

WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 19, 2021

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. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Jeremy Bloeser, Mrs. Amanda Farrell, Mrs. Nicole Lee, Mr. Shawn Matson, Mr. Stephen Morvay, 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 and Attorney Christine McClure, Solicitor also attended.

Roll Call

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

Agenda

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the meeting minutes of March 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting and the April 12, 2021 Work Session and Finance Committee Meeting. Minutes approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

During School Reports, Mrs. Barboni introduced Mrs. Pinzok and Mrs. Hedderman who presented the outdoor classroom and garden progress at the elementary center. Phase 1 was the Learning Labyrinth and garden where students are learning about vegetables from seed to harvest. The food from the garden is used in the cafeteria and donated to the Greene Township Food Pantry. This phase was done utilizing funds from a \$50,000 grant from Senator Michelle Brooks. Phase 2 will be the addition of Purple Martin houses. The student will learn about the birds and their migration. They will be able to track the birds' migration patterns. This phase is being done in partnership with the Purple Martin Society. Channel 24 Weather. Phase 2 will also include a pizza shaped garden which will contain garden herbs, and, in the fall, students will get to enjoy pizza seasoned with the herbs. A sensory path will be made with smells and soft plants that students can experience the touch, smell and visual of the plants. Thank you to Johnston's Nursery for assisting with this project. The district also has received 80 donated trees from the LEAF Project, which will be planted throughout the campus. Phase 3 of the project will be outdoor play items such as ping-pong collaborating with STEAM, the students will be able to bring learning and play together. Larson's Tree Service donated wood chips to fill areas.

School Report

Each student will also receive a tree sapling on May 1st to take home to plant. Turner Dairy donated the milk cartons for the saplings. The high school Agriculture Club has been partnering with the elementary seedling project. The club has planted and cared for the seedlings that the students will receive.

Mrs. Barboni acknowledged the hard work and dedication Mrs. Pinzok and Mrs. Hedderman have put into the project. It is a unique program for the community. Mr. Berlin also thanked Mrs. Pinzok and Mrs. Hedderman and shared this is a positive impact to our entire campus and community. Dr. Pushchak commended Mrs. Pinzok and Mrs. Hedderman and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board. Projects such as these sets our school apart from others and the opportunity for our students is just amazing. The increased opportunities will set our school apart. Thank you again.

Mr. Danny Carter addressed the Board. He commended the work on the outdoor classroom project. He expressed concerned that test scores should be higher than the state minimum. He would like to see the batting cages completed this year and would like to see the 7th & 8th grade baseball/softball teams be funded by the district.

Guest & Citizen Comments

Marlee Edwards and Katelyn Holmes, seniors at SHS voiced concerns about the Jr. – Sr. Prom and some of the restrictions that they feel are limiting their experience of prom. They would like to see guests be permitted to attend. Dr. Pushchak thanked Marlee and Katelyn for bringing their concerns to the Board and asked Administration to follow-up with their concerns.

Mr. Berlin gave an updated COVID report. We have had a slight rise in number of cases 3 positive in the last 14 days (April 5-19). Students are quarantining. Nearly all the 140 staff and Durham drivers have been fully vaccinated.

Superintendent's Report

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

- Revenue & Expenditure Reports
 - [General Fund](#): \$10,553,085.20
 - [YTD Budget to Actual Report](#)
 - [Capital Projects](#): \$17.84
 - [Cafeteria](#): \$285,402.96
 - [Cafeteria Profit/Loss](#): \$39,526.77
- Checks and Invoices
 - [Exhibit A1](#) Checks Already Written: \$55,187.57
 - [Exhibit A2](#) Checks Already Written: \$2,784.13
 - [Exhibit A3](#) General Fund Bills: \$483,106.30
 - [Exhibit B3](#) Cafeteria Bills: \$46,896.61
 - [Exhibit C3](#) Capital Projects Bills: \$26,042.30
 - [Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$77,873.61

Business Administrator's Report

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

Mrs. Bendig also informed the Board that she received notification from the state that due to the volume of schools requesting PlanCon reimbursement, they hope to have the funds for reimbursements in June. They stated 62% will be paid.

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

- Monthly budgetary transfer from the budget vs. actual report as outlined in Exhibit E.
- Funds transfer from Committee Fund-Athletic Complex Contingency to General Fund-Student Athletic Supplies in the amount of \$14,300 for the purchase of FinishLynx Timing System.
- To authorize the Business Administrator to transfer \$1,560,163 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the Committed Reserve Fund for the following projects and amounts: Clock & PA System (District Wide) \$130,500; WAEC Gym Floor Refinishing, \$28,000; WAEC Gym Bleacher Replacement, \$32,000; Carpet/Flooring Replacement DW, \$77,000; WAEC Adult Bathroom \$23,000; Underground Fuel Tank Replacement, \$300,000; Campus Paving, \$969,663.
- To transfer \$13,662.30 to Capital Projects for the 3rd and final payment for ECTS Pre-Bid Documents.

