

WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

October 17, 2022

The Wattsburg Area School District Board of Education held their Regular Board meeting at the Wattsburg Area Elementary Center on October 17, 2022.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President Jeremy Bloeser called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Amanda Farrell (Virtual), Mrs. Lea Hetherington, Mr. Shawn Matson, Mr. Steve Morvay, Mrs. Tara Pound (Virtual), Dr. Andy Pushchak, and Mr. Jeremy Bloeser attended. Dr. Kenneth Berlin, Superintendent; Mrs. Rebecca Kelley, Assistant to the Superintendent; Mrs. Vicki Bendig Business Administrator, and Attorney Christine McClure, Solicitor also attended. Mrs. Britni Burlingham and Mrs. Nicole Lee were absent.

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 Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Hetherington to approve the meeting minutes of the September 19, 2022 Regular Board Meeting and the October 10, 2022 Work Session and Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

No guest or citizens requested addressing the board.

Guest and Citizen Comments School Report

Dr. Berlin introduced Mrs. Barboni who introduced Mrs. Hedderman who gave an update on the district libraries and the work that was done to update the middle school library during the summer months. She also shared that every effort is being made to have high quality reading material in our libraries. Old, outdated materials were removed. She also shared that she was nominated as an outstanding teacher. She was not selected as number one but, was one of the top three in Pennsylvania. Mr. Berlin congratulated Mrs. Hedderman. Mr. Bloeser thanked Mrs. Hedderman for the update and the work done to improve our libraries.

Mrs. Pinzok updated the Board on the Pumpkin Run that was held on Thursday, September 29th. The run promotes exercise and fitness and students K-4 run one lap around the track. It is not a race so there are no set winners. This is the 13th year of the run. It is exciting to see so many people (including older students from the high school and middle school) come to support the students. Mrs. Pinzok thanked the Board for their support throughout the years.

Mrs. Pinzok also updated the Board on the school garden. Mrs. Jakubowski's Agriculture class is helping by doing the seedlings for the garden. Volunteers

assisted in many phases of the garden. This year's harvest was enjoyed by the elementary students and donated to the cafeteria to be served at lunch.

Dr. Berlin thanked both Mrs. Hedderman and Mrs. Pinzok for their work in giving our students opportunities such as these.

Dr. Berlin reviewed the principles for Governance and Leadership (Policy 011) and recognized the Board for the important work they do to promote the school, plan thoroughly, and proactively maintain the schools.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Berlin shared that the pandemic wreaked havoc on learning. He said that although we kept our schools open throughout the pandemic, temporary closures and the frequent mandated quarantining of students contributed to learning loss. Mrs. Kelley shared data trends that show we are continuing to recover and progress despite the pandemic set back. Our students in 2019 scored 50% in math and in 2022 is at 39%. ELA fared better at 57% in 2019 and at 63% in 2022. She noted that no 2020 PSSA data was available due to the pandemic related cancellation of the PSSA in March of 2020. She also said that the District is still above state averages and that the staff are working on multiple forms of remediation to mitigate pandemic learning loss. She then fielded questions from the Board.

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

Business Administrator's Report

- Revenue & Expenditure Reports
 - [General Fund](#): \$11,287,568.23
 - [YTD Budget to Actual Report](#)
 - [Capital Projects](#): \$672,204.15
 - [Cafeteria](#): \$528,871.25
 - Cafeteria Profit/Loss: [Aug Rev.](#) \$(9,994.27) [Sept.](#) \$2,462.97
- Checks and Invoices
 - [Exhibit A1](#) Checks Already Written: \$166,855.46
 - [Exhibit A2](#) Checks Already Written: \$12,577.77
 - [Exhibit A3](#) General Fund Bills: \$398,667.89
 - [Exhibit B3](#) Cafeteria Bills \$46,174.39
 - [Exhibit C3](#) Capital Project Fund Bills: \$18,648.68
 - [Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$75,813.14

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

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Morvay to approve the Act 57 of 2022 Tax Resolution as outlined in [Exhibit E](#). Dr. Pushchak, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Hetherington, Mr. Matson, Mr. Morvay, Mrs. Pound, and Mr. Bloeser voted to approve the Act 57 resolution. Motion carried.

Act 57 Tax Resolution

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Hetherington to approve the Monthly budgetary transfer from the budget vs. actual report as outlined in [Exhibit F](#) and the transfer of \$37,000 from the committed fund for future

Transfers

carpet replacement to the committed fund for Nora Flooring. Motion approved by a voice vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Dr. Pushchak to approve the quotes for Nora Flooring for the elementary center cafeteria/auditorium ([attachment 1](#)) and high school cafeteria ([attachment 2](#)). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Nora Flooring

