

WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 16, 2023

The Wattsburg Area School District Board of Education held their Regular Board meeting at the Wattsburg Area Elementary Center on January 16, 2023.

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, Dr. Andy Pushchak, and Mr. Jeremy Bloeser attended. Mrs. Rebecca Kelley, Assistant to the Superintendent and Mrs. Vicki Bendig Business Administrator also attended. Mrs. Tara Pound and Dr. Berlin were absent.

Roll Call

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

Agenda

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Lee, to approve the meeting minutes of December 5, 2022 Board Organization and Regular Board Meeting and the January 9, 2023 work session. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

No visitors requested to address the Board.

Guest and Citizen Comments

Mr. Englert introduced Sargent Oshop who introduced Elliot Buona to the Board. Elliot is an AFJROTC student who will be participating in the Air Force Aim High Flight Program during the summer '23. There were 1,800 applicants and 160 students were selected for the program. Elliot will also be working on his ROTC scholarship. Dr. Pushchak thanked Sargent Oshop and the faculty for assisting Elliot in his academic journey and the Board looks forward to an update on the flight program. Mr. Bloeser congratulated Elliot on his achievement.

School Report

Mrs. Kelley shared that January is Board Appreciation Month and the ornament and tumbler are just a small memento to show our appreciation to our board members for their time and effort given to the district.

Superintendent's Report

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

Business Administrator's Report

- Revenue & Expenditure Reports
 - [General Fund](#): \$13,485,752.77
 - YTD Budget to Actual Report
 - [Capital Projects](#): \$488,494.28
 - [Cafeteria](#): \$612,965.77
 - Cafeteria Profit/Loss: [December](#): (\$7,007.92) [January](#) \$1,733.57
- Checks and Invoices

- [Exhibit A1](#) Checks Already Written: \$645,662.43
- [Exhibit A2](#) Checks Already Written: \$15,771.37
- [Exhibit A3](#) General Fund Bills: \$667,297.29
- [Exhibit B1](#) Cafeteria Checks Already Written: \$45,789.49
- [Exhibit B3](#) Cafeteria Bills: \$36,467.48
- [Exhibit C1](#) Capital Project Fund Bills Already Written: \$16,799.00
- [Exhibit C3](#) Capital Project Fund Bills: \$15,503.00
- [Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$85,901.78

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

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

- Monthly budgetary transfer from the budget vs. actual report as outlined in [Exhibit E](#).
- \$9,642 from Unassigned Fund Balance to the Committed Fund for the sewer plant electrical upgrades.
- \$280,058 from the Committed Fund to Capital Projects for high school auditorium lighting and sound upgrades.
- \$15,500 from the Committed Fund to Capital Projects for balance of clocks/intercom.
- \$44,510 from the Committed Fund to Unassigned Fund balance for the purchase and installation of the baseball and softball scoreboards.
- \$44,674 from the Committed Fund to Unassigned Fund balance for the purchase of the district truck with plow.

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

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Hetherington to adopt the Accelerated Budget Opt-Out Resolution certifying that the tax rate will remain within the inflation index and no need to comply with the [Act 1 Accelerated Budget Procedures](#) for the 2023-2024 General Fund Budget as outlined in [Exhibit F](#). In a recorded roll call vote, Mr. Morvay, Dr. Pushchak, Mrs. Burlingham, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Hetherington, Mrs. Lee, Mr. Matson and Mr. Bloeser voted to adopt the resolution. Motion carried.

Accelerated Budget Opt-Out Resolution

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Burlingham to approve the IRS Mileage Rate of 65.5¢/mile for business travel effective January 1, 2023 as outlined in [Exhibit G](#). Motion approved in a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

IRS Mileage

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mr. Morvay to approve the electrical upgrades for the sewer plant as outlined in [Exhibit H](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Electrical Updates for Sewer Plant

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve security window upgrades for main office entrances in WAEC, WAMS, and DAO funds from unassigned fund balance. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Security Windows

