

# WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 19, 2022

The Wattsburg Area School District Board of Education held their Regular Board meeting at the Wattsburg Area Elementary Center on September 19, 2022.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President Jeremy Bloeser called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 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 Mr. Morvay to approve the agenda and addendum as presented. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

## Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Pound, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve the meeting minutes of the August 15, 2022 Regular Board Meeting, the August 22, 2022 Special Board meeting, and the September 12, 2022 Work Session. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

## Meeting Minutes

Mr. Englert introduced student council members Oliva Paris and Angel Troutman who updated the Board on Spirit Week events during homecoming week beginning September 26<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is Game Night and each class (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) has been assigned a type of game. All grades district-wide have been included in the Spirit Week events.

## School Report

The Board thanked the students for sharing the information with them and thanked Student Council for including all grades. It makes a big difference in the school climate. Mr. Berlin thanked Mrs. O'Donnell for her work with the Student Council and encouraged the students to keep up the good work.

Zac Shumac updated the Board on his Eagle Scout project that the Board approved in the spring. He shared some before and after photos of the project. The SHS Cross Country team and Boy Scout Troop 133 (about 26 in all) assisted with the project. Materials were donated by Fiesler's Sand and Gravel (gravel), Dirt Works Organics (wood chips) and the Wattsburg Area School District Foundation. He thanked the donors for their donations.

## Guest and Citizen Comments

Mr. Bloeser added that he has taken time and went out to see the trails. As someone who has been on the trails many times and hours, he was impressed with how nice the trails look and how much safer they are. Even with the rain

today, the trails are in good condition. Thank you, Zac, for making our district a part of your project. Good job Zac.

Dr. Berlin updated the Board on the Transportation issues we experienced at the end of last week. We had 5 drivers out due to Covid, and a family emergency. We had 22 routes where we normally have 25. So, students experienced delays in pick-up/drop-off times. He shared the shortage is a national problem not just a problem locally. The summer recruiting campaign worked well, but he noted that it takes 6-8 weeks to train a driver. There are currently four new drivers who should be ready by the end of September and 3 in que.

## **Superintendent's Report**

There have been some complaints about Bus Tracker not being accurate. Dr. Berlin explained that students are assigned in Bus Tracker to the bus they normally ride. When drivers call-off and runs are broken up and combined, the Bus Tracker App is not accurate. This is because Bus Tracker only updates with the Bus Routing Software each day at midnight, so it is not possible to make Bus Tracker changes in real time during the day. Dr. Berlin said that he will discuss communication with the bus garage to see if they can make communicating delays and information more detailed and timely.

Dr. Berlin shared that he, Mr. Calabrese, Mr. Englert, and Mr. Paris attended the School Safety Conference in Pittsburgh, organized by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security. The Keynote speaker was Mr. Eric Garner a teacher at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School during that school shooting on February 14, 2018. Dr. Berlin said that Mr. Garner talked about the aftermath and how they supported the students. The Pennsylvania State Police talked about the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and how to make school campuses safer. Dr. Berlin noted the most interesting speaker was Dr. Lina Alathari with the U.S. Secret Service. She shared information about attacks on schools, the similarities and possible intervention points, and major findings and implications of their research. The principals will be sharing information from the conference with their staff.

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

- Revenue & Expenditure Reports for MONTH
  - [General Fund](#): \$6,496,075.39
  - YTD Budget to Actual Report: [6-30-2022](#)      [8-31-2022](#)
  - [Capital Projects](#): \$670,884.32
  - [Cafeteria](#): \$577,873.30
  - Cafeteria Profit/Loss: [June](#) – \$(22,379.67) [July](#) - \$(8,854.53)  
[August](#) - \$(15,144.77)
- Checks and Invoices
  - [Exhibit A1](#) Checks Already Written: \$241,773.92
  - [Exhibit A2](#) Checks Already Written: \$11,545.30
  - [Exhibit A3](#) General Fund Bills: \$299,089.42

## **Business Administrator's Report**

[Exhibit B2](#) Cafeteria Checks Already Written: \$35.34

[Exhibit B3](#) Cafeteria Bills: \$14,829.35

[Exhibit C3](#) Capital Project Fund Bills: \$252,572.64

[Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$73,504.28

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Morvay. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bendig also shared that beginning October 1, 2022, free breakfast will be available for all students.

Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Burlingham to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Pennsylvania State Police and WASD as outlined in [Exhibit E](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**State Police/WASD  
MOU**

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve revised District ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan as outlined in [Exhibit F](#). 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 ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan. Motion carried.

**ARP ESSER  
Health & Safety  
Plan**

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve the transfer of \$28,000 to the committed fund balance from unassigned fund balance for the installation of heat, insulation, and electrical work in the stadium concession stand and the installation of ventilation for the new Laser Engraving machine in the Seneca CAD lab. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Transfer**

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Lee Sponsor-to-Sponsor Agreement with the YMCA Erie as outlined in [Exhibit G](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Sponsor-to-Sponsor  
Agreement**

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mr. Morvay to the insulation of the stadium concession roof and attic by Advanced Insulation Solution, Inc. at a cost of \$9,870 funded from the committed fund balance. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Insulation of  
Stadium Concession  
Stand Roof**

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Dr. Pushchak to approve installation of two Breeze 33 Hyper Heat Mini Split Heat and A/C Units in the stadium concession stand by Szewczyk Plumbing & Heating Inc. including materials for electrical work at a cost not to exceed \$12,000 funded from the committed fund balance. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Installation of Split  
Heat and AC Units  
in Concession Stand**

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mrs. Burlingham to approve installation of ventilation system for the new Laser Engraving Machine in the Seneca CAD Lab by McCreary Roofing Company, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$6,000 funded

**Ventilation System  
Seneca CAD Lab**

from the committed fund balance. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the use of SHS Auditorium and classrooms (3) June 16-18, 2023 by Miss Lucy's Dancing School for a dance recital at an estimated cost of \$1,783.47. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

### **Facility Use Request**

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

- Phillip Alberstadt, Amanda Flood, Brian Kuzman, and Jennifer Morris as additions to the ESS Substitute List.
- Susan Oleski and Darcia Snyder as an addition to the Service Personnel Substitute List for the 2022-2023 school year.
- The following resignations:
  - Trina Zielinski, high school secretary for the purpose of retirement effective October 18, 2022.
  - Brittany Giannelli, custodian effective August 25, 2022.
  - Kristin Ray, cook/baker effective August 24, 2022.

### **ESS Substitutes**

### **Service Substitutes**

### **Resignations**

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

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

- Veronica Lipinski, as long-term substitute teacher Health and PE at the high school anticipated September 2 through November 2, 2022 at Bachelors, step 1.<sup>1</sup>
- Jaime Trayer as cook/baker, Class B, 6.50 hours/day, 180 days/year effective September 8, 2022.
- Danielle Aldrich as custodian, Class B, 7 hours/day, 210 days/year effective September 2, 2022.<sup>1</sup>
- Adam Linger as custodian, Class B, 7 hours/day, 210 days/year effective September 7, 2022.<sup>1</sup>
- Sean Sundy as long-term district substitute anticipated September 20, 2022 through June 12, 2023 at Bachelors, step 2.<sup>1</sup>
- Laura Pushchak as long-term guidance counselor anticipated October 3, 2022 through January 18, 2023 and a floating substitute January 19 through June 12, 2023 at Masters +15, step 1.<sup>1</sup>
- Richard Feeney II as custodian, Class B, 7 hours/day, 210 days/year effective September 13, 2022. <sup>1</sup>
- Shelly Bojarski as cook/baker, Class B, 6.50 hours/day, 180 days/year effective September 15, 2022. <sup>1</sup>
- Julia Mueller as cafeteria aide, Class B, 5.75 hours/day, 180 days/year effective September 15, 2022.
- Staci Wright as SHS Office Secretary, Class A, 8 hours/day, 260 days/year effective October 13, 2022.

