

WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 16, 2020

The Wattsburg Area School District Board of Education held their Regular Board meeting via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform. President Andy Pushchak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He instructed those who wished to address the board this evening to please use the Question and Answer feature and to provide their name and address. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Jeremy Bloeser, Mrs. Amanda Farrell, Mrs. Nicole Lee, Mr. Shawn Matson, 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

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

Agenda

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2020 Regular Board Meeting and the November 9, 2020 Work Session. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Berlin introduced Ashley Post. Ashley is a freshman at Seneca and placed 5th in the State Cross Country Meet. A certificate of accomplishment was presented to her. Both Ashley and Mrs. Cage shared highlights from their season and how Covid changed athletics this year. Dr. Pushchak thanked the coach and coaching staff and Ashley for representing the district and area in such a positive way. We are very proud of you and your accomplishments.

School Report

No guest/citizen wished to address the Board this evening.

Guest & Citizen Comments

Mr. Berlin went over the data for Covid. He reminded everyone that the information available this week is from last week's reported totals. The developing trend does not look good. Covid positivity and probability are climbing. He also shared that the Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Education held an emergency meeting with Erie County Superintendents. There is no plan for state-wide closures and Erie County Department of Health stated that they are unable continue contact tracing due to the substantial raise in active cases. PDE and DOH are recommending a hybrid or remote instruction for schools. This is only a recommendation. Attorney McClure shared that the more divergent the district goes from the DOH and PDE recommendations, the more increased liability the district would have. Mr. Berlin shared that later in the meeting, the Board will be asked to modify the health/safety program to enable Mr. Berlin to do what is necessary until the Board can meet to decide on a plan. Mr. Berlin answered questions

Superintendent's Report

the Board had regarding the spike in cases in Erie County and how this can affect the district.

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

- Revenue & Expenditure Reports
 - [General Fund](#): \$11,716,362.10
 - [YTD Budget to Actual Report](#)
 - [Capital Projects](#): \$446,867.86
 - [Cafeteria](#): \$123,109.47
 - [Cafeteria Profit/Loss](#): \$29,070.52
- Checks and Invoices
 - [Exhibit A1](#) Checks Already Written: \$44,744.67
 - [Exhibit A2](#) Checks Already Written: \$103,243.55
 - [Exhibit A3](#) General Fund Bills: \$359,379.50
 - [Exhibit B3](#) Cafeteria Bills: \$41,783.71
 - [Exhibit C3](#) Capital Project Bills: \$656,731.00
 - [Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$67,581.61

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

Business Administrator's Report

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Bloeser to approve the following budgetary transfers

- Monthly budgetary transfer from the budget vs. actual report as outlined in [Exhibit E](#).
- From General Fund to Capital Projects in the amount of \$6,141.70 for the balance of the WAMS renovation project.
- From General Fund to Capital Projects in the amount of \$12,715.84 for WASD's share of the ECTS Building Renovation Pre-Bid Document Development (Payment 2 of 3)
- From Outdoor Stadium Complex Renovation Contingency to Capital Project Fund in the amount of \$98,332.80 as outlined in [Exhibit F](#).

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

Budgetary Transfers

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve Rhonda Kaltenbaugh and Alexandra Smiley as additions to the 2020-2021 Kelly Educational Staffing Substitute List. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Kelly Educational Staffing Substitutes

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the following personnel appointments:

- Megan Shindlecker as long-term Social Studies Substitute Teacher for Seneca High School anticipated December 1, 2020 through June 14, 2021 at Masters, Step one.
- Debby Peck as district-wide supplemental substitute caller at a yearly rate of \$2,730 effective November 17, 2020.

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

Personnel Appointments

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mr. Pushchak to accept the following resignations:

- Trisha Francis, Special Education Aide effective November 13, 2020.
- Cindy Widdowson, Support Aide for the purpose of retirement effective November 11, 2020.

Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried. Dr. Pushchak thanked those resigning for their service to the district and wish them well.

Personnel Resignations

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve a leave for Jessica Sambuchino September 8, 2020 through January 13, 2021 utilizing Emergency Paid Sick Leave, Expanded Family Medical Leave and paid time off. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Leave Request

Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Bloeser to approve the first reading of the following policies:

- Policy 111 Lesson Plans ([Exhibit G](#))
- Policy 113.1 Discipline of Students with Disabilities ([Exhibit H](#))
- Policy 113.2 Behavioral Support ([Exhibit I](#))
- Policy 113.4 Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information ([Exhibit J](#))
- Policies 122 ([Exhibit K](#)), 123 ([Exhibit L](#)) and 123.2 ([Exhibit M](#)) Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Electrocardiogram Testing

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

First Reading Policies

Motion by Mrs. Pikiewicz, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the Agreement for Title I Services between City of Erie School District and WASD as outlined in [Exhibit N](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Agreement for Title I Services

