

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

January 13, 2020

The meeting of the Board Work Session convened on January 13, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Wattsburg Area Elementary School.

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. Also attending were Mr. Ken Berlin, Superintendent; Mrs. Rebecca Kelley, Assistant to the Superintendent; and Mrs. Vicki Bendig, Business Administrator.

Roll Call

Dr. Pushchak announced that the Board met in Executive Session on January 6, 2020 to discuss legal and personnel matters and prior to this evening's meeting to discuss the WASD/WEA Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement.

Danny Carter addressed the board regarding a concern about the curb & crosswalk at the elementary center leading to the YMCA daycare classrooms. He thanked the Board for allowing the Wattsburg Little League to use the gym for practice. He also would like to see the 7th & 8th grade baseball and softball to be recognized as school affiliated.

Guests
&
Citizen's
Comments

Rich Konkol expressed concern regarding the alleged employee fraud and amount of time that lapsed before its discovery. He also stated that it would be helpful if the Work Session Agenda exhibits were available online. He then encouraged the Board to allow t question/answer time at meetings and not just a public comment time.

Lauri Zaumseil expressed concern that the announcement of Executive Sessions by the board president are not specific enough. She also questioned why, at the June 2019 Board Meeting, the mil rate resolution was voted on and approved only to be rescinded later in the meeting, changed, motioned, and approved.

Nicole Lee commended the Board for trying the suggestions brought before them on meeting in a more conducive atmosphere. She shared that people do feel the board is listening to them and dislikes that we have such negativity each month.

Amy Newcomer, a Junior at Seneca shared concerns regarding Honors and Academic level classes.

Dr. Pushchak thanked the guests for their comments.

Mr. Berlin answered questions brought before the Board from the Guest & Citizen's comments.

- Administrators are not visiting classrooms to target or single out students Rather, the administrative team frequently visits classrooms doing walk-throughs in each building and observing teachers in class. The administrative team then provides feedback to the teachers on their lessons which benefits the the students.

- As soon as the embezzlement was discovered, the District called the State Police and Auditors and implemented a forensic audit. Details cannot be discussed at this time as there is ongoing legal action on the case. After the trial, questions may be answered.
- The district has an insurance policy and the embezzled amount has already been recovered.
- Forensic audit results were shared with the Board in executive session on January 6, 2020 and legal counsel was present to advise the board

Mrs. Bendig gave the Treasurer's Report of the General Fund: \$10,229,667.57 December; \$9,726,923.94 November (Revised), the Capital Projects: \$1,888.63 December; \$1,888.06 November (Revised) and a review the of Checks Already Written Exhibit A1 \$442,534.86. A full report will be given at the January 20, 2020 meeting.

Business
Administrator's
Report

Mrs. Bendig also explained the millage change at the June 2019 Board meeting. The millage rate from the previous year was listed in the motion. It wasn't until after the vote that she realized it was incorrect. Mrs. Bendig went to retrieve the PDE-2028 form that had been posted for public review that contained the correct millage rate during the meeting. She brought it to the solicitor's attention and the process was followed to reconsider the Real Property Tax Resolution and subsequently the corrected Real Property Tax Resolution was considered. No one was in attendance at the meeting to make comments.

The Board discussed the ratification of the proposed WASD/WEA Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

WASD/WEA
Collective
Bargaining Unit
Agreement

The Board discussed District the district utilization of all procurement programs including materials and services under the PA Department of General Services for 2020. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Purchasing
Program

The Board discussed the bond resolution. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Bond Resolution

The Board discussed the IRS Mileage Rate of 57.5¢/mile for business travel effective January 1, 2020. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

IRS Mileage

The Board discussed the Local Audit Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019. Mr. Dave Dianna of Buffamante, Whipple, Buttafaro, P.C. went over the Local Audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. He explained how they conduct the audit and provided a preliminary audit report to the board. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Local Audit
Report

The Board discussed the additions to the Kelly Educational Staffing and Service Substitute lists. These items to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Substitute
Additions

The Board discussed the following leave requests:

- A substantively identical to Family Medical Leave of Absence for Beverley Korn effective January 6, 2020.
- Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence for Therese Wells effective December 12, 2019.
- Sabbatical Leave for Todd Talbot effective January 21, 2020 through June 30, 2020.
- Family Medical Leave of Absence for Stephanie Krzak effective December 4, 2019.
- A Leave of Absence utilizing paid time off and Family Medical Leave for Randi Cage anticipated effective date May 13, 2020.
- Family Medical Leave of Absence for Staci Wright effective November 19, 2019.
- A Leave of Absence utilizing paid time off and Family Medical Leave for Traci Steers anticipated March 2, 2020 through April 27, 2020.