### **Personnel Appointments**

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<sup>1</sup> - Pro-rated for the 2022-2023 school year

Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition and one abstention (Dr. Pushchak). Motion carried.

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

- tuition reimbursements as outlined in [Exhibit H](#).
  
- Conference Requests:
  - Tim Malinowski and Elizabeth Diehl to attend PHEAA Workshop on September 27, 2022 in Erie, PA at no cost to the district.
  - Jessica Mathis, Amanda Stalford, and Krista Wehan to attend Sapphire Training on Zoom on September 28, 2022 at an estimated cost of \$150. Funds from Non-Instructional, Non-Certificated Staff Development.
  - Chris Paris, Matthew Calabrese, Dan Sokolowski, Robert Englert and Ken Berlin to attend the 2022 Pennsylvania School Safety Conference in Pittsburg, PA on September 15, 2022 at an estimated cost of \$100.
  - Elizabeth Smith to attend 2022 Professional Immunization Seminar in Erie, PA or virtually on Friday, October 21, 2022 at an estimated cost of \$40.00. Funds from Non-Instructional Certificated Staff Development.
  - Heather Hedderman and Erin Fonzo to attend All Things POWERFUL – Access PA on September 27, 2022 in Erie, PA at an estimated cost of \$224. Funds from Instructional Certificated Staff Development.
  - Julie McGaughey to attend Gifted Networking and GIEP Goal Writing in Edinboro, PA on October 7, 2022 at an estimated cost of \$30.88. Funds from Instructional Certified Staff Development.
  - Rob Englert to attend A Framework for Understanding Poverty on October 3, 2022 in Slippery Rock at an estimated cost of \$103.07. Funds from Non-Instructional Certificated Staff Development.

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

Motion by Mrs. Lee seconded by Mrs. Farrell to approve the renewal of Dr. Kenneth Berlin as Superintendent of the Wattsburg Area School District for a five (5) year term commencing on July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2028 in accordance with the Superintendent’s Contract. In a recorded roll-call vote, Mrs. Lee, Mr. Matson, Mr. Morvay, Mrs. Pound, Dr. Puschak, Mrs. Burlingham, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Hetherington and Mr. Bloeser voted to approve the renewal of Dr. Berlin as Superintendent. Motion carried.

Dr. Pushchak commended the Board on the renewal of Dr. Berlin’s contract. He thanked Dr. Berlin for the superb job he has done his first two terms and expects nothing less during his third term. The Board is very encouraged by this contract and thanked to Dr. Berlin for his service. Dr. Berlin thanked the board for their support.

Motion by Mrs. Lee to the following to attend Regional Inservice on October 10, 2022:

**Tuition  
Reimbursement**

**Conference  
Requests**

**Superintendent  
Contract**

**Regional In-Service**

- Heather Hedderman and Erin Fonzo – Share NW Fall 2022 Meeting, Fort LeBoeuf High School.
- Elizabeth Diehl – School Counselor 202 Symposium, Slippery Rock University.
- Shelly Magnusen – New Resources for Art Teachers, Erie Art Museum.
- Rhonda Berlin – New Resources for Music Teachers, Erie Philharmonic.
- Leslie Lopez – New Resources for Music Teachers, Erie Philharmonic.

