

WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

MAY 16, 2022

The Wattsburg Area School District Board of Education held their Regular Board meeting at the Wattsburg Area Elementary Center on May 16, 2022.

President Jeremy Bloeser called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mrs. Britni Burlingham, Mrs. Amanda Farrell, Mrs. Lea Hetherington, Mrs. Nicole Lee, Mr. Shawn Matson, Mr. Steve Morvay, Mrs. Tara Pound, Dr. Andy Pushchak, and Mr. Jeremy Bloeser 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 Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve the agenda and addendum as presented. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the meeting minutes of April 18, 2022 Regular Board Meeting and the May 9, 2022 Work Session. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

No guests or citizens requested addressing the Board.

Guest and Citizen Comments

Mr. Miller introduced Mr. Grove and the Science Olympiad Team. The team placed second in the region which qualified them for the state competition. At the state competition we received two medals (9th & 10th place). Members of the team; Aidan Grove, Ashley Post, Lindsey Brinker, and Zach Shumac shared their experiences of the competition, and each thanked the Board for their support and enabling the team to travel to States. Mr. Berlin thanked the Team for representing the district and for the excellent job they did at the state competition.

School Report

Zach Shumac also questioned if he would be permitted to fix up the cross-country trails as his Eagle Scout Project. He said he has access to the equipment necessary and plans to do fundraising to cover the cost. Mr. Berlin shared that the project was a great idea and suggested he contact Mr. Miller and Mr. Schultz to go over details. Mrs. Lee also shared that the district foundation has a match fund and may be able to assist in covering the cost.

Mr. Berlin share that Covid numbers remains low, and this may be due to many students being fully vaccinated and also the Test to Stay program.

Superintendent's Report

He also shared that he will be attending a NW Summit Legislative Day May 23 – 25, 2022 in Harrisburg, PA. The Superintendents plan to have meetings with key House and Senate members on May 24, 2022.

Dr. Pushchak recognized Mr. Berlin’s leadership among this group.

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

- Revenue & Expenditure Reports
 - [General Fund](#): \$9,785,245.92
 - [YTD Budget to Actual Report](#)
 - [Capital Projects](#): \$1,346,561.22
 - [Cafeteria](#): \$506,020.87
 - [Cafeteria Profit/Loss](#): \$10,496.48 YTD \$168,772.60
- Checks and Invoices
 - [Exhibit A1](#) Checks Already Written: \$224,772.47
 - [Exhibit A2](#) Checks Already Written: \$15,449.94
 - [Exhibit A3](#) General Fund Bills: \$333,112.68
 - [Exhibit B1](#) Cafeteria Checks Already Written: \$295.96
 - [Exhibit B2](#) Cafeteria Checks Already Written: \$41,240.48
 - [Exhibit B3](#) Cafeteria Bills \$788.50
 - [Exhibit C3](#) Capital Project Fund Bills: \$358,676.43
 - [Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$78,165.41

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

Motion by D. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Morvay to appoint the firm of MacDonald Illig with Mr. Mark Kuhar as the Labor Relations solicitor for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Dr. Pushchak thanked Attorney Kuhar for the great job he does for the district.

Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Lee to appoint the firm of Knox, McLaughlin, Gornall and Sennett with Ms. Christine McClure as the School District’s solicitor for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Dr. Pushchak thanked Attorney McClure for her service to the district and Congratulated Attorney McClure on being awarded the Alpern Award which is given to a female lawyer or judge who “demonstrates excellence in the legal profession and who makes a significant professional impact on women in the law,” This is the highest award for females in Pennsylvania.

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve Monthly budgetary transfer from the budget vs. actual report in [Exhibit E](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Business
Administrator’s
Report**

**School District
Labor Counsel
2022-2023**

**School District
Solicitor 2022-2023**

Transfers

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Lee to elect Steven Morvay as the WASD Treasurer and designated signatory for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**WASD Treasurer
Designated
Signatory
2022-2023**

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Dr. Pushchak to approve Northwest Savings Bank as the WASD Depository for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

WASD Depository

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Burlingham to appoint Berkheimer Associates as the current delinquent per capita collector for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Delinquent Per
Capita Tax Collector**

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Dr. Pushchak to approve the adoption of the Proposed General Fund Budget for 2022 – 2023 in the amount of \$27,494,251 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 2022-2023 on May 16, 2022. A copy of the said budget in the amount of \$27,494,251 open for inspection by the public on the District Website. Adoption of the final budget is scheduled for June 20, 2022, 7:00 p.m. at the Wattsburg Area School District Elementary Center. In a recorded roll-call vote, Mr. Morvay, Mrs. Pound, Dr. Pushchak, Mrs. Burlingham, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Hetherington, Mrs. Lee, Mr. Matson and Mr. Bloeser voted to approve the adoption of the Proposed General Fund Budget for 2022-2023. Motion carried.

**Proposed
2022-2023
General Fund
Budget**

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Lee To approve the following ESSER Grants:

ESSER Grants

- ESSER I \$239,368
- ESSER I SEA (PCCD2) \$38,168
- ESSER II \$1,060,182
- ARP ESSER \$2,144,442
- ARP ESSER SEA (7% Set Aside) \$166,670

In a recorded roll-call vote, Mr. Morvay, Mrs. Pound, Dr. Pushchak, Mrs. Burlingham, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Hetherington, Mrs. Lee, Mr. Matson and Mr. Bloeser voted to approve the ESSER Grants. Motion carried.

Mr. Berlin commended Mrs. Kelley and Mrs. Bendig on their work on the Grant.

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mr. Morvay to approve the following high school auditorium upgrades: Lighting and curtain upgrade as outlined in [Exhibit F](#) and Sound upgrade as outlined in [Exhibit G](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion approved.

