meeting December 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Committee meetings on Mondays as requested by the committee chairperson at a time and place designated by the President of the Board. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Paris to appoint of Julie Pikiwicz as Assistant Board Secretary for the WASD beginning December 2, 2019 through the next School Board Reorganization Meeting on December 7, 2020. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Assistant School Board Secretary

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Pikiewicz to appoint the following TCC delegates as follows:

- Primary voting delegate: Vicki Bendig
- First alternate voting delegate: Marty Pushchak
- Second alternate voting delegate: Tara Pound

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

**Erie County Tax
Claim Commission
Delegates**

Motion by Mrs. Pikiewicz, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to appoint Steven O'Donnell as the WASD Representative to the Joint Operating Committee of the Erie County Technical School for a three-year term beginning December 2, 2019 through December 1, 2022. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**ECTS Joint
Operating
Committee
Representative**

Motion by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mrs. Pikiewicz to approve the appointment of Debra Nuhfer as Board Recording Secretary for the WASD beginning December 2, 2019 through the next School Board Reorganization Meeting on December 7, 2020. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Recording Secretary

Motion by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Pushchak to approve the agenda as presented. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Agenda

Motion by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Pushchak to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2019 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Pikiewicz to approve the following reports, payments and invoices as presented:

- Revenue & Expenditure Reports
 - [General Fund](#): \$9,691,178.12
 - [YTD Budget to Actual Report](#)
 - [Capital Projects](#): \$1,878.39
 - [Cafeteria](#): \$168,107.57
 - [Cafeteria Profit/Loss](#): (\$2,099.59)
- Checks and Invoices
 - [Exhibit A1](#) Checks Already Written: \$9,585.88
 - [Exhibit A3](#) General Fund Bills: \$92,180.83
 - [Exhibit B2](#) Cafeteria Bills: \$854.84
 - [Exhibit C2](#) Capital Project Fund Bills: \$6,291.85
 - [Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$62,249.48

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

**Business
Administrator's
Report**

Motion by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Bloeser to approve the Erie County Land Bank Agreement between Greene Township and Wattsburg Area School

**Erie County Land
Bank Agreement**

District as outlined in [Exhibit E](#) and the Greene Township Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement as outlined in [Exhibit F](#). In a recorded roll call vote Mr. Paris, Mrs. Pikiewicz, Mrs. Pound, Mr. Pushchak, Mr. Bloeser, Mrs. Farrell, Mr. Matson, Mr. O'Donnell, and Dr. Pushchak voted to approve the agreements. Motion carried.

**Greene Township
Intergovernmental
Cooperation
Agreement**

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the Accelerated Budget Opt-Out Resolution certifying that the tax rate will remain within the inflation index and no need to comply with the [Act 1 Accelerated Budget Procedures](#) for the 2020-2021 General Fund Budget as outlined in [Exhibit G](#). In a recorded roll call vote, Mr. Pushchak, Mr. Bloeser, Mrs. Farrell, Mr. Matson, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Paris, Mrs. Pikiewicz, Mrs. Pound and Dr. Pushchak voted to approve the Accelerated Budget Opt-Out Resolution. Motion carried.

**Accelerated Budget
Opt-Out Resolution**

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Paris to authorize the Business Administrator to complete the following Budgetary Transfers:

Budgetary Transfers

- For the 2019-2020 school year as outlined in [Exhibit H](#).
- \$6,291.85 from the Committed Reserve Fund to the Capitol Project Fund.

In a recorded roll call vote, Mr. Pushchak, Mr. Bloeser, Mrs. Farrell, Mr. Matson, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Paris, Mrs. Pikiewicz, Mrs. Pound and Dr. Pushchak voted to approve the budgetary transfers. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Paris, seconded Mr. Pushchak to approve the use of Seneca High School Gymnasium, cafeteria dining room, and locker rooms on January 18 -19, 2020 by the Wattsburg Wrestling Club for a Youth Wrestling Tournament at an estimated cost of \$312.54. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Facility Use

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the following:

- Elaine Fazekas-Dodick and Steve Huzar Jr. as additions to the Kelly Educational Staffing Substitute list for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Linda Trott as Cafeteria Aide, Class C, 3.25 hours/day, 180 days/year retro to September 27, 2019.
- Adam Mong as an addition to the Service Substitute List for the 2019-2020 school year.
- An Intermittent Family Medical Leave for Shelly Ochterski effective December 3, 2019.

Kelly Substitute

**Personnel
Appointment**

Service Substitute

Leave Request

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

Motion by Mr. O'Donnell, seconded by Mr. Pushchak to approve Ryan Watkins as an addition to the Durham Bus Drivers for the 2019-2020 school year. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Durham Bus Driver

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the following;

- Bobbie Heisler as an addition to the WASD Volunteer list.

**WASD Volunteer
List**

- The following extra-curricular appointments:
 - Traci Steers as Extra Mile ELA Substitute Tutor for the 2019-2020 school year.
 - Dana Cerroni as Extra Mile Math Substitute Tutor for the 2019-2020 school year.

**Extra-Curricular
Appointments**

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

There were no reports from the Erie County Technical School Joint Operations nor the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit this evening.

Dr. Pushchak informed the audience that the Board would meet in Executive Session immediately following this meeting to discuss matters related to a pending legal matter, personnel, and a collective bargaining agreement.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Pikiewicz, the meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Adjournment

Signature on File
Vicki Bendig
School Board Secretary

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the Wattsburg Area School District where we are student centered and future focused for a world class education. The regular board meeting including board reorganization is now called to order. Since the last board meeting, many citizens and parents have expressed an overwhelming support of this board and in particular the board president and the superintendent. Their kind remarks of support cited Board and administration acts and accomplishments that those citizens verified by looking at meeting minutes and budgets. I thank those citizens for your support and applaud you for not being deterred by other voices. The messages of support have also denounced the tactics of others which have included false accusations, rumors, and lies. I remind all present tonight of long-standing Board policy (adopted before I was elected to the board) that comments that are personally directed, abusive, obscene or irrelevant will not be tolerated during our board meetings. Should a comment be made that is false or made with reckless disregard as to whether or not it is false, legal consequences for defamation will be pursued against the person making the comment. As our school solicitor announced at the last meeting, there are limits to statements that are leveled against public officials. Be aware that this meeting is being video recorded to ensure an accurate account of this meeting. I encourage all citizens to look to our records and not to false allegations, innuendos, rumors and lies.

With that, we will turn to citizen comments. Those who signed up to speak one week prior will be afforded a maximum of ten minutes. Those who signed the visitors log tonight will have a maximum of 5 minutes. If more than 2 persons wish to speak on the same topic, please appoint one person to act as spokesperson for the group. And, please wait until you are at the podium to state your name and address. Thank you.