Transfers

Mrs. Farrell asked what happens to the funds set aside for the ECTS Capital Project if the project does not move ahead. Mr. Berlin explained that the money has already been spent. Chris Coughlin Architect firm charged the eleven districts a cumulative total of six hundred thousand dollars to design the plans for a project for which they had not secured Millcreek's funding commitment. This was almost two year ago. Mr. Berlin brought it up as a grave concern but there was a meeting with the local politicians, and it was decided that we could not get additional the state funding if we did not have some finished plans. He pointed out at that time that PlanCon is gone and no longer would be funded. The politicians felt that funding through other avenues would be found. That has not happened. So, we have wasted \$600,000 cumulatively as eleven districts and we do not have a building project. Millcreek has made it clear that they will not fund their portion at nine million until we agree to a capital fund formula change in the future. Chris Coughlin told Dr. Walker last week that he is expecting almost a two-thirds price increase due to material shortages. The project is being tabled until they get a response from Millcreek.

Mr. Paris questioned the 900+ for funds for campus paving. The paving is not that old, and he does not want to use the money just to use it. Mr. Berlin shared that a contractor has been examining the campus and recommending where paving is needed and areas that do not need it. There are some areas that do need repaved, but a campus-wide repaving is not necessary currently. The committed funds that can sit there until they are needed for paving.

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

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the budgetary amendment as outlined in [Exhibit F](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Budgetary Amendment

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve David Pozza as an addition to the Kelly Educational Staffing Substitute List for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Kelly Educational
Staffing List**

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mr. Pushchak to approve Bonnie Allen and Marianne Hessinger as an addition to the Service Substitute List for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Service Substitute
List**

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve the appointment of Bethany Gibson as Cafeteria Aide, Class C, 3.25 hours/day, 180 days/year effective April 26, 2021. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Personnel
Appointment**

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

**Summer
Remediation
Program
Appointments**

- SHS
 - Sue Nolan – Mathematics
 - Laura Vogel – English Language Arts
 - Angela Paterniti-Shaner – Special Education
- WAMS
 - Traci Steers – 8th Grade English Language Arts
 - Donna Banks – 7th Grade English Language Arts
 - Samantha Szoszorek – Special Education
 - Jennifer Turner – Grade 5
- WAEC
 - Theresa Bricker
 - Lauren Geniesse
 - Julie Sierota
 - Janice Sayers
 - Rebecca Haener
 - Riley Petrucelli
 - Amber Hill
- Nurse
 - Amanda Green

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

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mr. Morvay to approve the following Special Education Extended School Year/Summer Appointments:

**Extended School
Year Appointments**

- Teachers
 - Victoria Pawlak
 - Elizabeth Garcia
 - Pam Carson
- Special Education Aides
 - Jerome Adamus
 - Kayla Ballew
 - Rebecca Heitzenrater

- Dorene Johnston
- Jennifer Manno
- Medical Assistant
 - Melissa Pence

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

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

- Vince DiMichele, WAMS Guidance Counselor for the purpose of retirement effective June 29, 2021.
- Lynne Brozewicz, WAEC Secretary for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2021.
- Fred Kunselman, Custodian effective April 30, 2021.

Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried. Dr. Pushchak recognized Mrs. Brozewicz and Mr. DiMichele for their excellent service to the district. They will be missed.

Personnel Resignations

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve tuition reimbursements as outlined in [Exhibit G](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Tuition Reimbursement

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the following leave requests

- Family Medical Leave of Absence and paid time off for Michelle Kappler anticipated May 27, 201 through June 14, 2021.
- Family Medical Leave of Absence and unpaid time off beginning April 19, 2021 for Samantha Hartman.

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

Leave Requests

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve Meredith Reininger and Julie Danowski to attend Handle with Care Instructor Re-Certification on June 10, 2021 in Erie, PA at an estimated cost of \$900. Funds from Special Education. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Conference Requests

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mr. Morvay to approve the resolution for retirement incentive for professional employees as outlined in [attachment 1](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Resolution for Retirement Incentive

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mr. Pushchak to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between WASD and WEA Coaching Salary as outlined in [attachment 2](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

WASD/WEA Memorandum of Agreement

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

- 137.1 – Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students – [Exhibit H](#)

