

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

March 8, 2021

The meeting of the Board Work Session convened on March 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform.

Mr. Jeremy Bloeser, Mrs. Amanda Farrell, Mrs. Nicole Lee, Mr. Shawn Matson, Mr. Josh Paris, 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 also attended.

Roll Call

Mr. Steve Carter the Athletic Director updated the Board on the coaching evaluations. He went over how the evaluations are assessed and shared that this is done very similar to the teachers' evaluation process and he answered questions presented by the board members.

School Reports

Danny Carter addressed the Board with concerns about taxes, student grades, the high school schedule and activity bus.

Guest & Citizen's
Comments

Mr. Berlin updated the Board with the current COVID data. The numbers continue to decline substantially from last month. He shared that the state-wide percentages of mode of instruction are 24% Full In-Person Instruction, 44% Hybrid, and 32% total remote.

Superintendent's
Report

He also shared some of the highlights from his testimony to the House last week. He covered rural internet concerns and Charter School tuition costs as two large concerns public schools are facing districts. He encouraged residents to telephone their house and senate representatives about the charter school reform.

Mr. Berlin ended his update with a report done on the summer school programs from area schools. He stated that we were about a month ahead of other schools in the decision to provide students the opportunity to get educational help where necessary.

Dr. Pushchak thanked Mr. Berlin for the updates and keeping the Board informed on the issues facing the school district and to the administration for keeping our students' education in the forefront.

Mrs. Bendig gave the Treasurer's Report for the General Fund: \$10,902,717.27, Capital Projects: \$17.84, and Cafeteria: \$143,243.55. Also the of Checks Already Written \$33,655.89 and [Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$77,376.35. A full report will be given at the March 15, 2021 Board meeting.

Treasurer's
Report

Dr. Pushchak shared the matrix that the Board members completed and opened the item for discussion. The Board unanimously ranked Mr. Stephen Morvay as their choice to fill the vacancy and Mr. Morvay will be voted upon at the Special Board meeting following tonight's work session.

Board Vacancy

The Board discussed the appoint the firm of Kuhar Law, LLC with Mr. Mark Kuhar as the Labor Relations solicitor for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

Labor Relations
Solicitor

The Board discussed the district transfers and after discussion at the Building and Grounds committee meeting, added the WAEC Heat Pump project funds transfer to the list. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

Transfers

The Board discussed the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$62,555,592 and to further approve Wattsburg Area School District's contribution to the School Improvement Services (Fund 020) budgets of the Intermediate Unit for the 2021-2022 fiscal year in the amount of \$37,280.06 and \$160,865 to the Special Education Services Consortium (Fund 23). This item to be placed on March 15, 2021 agenda.

NW Tri-County
Intermediate Unit
Budget

The Board discussed the WAEC Heat Pump Project during the Building and Grounds Committee Meeting and this item will be added to the March 15, 2021 agenda.

Heat Pump
Project

The Board discussed the additions to the Kelly Educational Staffing substitute list. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

Kelly Substitute
List

The Board discussed the leave request utilizing Family Medical Leave of Absence and sick/personal time for Dana Miller beginning August 31, 2021. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

Leave Requests

The Board discussed the resignation of Kathleen Noonan, Cafeteria Aide effective March 8, 2021. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

Personnel
Resignation

The Board discussed Eric Schultz to attend the PASBO Annual Conference (Virtually) March 17, 19, 23 and 25, 2021 at an estimated cost of \$200. Funds from Maintenance. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

Conference
Request

The Board discussed the first reading of the following policies:

- 137.1 – Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students
- 150 – Title – Comparability of Services
- 314 – Physical Examination
- 318 – Attendance and Tardiness
- 332 – Working Periods
- 334 – Sick Leave
- 340 – Responsibility for Student Welfare
- 810.01 – School Bus Drivers and School Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers
- 810.3 – School Bus Drivers

First Reading
Policies

This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

The Board discussed the science pilots for the middle school for the 2020-2021 school year Grade 5 Inspire at a cost of \$527.73 and Grade 6 iScience at a shared cost of \$5,073.75. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

WAMS Science
Pilots

The Board discussed the Memorandum of Agreement between Pennsylvania State University and Wattsburg Area School District for Curriculum and Instruction Field Experience March 15, 2021 through March 15, 2026. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

Pennsylvania
State University
MOU

The Board discussed homebound instruction for a WAMS student anticipated March 1, 2021 through May 31, 2021. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

Homebound
Instruction

The Board discussed academic services of LearnWell for hospitalized students as follows:

LearnWell
Academic
Services

- WAMS student anticipated February 25 through March 3, 2021.
- WAMS student March 3 through March 5, 2021,
- SHS student March 8 anticipated through May 16, 2021

This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

The Board discussed the participation of Seneca High School in the IU5 Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (ELECT) program. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

ELECT Program

The Board discussed the Wattsburg Area School District Comprehensive, Gifted, Induction Plan, and Professional Development Plans. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

District Plans

The Board discussed the Agreement for Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth between Bethesda Lutheran Services and Wattsburg Area School District for the 2021-2022 school year. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

Alternate
Education
Agreement

The Board discussed the Local Education Agency Letter of Agreement for Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

Local Education
Homeless Letter
of Agreement

The Board discussed the resignation of Dana Miller as 1st Assistant Cross-Country Coach effective February 22, 2021. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

Athletic
Resignation

The Board discussed the athletic appointment of Jeffrey Kimmy as Wrestling 2nd Assistant Coach, Step 1 and Jerry Adamus as Baseball 1st Assistant Coach, Step 2+ for the 2020-2021 school year. The Baseball position will be added to the March 15, 2021 agenda. The Wrestling position will be moved to the 2021-2022 Winter exhibit for approval.

Athletic
Appointments

The Board discussed the addition of Yvonne Hammill to the WASD Volunteer List. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

Volunteer List

The Board discussed the purchase of FinishLynx Timing System (Track and Field Automated Timing System) with \$14,300 of the purchase funded out of the Athletic Complex Contingency. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

FinishLynx Timing
System

The Board discussed the solicitation and sale of the ROTC Education Tour foreign trip to Ireland and Scotland in June of 2022 provided that all criteria of Policy 913 is met. This item to be placed on the March 15, 2021 agenda.

AFROTC
Education Tour

Mr. Berlin shared that Erie County Technical School had a motion by the JOB to send the renovation plans to bid even though Millcreek has refused to agree to pay their portioned amount. Millcreek voted the motion down and also Mrs. Lee voted against the motion as it doesn't make sense to spend money to have bid plans on a project that will not happen. He also shared that the Superintendents have been discussing this topic. Mrs. Lee will have a report at the March 15, 2021 meeting.

Erie County
Technical School
Report

Dr. Pushchak shared that he had sent the Board the IU Executive Report and has nothing else to report.

NW Tri-County
Intermediate Unit

There being no further business, upon motion by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

Adjournment

Signature on File
Vicki Bendig
Board Secretary