Motion by Mrs. Pikiewicz, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the revised Preliminary Third-Party Contractor Agreement for Title Services between Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit and WASD as outlined [Exhibit O](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Revised Title I Northwest Tri-County IU

Motion by Mrs. Pikiewicz, seconded by Mr. Paris to modify the District Health and Safety plan to authorize the Superintendent to temporarily move to the Red Phase as defined in the [Summary WASD Re-Entry Plan](#) including suspension of all athletic and extracurricular activities based on any one or combination of the following:

- An inability to complete contact tracing in a timely manner.
- An inability to adequately staff a building or buildings based on absenteeism among faculty and/or staff
- An inability to accurately track the source of infections.
- A concern that viral spread will take place without a closure.
- A preemptive move warranted by an anticipated spike to be caused by a holiday or large event.

Modify the District Health and Safety Plan

- An inability to obtain accurate data from the local and/or state Department of Health (DOH).
- Recommendations from PDE and/or DOH.

This motion would authorize the Superintendent to make a temporary decision if necessary. Decisions should be made by the board. Motion by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Bloeser to amend the motion to move to the district to full remote instruction November 18, 2020 through January 19, 2021. In a recorded roll call Mr. Paris, Mr. Pushchak, and Dr. Pushchak voted to amend the motion to include full remote instruction. Mrs. Pikiewicz, Mrs. Pound, Mr. Bloeser, Ms. Farrell, Mrs. Lee and Mr. Matson voted against including full remote instruction. Motion to amend was defeated.

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mrs. Pikiewicz to amend the motion as follows: To extend WAEC and WAMS remote learning through December 1, 2020 and to modify the District Health and Safety plan to authorize the Superintendent to temporarily move to the Red Phase as defined in the [Summary WASD Re-Entry Plan](#) including suspension of all athletic and extracurricular activities based on any one or combination of the following:

- An inability to complete contact tracing in a timely manner.
- An inability to adequately staff a building or buildings based on absenteeism among faculty and/or staff
- An inability to accurately track the source of infections.
- A concern that viral spread will take place without a closure.
- A preemptive move warranted by an anticipated spike to be caused by a holiday or large event.
- An inability to obtain accurate data from the local and/or state Department of Health (DOH).
- Recommendations from PDE and/or DOH.

In a recorded roll call vote, Mr. Bloeser, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Lee, Mr. Matson, Mr. Paris, Mrs. Pikiewicz, Mrs. Pound, Mr. Pushchak and Dr. Pushchak voted to amend the motion. Motion to amend carried.

In a recorded roll call vote, Mrs. Pikiewicz, Mrs. Pound, Mr. Pushchak, Mr. Bloeser, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Lee, Mr. Matson, Mr. Paris and Dr. Pushchak voted to approve the motion as amended. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Lee, seconded by Mr. Bloeser to approve Linda Griffin as an addition to the Durham Bus Driver List for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Durham Bus Driver

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mrs. Pikiewicz to accept the resignation of Savannah Anderton as Musical Director effective October 29, 2020. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Extra-Curricular
Resignation**

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mrs. Pikiewicz to approve Colton Hoffman as Boys' Basketball, Second Assistant Coach for the 2020-2021 school year at step 2+. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Athletic
Appointment**

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the WASD Gameday Protocols for Spectators as outlined in [attachment 1](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Gameday Protocols
for Spectators**

Mrs. Lee updated the Board on the Erie County Technical School. The October 26th meeting on the construction and the next steps. Mr. Berlin added that the JOB is still having a problem with Millcreek School District being unwilling to provide their 36% of the project.

**Erie County
Vocational
Technical School**

Mrs. Lee also shared that a new confidential secretary has been hired and the 2020 Hall of Fame at the Tech School includes Wattsburg students Sharon Bisbee, Keaton Henderson, and Leigh Larson. Congratulations we are proud of you and your accomplishments.

Dr. Pushchak shared that the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board met on October 28, 2020. The focus has been on how to support districts during Covid. The IU has hired a remote Special Education Teacher this is a position never hired for before. Next meeting is in December.

**Northwest
Tri-County
Intermediate Unit**

During Board Correspondence and Dialogue, Mrs. Pikiwicz questioned if the desks could be wiped down with Clorox wipes between classes. Mr. Berlin explained that the district uses a citrus based cleaner/disinfectant in classrooms while students are at lunch and at the end of the day. This disinfectant is active for a 24-hour period and does not have the allergic reaction that Clorox wipes have.

**Board
Correspondence
and
Dialogue**

Mrs. Farrell thanked the staff and administration for their work on improving remote instruction for WAEC and WAMS. She was very impressed by how the teachers have stepped up to engage and teach the students. Mr. Berlin shared that Mrs. Kelley and a team researched and investigated many options before choosing the programs we are utilizing. Thank you to all involved in making this a positive experience for the students.

Dr. Pushchak wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Lee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Adjournment

Signature on File
Vicki Bendig
School Board Secretary