

# WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 17, 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. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Pound to approve the agenda and addendum with the following revision remove P-10 from the addendum. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

## Agenda

Motion by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve the meeting minutes of April 19, 2021 Regular Board Meeting and the May 10, 2021 Work Session. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

## Meeting Minutes

During school reports, Mrs. Barboni updated the Board on how the Principal's Fundraiser monies are being spent this year.

- Due to Covid, field trips that would have been a part of the year have been cancelled. So, each grade will have a campus field trip day with activities they may have done off campus.
- Two laptops will be awarded to each grade as part of a PSSA Incentive (one girl and one boy).
- New playground equipment is being purchased
- Upgrades to the outdoor classroom.

## School Reports

Mrs. Barboni also shared some photos of the Earth Day celebration that was done in April.

Mrs. Barboni introduced Mrs. Long, the elementary center Art teacher. Mrs. Long shared how since we have not been able to have the annual art show at the elementary center, she created a virtual Gallery Night which students could view the artwork on tablets. She explained how an art show works with music, refreshments, and why it is so important to the artist.

Dr. Pushchak thanked Mrs. Long and Mrs. Barboni and shared that this is the Board's favorite time of the meeting, as they get to see and hear of the accomplishments of our students. He recognized our wonderful leaders and staff in the district. Mrs. Farrell added that the Earth Day celebration was super cool, and the Virtual Art Show allowed the students to look at their friends' artwork.

Danny Carter shared that he is glad to see things going on in the schools. He addressed the Board regarding the restroom facilities at the fields not having handwash stations or hand sanitizer. He feels the baseball field is not handicapped accessible and wants to see the activity bus brought back. Mr. Berlin thanked Mr. Carter for bringing the hand sanitizer issue to our attention and let him know it will be addressed. He also shared that the Activity Bus situation is not going to change. The bus was eliminated due to the safety of our students being our first concern. Many students were walking from drop-off stops a mile or so in the dark with no sidewalks.

### **Guest & Citizen Comments**

Jodi Gray commended the board on communicating with the public. But had questions about the incident at Seneca and the verbiage on the press release. Mr. Berlin explained that the information on the incident was as accurate as possible at the time it was released. It is difficult to get information out while in an emergency, but our goal is to notify as soon as is possible with what we know. The staff were heroic in the way the incident was handled. While the lockdown was being initiated, there was approximately a minute that the intruder was walking through the halls and into at least one classroom before he was apprehended by staff members, escorted out of the building, handcuffed, and transported off the campus. There are always some risks, and we were able to see where new safety protocols need to be put into place.

Mr. Berlin reported that there has been one Covid exposure in the last two weeks. LECOM will be doing a second dose clinic on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and that those ages 12-15 are eligible for the vaccine.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Pushchak thanked Mr. Berlin for organizing the clinic.

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

- Revenue & Expenditure Reports for MONTH
  - [General Fund](#): \$8,922,308.13
  - [YTD Budget to Actual Report](#)
  - [Capital Projects](#): \$17.93
  - [Cafeteria](#): \$298,306.21
  - [Cafeteria Profit/Loss](#): \$22,555.99 YTD 158,790.06
- Checks and Invoices
  - [Exhibit A1](#) Checks Already Written: \$59,409.14
  - [Exhibit A2](#) Checks Already Written: \$98,963.39
  - [Exhibit A3](#) General Fund Bills: \$387,593.94
  - [Exhibit B1](#) Cafeteria Checks Already Written: \$151.55
  - [Exhibit B3](#) Cafeteria Bills: \$40,888.30
  - [Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$76,887.76

### **Business Administrator's Report**

Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition.

Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the following:

- Appoint the firm of MacDonald Illig with Mr. Mark Kuhar as the Labor Relations solicitor for the 2020-2021 fiscal year retroactive to May 3, 2021 and the 2021-2022 fiscal year.
- Appoint the firm of Knox, McLaughlin, Gornall and Sennett with Ms. Christine McClure as the School District's solicitor for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.
- The appointment of Vicki Bendig as Board Secretary effective July 1, 2021

**Labor Relations  
Solicitor**

**District Solicitor**

**Board Secretary**

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

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Bloeser to approve the monthly budgetary transfers from the budget vs. actual report as outlined on [Exhibit E](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Transfers**