This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Leave Requests

The Board discussed the following conference requests:

- Rebecca Kelley, Jessica Mathis, Chris Paris and Rob Englert to attend the 2020 PDE Data Summit March 15-18, 2020 in Hersey, PA at an estimated cost of \$3,202.44. Funding from Professional Development.
- Kelsey Cross, Elizabeth Diehl, Vincent DiMichele and Tim Malinowski to attend School Counselor Networking Session on January 29, 2020 in Edinboro, PA at no cost to the District.
- Merri Beth Knappenberger to attend Making a Difference: Educational Practices that Work, March 9-11, 2020 in Hershey, PA at an estimated cost of \$853.17. Funds from Special Education.
- Rebecca Kelley and Merri Beth Knappenberger to attend Future Ready Comprehensive Planning – New Portal Training on February 11, 2020 in Pittsburgh, PA at an estimated cost of \$155.83. Funds from Title.
- James Caspar to attend PMEA Annual Inservice Conference April 22-25, 2020 in Pocono, PA at an estimated cost of \$1244.22. Funds from Professional Development.

This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Conference Requests

The Board discussed the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Denise Hackenberg, custodian effective January 1, 2020. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Resignation

The Board discussed tuition reimbursements. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Tuition Reimbursements

The Board discussed the school calendar for 2020-2021 and August 25 and 26, 2020 as Act 80 days for dismissal at the start of the school year for a partial group of Kindergarten students. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

2020-2021 School Calendar

The Board discussed the academic services of LearnWell for a hospitalized SHS 10th grade student anticipated January 6, 2020 through February 2, 2020. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Academic Services LearnWell

The Board discussed the curriculum resources or MyPerspectives by Pearson for 9th and 10th grade English and Foundations by Wilson Reading for K-2. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Curriculum
Resources

The Board discussed the TSA-4 Hosted Voice Over IP Service Agreement. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

TSA-4 Hosted
VOIP Service

The Board discussed the transportation requests and ratification of field trips since the last meeting. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Field Trip
Requests

The Board discussed the following additions to the WASD Volunteer List

David Cage Alyson Harris Kristen Ray Samantha Suddarth
Melissa Coburn Alexandra Jakubowski

WASD Volunteer
List

This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

The Board discussed the resignation of Ryan Murphy as 2nd Assistant Coach Track & Field effective January 6, 2020. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Athletic
Resignation

The Board discussed the appointment of Don Einhouse as Varsity Football Head Coach for the 2020-2021 school year at Step 1. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Athletic
Appointment

The Board discussed the resignation of Todd Talbot from Science Olympiad Advisor, Science Department Head and Science Tech Fund effective December 10, 2019. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Extra-Curricular
Resignation

The Board discussed the appointment of Michelle Leone as Science Department Head, Step 1, retro to August 27, 2019. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Extra-Curricular
Appointment

The Board discussed the video recording of board meetings and posting of the recordings to the district's website for public viewing. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Video Recording
of Meetings

The Board discussed the surplus items. This item to be placed on the January 20, 2020 agenda.

Surplus Items

Mr. O'Donnell reported that the Erie County Technical School had their first meeting of the year with many new board members. There was also a large audience due to the rumor of programs being cut. This is not the case, they are looking at adding some new programs in order to equip students with "in demand" jobs. They are also looking at changing some of their funding sources and applying for grants.

Erie County
Technical School

Dr. Pushchak will have the NW Tri-County report at next weeks meeting.

During the Board correspondence and dialogue, Mrs. Pikiwicz shared that the WAMS sports day offers students a chance to participate in area activities they may not have the chance to outside of the school. Would like to see if with the new openings of ice arenas in the Erie Area, we could find an ice rink closer to allow more time to be spent at the activity and less travel time.

Board
Correspondence
and Dialogue

Mr. Paris would like a Building and Grounds Committee meeting scheduled at the earliest available time.

Dr. Pushchak addressed the audience and shared that the Board is listening and are making a continuous effort to address concerns brought before them. He thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

There being no further business, upon motion by Mrs. Farrell seconded by Mr. Paris, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Adjournment

Signature on File
Vicki Bendig
Board Secretary