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

ESS Substitutes

- Stevie Lynn Holecz, Melissa Loucks and Kody Witchcoff as additions to the ESS Substitute List.
- Diana Twaroski effective October 3, 2022 and Andrew Callahan effective October 17, 2022 as additions to the Service Personnel Substitute List for the 2022-2023 school year.
- The following appointments:
 - BreeAnna Byers as Special Educational Aide, Class B, 7 hours/day, 180 days/year effective October 3, 2022.
 - Veronica Lipinski as long-term daily floater substitute for the district November 3, 2022 through June 12, 2022 at Bachelors, step 1. ¹
 - Stephanie (Stacy) Hansen as WAEC Office Secretary, Class A, 260 days/year, 8 hours/day retroactive October 10, 2022. ¹
 - Michele Hewel as Cafeteria Aide, Class B, 5 hours/day, 180 days/year effective October 11, 2022. ¹
 - Kelly Niskanen-Carey as Special Education Aide, Class B, 7 hours/day, 180 days/year effective October 28, 2022. ¹
 - Julie Canter as Full-time, Long-Term floating Substitute Teacher anticipated October 18, 2022 through June 12, 2023 at Bachelors, Step 1. ¹
 - Elizabeth Bille as Full-time, Long-Term floating Substitute Teacher anticipated October 17, through June 12, 2023 at Masters, Step 1. ¹
 - Ariel Fields as Full-time, Long-Term floating Substitute Teacher anticipated November 1, 2022 through June 12, 2023 at Bachelors, Step 1. ¹ *¹ Pro-rated for the 2022-2023 school year.*
- Accept the following resignations:
 - Alison Butler, SHS Support Aide effective October 5, 2022.
 - Taylor Campbell, Special Education Support Aide effective September 30, 2022.
 - Elizabeth Bille, Educational Aide effective October 15, 2022.
- Saint Vincent Medical Group as the school Physician at the rate of \$15.00 per physical exam effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.
- Dr. Richard Brozewicz, DDS as the school Dentist at the rate of \$5.00 per exam effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.
- The following conference requests:

Service Substitutes

Personnel Appointments

Resignations

School Physician

School Dentist

Conference Requests

- Jessica Mathis to attend A/CAPA Fall Conference on October 26-28, 2022 in Hershey, PA at an estimated cost of \$1,464.20. Funds from Non-Instructional, Non-Certified Staff Professional Development.
- Tim Malinowski to attend School Counselor Workshop at Penn State Behrend on October 20, 2022 at no cost to the district.
- Mary Rea to attend the Professional Immunization Conference on October 21, 2022 in Erie, PA at an estimated cost of \$60. Funds from Non-Instructional Certificated Professional Development.
- Ken Berlin and Eric Schultz to attend PASBO Facilities, Transportation and Safety conference on October 27, 2022 in Lancaster, PA at an estimated cost of \$1,296.96. Funds from Superintendent Conference/Travel and Maintenance Conference/Travel.
- The ratification of WASD teachers to attend various Regional In-Service training sessions on October 10, 2022 with permission from their building principal with a total cost not to exceed \$300/building. Funds from Non-Instruct/Instructional Professional Development.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Erie and the Erie County Sheriff's Office and Wattsburg Area School District as outlined in [Exhibit G](#).
- A leave of absence utilizing Family Medical Leave of Absence and paid time off for Lauren Geniesse anticipated January 3, 2022 through May 22, 2023.

Ratification of In-Service Training Off-Campus

MOU Erie Co./Sheriff Office/WASD

Leave Request

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

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

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

Policies Second Reading

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

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

- Academic services of LearnWell for a WAMS student anticipated September 27 through December 6, 2022.
- Refocus Room Service Contracts with Sarah Reed for the 2022 – 2023 school year:
 - Seneca High School as outlined in [Exhibit M](#).
 - Wattsburg Area Middle School as outlined in [Exhibit N](#).

LearnWell Academics

Re-Focus Rooms

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

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

Transportation Requests

- The transportation requests and ratification of field trips since last meeting as outlined in [Exhibit O](#).
- Corey Caron, Jessi Davis, and Craig Hewel as Durham Drivers for the 2022-2023 school year.

Durham Drivers

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

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

- Krista Arnold, Afton Barnett, Audry Bayhurst, Mary Hyzer, Heather Keener, Dan Koziorowski, William Long, Sara Mitchell, Mindy Portenier, Kala Rohler, and Jason Sayers as additions to the WASD Volunteer List.
- The resignation of Randi Cage, Track and Field Head Coach effective September 19, 2022.
- The following appointments for the 2022-2023 school year:
 - Tim Schweitzer as SHS Science Olympiad Coach at Step1.
 - Stephanie Boyd as WAMS Extra-Effort 7th & 8th Math.
 - Michelle Kappler as WAMS Extra-Effort 5th & 6th ELA.
- The Winter/Spring Athletic Appointments as outlined in [Exhibit P](#).

WASD Volunteer List

Athletic Resignation

Extra-Curricular Appointments

Athletic Appointments

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

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Dr. Pushchak to declare the stage curtain at Seneca High School surplus. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Surplus

Mr. Morvay reported that the following for the ECTS:

- A new course catalog for the Erie County Technical School has been created which outlines all the programs available at ECTS. A coloring book was also created and distributed to third graders in the ECTS participating schools to encourage interest in technical training beginning at the elementary level.
- An explementary student banquet was held in September and 2022 Seneca graduate, (Jonah Berry) was honored at the banquet.
- A satisfaction survey was done for ECTS, and the results were 85% favorable.
- The Auto-Tech and Electrical Engineering instructor positions that were vacant have been filled.
- Several recommended PSBA policies have been updated.
- There are currently nine programs offered at ECTS and a 90% participation rate with 804 students attending ECTS.
- The renovation project is still struggling with delays. Some of the labs were not able to open in September due to renovations not being complete and some phases taking longer than expected to complete because of supply chain and labor issues.

Erie County Vocational Technical School

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit

Dr. Pushchak reported that he recently attended the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit adult graduation honoring thirty-three graduates. He said it was a heartwarming evening, and it was nice to see such success in obtaining a GED for the graduates.

The annual report for the IU with an overview of last year was distributed to each board member.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Hetherington, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Adjournment

Signature on File
Vicki Bendig
School Board Secretary