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to elect Martin Pushchak as the WASD Treasurer and designated signatory for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**WASD Treasurer  
and Designated  
Signatory**

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve Northwest Bank as the WASD Depository for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**WASD Depository**

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to appoint Berkheimer Associates as the current delinquent per capita collector for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Delinquent Per  
Capita Collector**

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Bloeser to approve the adoption of the [proposed General Fund Budget for 2021 – 2022](#) in the amount of \$26,729,007 and to authorize the Secretary to post the following notice: The Board of Directors tentatively approved the proposed final budget for the Wattsburg Area School District for the fiscal year of 2021-2022 on May 17, 2021. A copy of the said budget in the amount of \$26,729,007 open for inspection by the public on the District Website. Adoption of the final budget is scheduled for June 21, 2021, 7:00 p.m. via virtual meeting platform. 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 adoption of the proposed General Fund Budget for 2021-2022. Motion carried.

**Adoption of  
Proposed Final  
General Budget for  
2021-2022**

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the renewal agreement with The Nutrition Group for food service management for the 2021-2022 school year with the option to renew for three additional years as outlined in [Exhibit F](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried. Dr. Pushchak recognized that the Nutrition Group has offered our students a wonderful product.

**Nutrition Group  
Renewal Agreement**

Motion by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Pushchak to approve the purchase of E3000 Cat electric powered lift truck at a cost of \$8,900 and Vestil maintenance platform at a cost of \$798 from the excess capital project funds committed to the WAEC Heat Pump Project as outlined in [Exhibit G](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**E3000 Cat Electric  
Powered Lift Truck  
and Platform**

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the additions of Walter Chevalier, Andrea Davis, Samantha Davis, and Keagan Yonkers to the Kelly Educational Staffing Substitute List. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Kelly  
Educational Staffing  
Substitute List**

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve the additions of Chris Ballew and Shawn Bowman to the Service Substitute list effective May 10, 2021. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Service Substitute  
List**

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

**Personnel  
Resignations**

- Danielle Woodfield, WAEC Teacher effective July 2, 2021.
- Therese Wells resignation for the purpose of retirement effective July 1, 2021.
- John Erickson resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 29, 2021.

Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried. Dr. Pushchak shared that it is with regret we accept these resignations. Mrs. Woodfield is a great teacher, and we wish her well. Also, thank you to those who are retiring. Your service to the district is appreciated.

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

**Leave Requests**

- Special Sick Leave for David Applebee beginning April 30, 2021.
- Intermittent Family Medical Leave for Savanna Anderton beginning May 6, 2021.
- Intermittent Family Medical Leave for Julie Sierota May 3, through June 14, 2021.

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

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

**Conference  
Requests**

- MerriBeth Knappenberger and Meredith Reininger to attend Preventing Suicide in Children and You on May 14, 2021 via Zoom at an estimated cost of \$60. Funds from Special Education.
- Jeff Gifford to attend Mechanical Maintenance in Erie, PA on June 17, 2021 at an estimated cost of \$140. Funds from Maintenance.
- Shelby Chesko to attend Student Assistance Program via Zoom on June 15-17, 2021 at an estimated cost of \$330. Funds from Non-Instructional No Cert Professional Development.
- Becca Kelley to attend New Superintendents' Academy Part 1, September 23-24, November 15-16, 2021 and January 20-21, 2022 in

Harrisburg, PA at an estimated cost of \$2,325.96. Funding from Non-Instructional Certified Staff Development/Travel.

- Jeff Gifford to attend PA Rural Water Association Training online May 11, 2021 at an estimated cost of \$60.00. Funds from Maintenance.

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

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

- Jim Caspar as the STEM Teacher at the middle school effective August 25, 2021.
- Keagan Yonkers as a Long-Term Substitute Teacher at the elementary center anticipated May 11, 2021 through June 14, 2021 at Bachelors, Step 1.
- Maile Chang as a Long-Term Substitute Teacher at the high school anticipated May 11, 2021 through June 14, 2021 at Bachelors, Step 1.
- Amanda Swearingen as Custodian, Class B, 6.50 hours/day, 210 days/year effective May 24, 2021.
- Megan Shindlecker as Social Studies Teacher at the high school at a Masters, Step 1 effective August 25, 2021.
- Staci Wright as WAEC Office Secretary, Class A, 8 hours/day, 260 days/year effective June 15, 2021.