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

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

- Policy 236.1 – Threat Assessment – [Exhibit I](#)
- Policy 805 – Emergency Preparedness and Response – [Exhibit J](#)
- Policy 805.2 – School Security Personnel – [Exhibit K](#)
- Policy 808 – Food Service – [Exhibit L](#)
- Policy 823 Naloxone – [Exhibit M](#)

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

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

Motion by Mrs. Burlingham, seconded by Mrs. Hetherington to approve the additions of Kenneth Woodfield and William Young as Durham Bus Drivers for WASD for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

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

- Peter Barnes, Christopher Brazil, Charity Cage, Lillybeth Feige, Trysha Hopkins, Jessica Miller, Jennifer Moody, Nicholas Price, Kala Rohler, and Stefanie Siford as additions to the WASD Volunteer List.
- Michael Grove as Girls’ Golf Coach, Step1 for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Extra-curricular appointments for the 2022-2023 school year.
  - Elizabeth Garcia to the Curriculum Resource Committee.
  - Gretchen Ruprecht as WAMS Detention Monitor.
- The addition of Vicki Bendigo to the Game Help List for 2022-2023.

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

Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Dr. Pushchak to declare the following as surplus:

<u><i>Title of Work</i></u>	<u><i>Author</i></u>	<u><i>ISBN</i></u>	<u><i>Quantity</i></u>
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Harper Lee	0-446-31078-6	33
<i>Animal Farm</i>	George Orwell	0-451-52634-1	26
<i>Grapes of Wrath</i>	John Steinbeck	0-14-303943-1	6

**Policies  
First Reading**

**Transportation  
Requests**

**Durham Bus Drivers**

**Volunteer List**

**Athletic  
Appointment**

**Extra-Curricular  
Appointment**

**Game Help**

**Surplus Items**

<i>Concise Oxford American Dictionary</i>	Oxford University Press	978-0-19-530484-8	6
<i>Webster's College Dictionary</i>	Random House	0-02-635934-0	6
<i>4'L X 2'W X 3'H Display Case</i>			1
<i>6'L X 2'W X 3'H Display Case</i>			1
<i>black plumes</i>			40
<i>hat boxes</i>			78
<i>hat box lids</i>			79
<i>hats</i>			80
<i>Ever Ready Nickle-Cadmium Battery Charger w/ 6 D Batteries Model Number ACC75</i>			
<i>Digital Stream Technologies Digital to Analog Box Model DTX 9950</i>			
<i>RCA 15.4" Kitchen LCD TV/DVD Combo RCA SPS36123</i>			

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

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the Behavioral Specialist Consultant Services of Sarah Reed Services for the 2022-2023 and the 2023-2024 school years funded by the PCCD grant as outlined in [Exhibit O](#).  
 Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Sarah Reed  
 Specialist  
 Consultant Services**

Mrs. Burlingham shared that she is happy to see the district taking students' mental health issues seriously and helping our students as much as possible.

Mr. Morvay shared that the ECTS wants to sell is mostly vacant field adjacent to the school land to the north and east of the building. They have owned this for many years and usually brush hog. It has not been developed by the school.

**Erie County  
 Technical School  
 Property Sale**

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Lee to the resolution for the sale of eighty acres on the Erie County Technical School Campus as outlined in [Exhibit P](#). 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 resolution. Motion carried.

Mr. Morvay also reported that the Erie County Technical School JOC will meet this week. Highlights from last month's meeting: Student handbooks have been updated; Mercyhurst University is accepting credits from the culinary course at the Technical School toward their degree; The ECTS Health & Safety Plan has been updated and bottle fillers have been installed; the open staff positions are being filled, and the enrollment is up to 805 (75 over last year).

**Erie County  
 Technical School  
 Report**

The building issues have resulted in some delays for completion of the ECTS Project. There were a few picket issues, and a gate was added for non-union laborers. Staffing, producing delays and material supply chain issues have also contributed to a 4–5-month delay.

Dr. Pushchak shared that at the IU Board meeting last month Amy Eisert from Mercyhurst University Civic Institute gave a presentation on the results of a PAYS (Pennsylvania Youth Survey) which was administered to students in grades 6, 8, 10, 12. The presentation of the results showed areas of concern and trend analysis to identify areas and risk factors.

**Northwest Tri-  
County  
Intermediate Unit  
Report**

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Lee , meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Signature on File  
Vicki Bendig  
School Board Secretary