**SHS Auditorium
Upgrades**

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

- The appointment of Taylor Hewitt as Long-Term Substitute Grade 6 ELA Teacher at Bachelors, Step 1 anticipated May 2, 2022 through June 10, 2022. *pro-rated for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Personnel
Appointment**

- The following resignations:
 - Col. Eric Moses, AFJROTC Instructor effective July 31, 2022.
 - Holly Fromknecht, Assistant Pandemic Coordinator effective April 25, 2022.
 - Yvette Parra, Custodian, effective April 26, 2022.
 - MerriBeth Knappenberger, Special Education Supervisor for the purpose of retirement effective November 26, 2022.
 - Sherry Wnukowski, Teacher for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2022.
 - Diana Twaroski, Cafeteria Aide for the purpose of retirement effective May 26, 2022.
- The following Leave Requests:
 - Leave of Absence utilizing paid time off and Family Medical Leave Act for Jerome Adamus effective May 5, 2022 through June 9, 2022.
 - Leave of Absence utilizing Family Medical Leave Act for Ralph Burlingham effective May 4, 2022.
- The following Summer Remediation Appointments:
 - Justin Richter – WAMS Math 7-8
 - Walter Chevalier – WAMS ELA 7-8
 - Taylor Gaudino – WAEC
 - Rebecca Haener – WAEC
 - Amanda Kanonczyk – WAEC
 - Anne Kowalski – WAEC
 - Grace Walbridge - WAEC
- Kindergarten Boot Camp on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, August 2 – 18, 2022.
 - Shelley Ochterski Behr
 - Barb Burdick
 - Pam Burdick
 - Elizabeth Garcia (Special Education)
 - Michelle McAvoy
 - Haley Ottaway
 - Emily Stratton
 - Amanda Green (Nurse)
- The following conference requests:
 - Brittany Smiley to attend Spring Science of Reading on May 4 and 11, 2022 virtually. Estimated cost: \$50. Funds from ESSER II Grant.
 - Heather Baden to attend Science of Reading May – August 2022 virtually, at an estimated cost of \$85. Funds from ESSER II Grant.
 - Emily Stratton and Michelle McAvoy to attend the Educator Summer virtually on June 27-29, 2022 at an estimated cost of \$100. Funds from ESSER II Grant.
 - Haley Ottaway to attend the Educator Summit virtually on June 28, 2022 at an estimated cost of \$75.00. Funds from ESSER II Grant.

Personnel Resignations

Leave Requests

Summer Remediation Appointments

Kindergarten Boot Camp

Conference Requests

- Shelley Behr to attend the Educator Summit virtually June 27-29, 2022 at an estimated cost of \$65. Funds from ESSER II Grant.
- Ken Berlin to attend Legislative Meetings in Harrisburg, PA on May 23 and 24, 2022 at an estimated cost of \$1,000. Funds from Superintendent Conference and Travel.
- Summer IT Help at the rate of \$10/hour:
 - Gavin Bendig
 - Kowyn Matczak
 - Joyce O'Neal
 - Aeneva Shumac
- Summer Maintenance Help at the rate of \$10/hour:
 - Meckenzie Jones

Summer Help IT

Summer Maintenance

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

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

- The academic services of LearnWell for a hospitalized WAMS student anticipated April 15, 2022 through April 27, 2022 and a hospitalized WAMS student anticipated May 11, 2022 through June 9, 2022.
- Seniors who meet all graduation requirements to receive a Seneca High School diploma as outlined in [Exhibit H](#).
- The purchase of Common Core Algebra 1, Larson 1st Edition and Common Core Algebra 2, Larson, 1st edition textbooks for the high school.
- Homebound instruction for a WAMS student anticipated May 9 – June 9, 2022.
- SAP/Mental Health Services of Sara Reed Children's Center as outlined in [attachment 1](#).

Academic Service

Senior Diplomas

Algebra Textbooks

Homebound Instruction

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

Motion by Mrs. Burlingham, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve the transportation requests and ratification of field trips since last meeting as outlined on [attachment 2](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Transportation Field Trip Requests

Motion by Mrs. Pound, seconded by Dr. Pushchak to approve the following:

- The additions of Michael Benedict, Constance Burlingham, Jennifer Edwards-Dailey, Stephanie Gredler, Jennifer Morris, Colleen Olson and Tanya Pfeiffer to the WASD Volunteer List.
- The addition of Samantha Borland to the 2021-2022 Game Help List.
- A non-curricular club Tri-M Music Honors Society. The purpose of this club is to promote our music and complete service projects throughout the year as outlined [Exhibit J](#).

Volunteer List

Game Help List

Non-Curricular Club

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

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the agreement between Safe Harbor Behavioral Health (UPMC Behavioral Health) and WASD as outlined in [Exhibit K](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Safe Harbor Behavioral Health

Mr. Morvay shared that the Graphics student did a presentation for the JOC at the last ECTS meeting. In March two of the WASD students were recognized for the Be-Attitude (Trevor Barker and Coyte Stiffler. In April Jonah Berry was recognized and 28 WASD made the third quarter Exemplary Student List (names attached).

The Precision Machining program received two pieces of new equipment (which is valued at \$100,000). Enrollment is on its way up with 800 potential enrollees for the 900 positions.

The renovations are coming along as expected.

Even through COVID, NOCTI scores were 90%.

During Board Correspondence and Dialogue, Mrs. Bendig shared that she researched the Real Estate Assessment and there have been properties which fall into the percentage of assessment value that the district could collect on. The district must pay the costs of the appeal, but it looks very feasible for the district to do this.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Hetherington, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Adjournment

Signature on File
Vicki Bendig
School Board Secretary