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

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mr. Morvay to approve the Superintendent Evaluation Protocol as outlined in [Exhibit H](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Erie County Sheriff's Office and Wattsburg Area School District effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 as outlined in [Exhibit I](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mr. Pushchak to approve Rebecca Haener and Ray Trejchel as Special Education Extended School Year teachers. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

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

- WAEC
  - Rachel Pamula
  - Grace Walbridge
  - Meredith Beals
  - Jacinta Perino
- WAMS

## **Personnel Appointments**

## **Superintendent Evaluation Protocol**

## **Memorandum of Understanding Erie County Sheriff/WASD**

## **Tuition Reimbursement**

## **Extended School Year Teachers**

## **Summer Remediation Appointments**

- Ashley Adamus
- Amanda Biebel
- Amy O'Donnell
- Justin Richter
- Sarah Stoops
- SHS
  - Walter Chevalier

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

Motion by Mr. Bloeser, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve the following summer help positions:

- Gavin Bendig, Christopher Lynde, and Zachary Shumac as summer technology help at the rate of \$10.00/hour effective June 14, 2021.
- Christopher Ballew and Meckenzie Jones as summer maintenance help at the rate of \$10.00/hour effective June 14, 2021.

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

Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the second reading of policy 903 – Public Participation in Board Meetings as outlined in [Exhibit K](#).

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

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve homebound instruction for a SHS student anticipated April 14, 2021 through June 11, 2021.

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

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the 2021 Jr.-Sr. Prom to be held at Seneca High School on May 22, 2021 from 8:00 – 11:00 P.M.

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

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve those seniors who meet all graduation requirements to receive a Seneca High School diploma as outlined in [Exhibit L](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition.

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve academic services of LearnWell for hospitalized high school student anticipated May 17, 2021 through June 11, 2021. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition.

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Lee, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve the transportation requests and ratification of field trips since last meeting as outlined

**Summer Help**

**Second Reading  
Policy 903**

**Homebound  
Instruction**

**2021 Prom**

**Seniors for  
Graduation**

**LearnWell Academic  
Services**

**Transportation  
Requests**

Group Requesting:	Date:	Destination:	Estimated Cost:	Funds By:
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Trout-In-the Classroom Students	Thursday, May 20, 2021	French Creek McDonalds	\$861.00	WAMS Student Body Instructional Travel MS
WAMS Envirothon Teams	Thursday, May 27, 2021	ECCD Headwaters Wendy's	\$836.00	WAMS Student Body Instructional Travel MS
AFJROTC Students	Friday, May 28, 2021	Presque Isle & Tom Ridge Center Sara's	\$575.00	Student Body Substitute

- High school Autistic students to travel to area locations during May and June 2021.

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

Motion by Mrs. Lee, seconded by Mr. Bloeser to approve as an addition of Kristopher Hromek 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. Lee to approve the addition of Jonathan Kowalski to the WASD Volunteer List. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Volunteer List**

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve Naomi Grove as 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball coach at Step 2+ effective May 10, 2021. Motion approved by a voice vote with one opposition (Mrs. Pound). Motion carried.

**Athletic Appointment**

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mr. Bloeser to approve the additions of Bethany Cage and Andrea Moreno to the 2020-2021 Game Help List. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Game Help List**

Motion by Mr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Bloeser to approve the Affiliation Agreement between Safe Harbor Behavioral Health of UPMC Hamot and Wattsburg Area School District for the 2021-2022 school year as outlined in [attachment 1](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Safe Harbor Behavioral Health Affiliation Agreement**

Mrs. Lee shared that the JOB for Erie County Technical School approved updated school personnel job descriptions. Mr. Richard Emerick (Fort LeBoeuf Superintendent) was approved as the Superintendent of Record for the 2021-2022 school year. She also shared that some of the students helped Make-A-

**Erie County Technical School**

Wish fulfill a wish by making a mobile pet shelving/cart. It is great to see students working with the community for the benefit of others.

Dr. Pushchak shared that the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors elected him as President of the Board. Their next meeting is May 26, 2021.

**Northwest Tri-  
County IU**

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

**Adjournment**

Signature on File  
Vicki Bendig  
School Board Secretary