Policies Second Reading

- 150 – Title – Comparability of Services – [Exhibit I](#)
- 314 – Physical Examination – [Exhibit J](#)
- 318 – Attendance and Tardiness – [Exhibit K](#)
- 332 – Working Periods – [Exhibit L](#)
- 334 – Sick Leave – [Exhibit M](#)
- 340 – Responsibility for Student Welfare – [Exhibit N](#)
- 810.01 – School Bus Drivers and School Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers – [Exhibit O](#)
- 810.3 – School Bus Drivers – [Exhibit P](#)

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

Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the first reading of policy 903 – Public Participation in Board Meetings as outlined in [Exhibit Q](#).
Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Policy
First Reading**

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve academic services of LearnWell for hospitalized students as follows:

- WAEC student March 12 through March 18, 2021.
- WAMS student March 18 anticipated through March 31, 2021.
- WAMS student anticipated April 7, 2021 through April 14, 2021.

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

**LearnWell
Academic Services**

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mr. Pushchak to approve Study Sync for grades 8-12 beginning the 2021-2022 school year and the novel list as outlined [Exhibit R](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Study Sync

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the participation of eighth grade students in the AFJROTC program at Seneca High School as outlined [Exhibit S](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition.
Motion carried.

**Eighth Grade
Participation in
AFJROTC**

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mr. Bloeser to approve the 2021 Jr. -Sr. Prom to be held at Seneca High School on June 5, 2021. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

2021 Jr. – Sr. Prom

Mr. Englert shared that one of the main concerns with the Prom on June 5 is that graduation is on June 12 and if anyone at the prom would test positive for Covid, we could not hold graduation.

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the MOU between the Caring Place and Wattsburg Area School District as outlined in [attachment 3](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**The Caring Place
MOU**

Motion by Mrs. Lee, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the following transportation requests:

- Life Skills students transportation/field trips for the month of May and June 2021.

**Transportation
Requests**

- Extended School year Life Skills students transportation/field trips for the months of July and August 2021.

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

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the addition of Jeffrey Kimmy to the WASD Volunteer list. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

WASD Volunteer List

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mrs. Lee to accept the resignation of Ashleigh Sontheimer as Head Coach Varsity Girls' Soccer effective April 1, 2021. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Athletic Resignation

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mr. Morvay to approve the following extra-curricular appointments effective April 20, 2021:

Extra-Curricular Appointments

- Steve O'Donnell as SAP Case Manager at Seneca High School, Step 1.
- Elizabeth Garcia as SAP Case Manager at Wattsburg Area Middle School, Step 1.

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

Mr. Matson questioned if there was a need for additional volleyball coaching staff. Mr. Steve Carter shared that there are less coaches for volleyball and more students participating. They do need an additional coach. He also questioned if there was any interest in Boys' volleyball. Mr. Steve Carter shared that there has been some interest but so far it has only been talked about. Erie First Christian Academy has contacted us about doing a boys' volleyball co-op. There will be discussion on this. He also shared that if 7 & 8 grade baseball/softball were to become a sanctioned team of the district, they could no longer play club teams and in our region and there are no other PIAA sanctioned 7-8 grade teams in Erie County.

Mrs. Lee reported that at the March meeting of the ECTS JOB, the board members were given the blueprints for the construction plan and she dropped them off at the administration office if anyone wants to see them. However, the renovation project will be on hold due to price increase and Millcreek School District not committing their funds.

Erie County Technical School

The board members were given a drafting tour. They were invited to the Drafting Lab and three students gave a tour around their lab. They had constructed 3-D model homes. The homes were made from foam, 3-D printing, scalpels, and saws. The students were given a budget and a client and had to incorporate the client's requests into the home. You could lift the house and view the inside completed in full detail for all the rooms. This was really cool, and the students did a great job.

There was some misinformation in GoErie.com about curtailment of programs at the Erie County Technical School. People were concerned that ECTS would be curtailing programs. ECTS is not curtailing any programs for 2021-2022.

We are recognizing students from WASD. Thirty-five students have made exemplary students. Twelve made Distinguished, Seven Honor Roll and sixteen Perfect Attendance. Congratulations to all these students. Dr. Pushchak thanked Mrs. Lee for her report. It is wonderful to see such positivity from our students. He asked Mr. Englert to let the students know that they were recognized at the meeting this evening and the Board is proud of them and their accomplishments in their skills and attendance. Mrs. Lee shared WASD had the largest amount of students on the lists.

Dr. Pushchak shared that the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit will meet on April 28th.

During Board Dialogue, Mr. Morvay asked about the FinishLynx Timing System. Mr. Steve Carter reported that the system has been ordered and when further information is available, the Board will be updated.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mrs. Lee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

**Board
Correspondence
and Dialogue**

Adjournment

Signature on File
Vicki Bendig
School Board Secretary