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

- The additions of Joseph Achille, Abigail Allen and Jessica Perrin to the ESS Substitute List.
- Accept the following resignations:
 - Andrew Callahan, WAMS Educational Support Aide effective December 8, 2022.
 - Brandon Williams, WAMS Special Ed Teacher effective December 22, 2022.
- The MOA between Wattsburg Area School District and the Wattsburg Education Association as outlined in [Exhibit I](#).
- Tuition reimbursements as outlined in [Exhibit J](#).
- The following leave requests:
 - Leave of Absence utilizing Family Medical Leave of Absence and paid time off for Julie McGaughey effective November 22, 2022.
 - Sabbatical Leave of Absence for Hillary Barboni effective January 20, 2023.
 - Intermittent Family Medical Leave for Hailey Ottaway beginning January 3, 2023.
- The following conference requests:
 - Krista Wehan to attend the 2023 PDE Conference: Making a Difference March 1-3, 2023 In Hershey PA at an estimated cost of \$967.37. Funds from Professional Development.
 - Susan Peebles to attend the 2023 PDE Conference: Making a Difference March 1-3, 2023 In Hershey PA at an estimated cost of \$626.90. Funds from Professional Development.
 - Rebecca Kelley to attend the 2023 PDE Data Summit, March 26-29, 2023 in Hershey PA at an estimated cost of \$1,378.29. Funds from Professional Development.
 - Alyssa Forte, Kyle Forte, and Kevin Linza to attend REAL Essentials Foundations Certification Health Curriculum Training February 1 – 2, 2023 at Blasco Memorial Library at an estimated cost of \$1,569. Funds from Professional Development and Substitute accounts.
 - Eric Schultz to attend the PSBO Annual Conference March 14-17, 2023 in Pocono Manor, PA at an estimated cost of \$745.72. Funds from Maintenance Conference and Travel.
 - Michael Rimdzius and Chris Paris to attend Science Immersion Experience on February 2, 2023 at NW Tri-County IU5 at an estimated cost of \$157.08. Funds from substitute account.
 - Pam Burdick, Stephanie Boyd, Theresa Bricker, Erica Fox, Becca Kelley, Steve O'Donnell Chris Paris and Erica Young to attend the ISTE Conference on June 25-28, 2023 in Philadelphia, PA at a cost not to exceed \$12,000. Funds from Title IV.
 - Matthew Harman and Josh Thayer to attend ISTE Conference on June 25-28, 2023 in Philadelphia, PA at an estimated cost of \$4,222.28. Funds from Non-Instructional, Non-Certificated Professional Development.

ESS Substitutes

Resignations

WEA MOA

**Tuition
Reimbursement**

Leave Requests

**Conference
Requests**

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

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

- Kristin Edwards, Grade 6 Mathematics Teacher at Bachelors, Step 3, effective January 17, 2023.¹
- Laura Pushchak as a long-term substitute guidance counselor anticipated January 19, 2023 through June 12, 2023 at master's +15, Step 1.¹
- Matthew Calabrese as Acting WAEC principal for 2022-2023 school year effective January 3, 2023 and approve the pro-rated Act 93 Agreement

¹Pro-rated for the 2022-2023 school year

Motion approved by a voice vote with one abstention (Dr. Pushchak). Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded By Mrs. Hetherington to approved the second reading of Policy 214 Grade Point Average and Course Weighting as outlined in [Exhibit K](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with one opposing vote (Mr. Morvay). Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Dr. Pushchak to approve the first reading of policy 124 Alternative Instruction Methods as outlined in [Exhibit L](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Hetherington to approve homebound instruction for a WAMS student anticipated January 10, through February 2, 2023. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

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

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

- Danielle Baker, Sara Barnett, Kevin Braner, Kimberly Braner, Andrea Moreno, Britany Robinson, Marcia Roth, Steven Roth, Courtney Shumac and Rachael Smith as additions to the WASD Volunteer List.
- Elizabeth Diehl as National Honor Society Advisor August 30, 2022 through January 19, 2023 at Step 2+ and Samantha Wilkinson as National Honor Society Advisor effective January 20, 2023 at Step 1.

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

Personnel Appointments

Second Reading Policy

First Reading Policy

Homebound Instruction

Transportation Requests

Volunteers

Extra-Curricular Appointments

Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Morvay to approve the Agreement for Services for Rachel's Challenge as outlined in [Exhibit N.](#) Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Rachel's Challenge

Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the Brazer as surplus. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Surplus

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Hetherington to approve the district's contribution of \$5,868.33 towards the purchase of a Transition Center van from Hume's Corry Ford costing a total of \$52,815 divided evenly among the nine member districts. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

ECTS Transition Center Van

Mr. Morvay updated the Board on the happenings of the Erie County Technical School. We had two students on the Exemplary student list in November. Mr. Morvay was elected as the treasurer for the JOC. The JOC terminated the Nutrition Group as the cafeteria managing as the Culinary Program will now be running the cafeteria. The ECTS had a clean audit this year. A new director search has begun. The committee of nine members (made up of board members, teachers, administrators) will have two candidates for the January meeting. Mr. Bloeser congratulated Mr. Morvay on his new position for the JOC.

Erie County Technical School

Enrollment totals 789 currently. Seven of the programs at the Tech School currently have a waiting list.

The renovations are still moving along, although not quickly due to continued delays. It looks like it could be fall 2023 for completion.

Dr. Pushchak shared that the IU5 is in negotiations with the teachers. The IU had their audit presentation in December. The Director of Curriculum, Instructions and Assessment has retired, and the Assistant Director has taken over the position. The board is now entering into negotiations with the teachers. Dr. Pushchak has been elected president.

Mrs. Farrell shared the fourth-grade students worked on poems and as a parent, she attended the fourth-grade poem readings. What an awesome opportunity. Students composed their poems then presented them in front of their fellow 4th grade students and parents. Kudos to the 4th grade teachers for this experience for the students and the parents. Dr. Pushchak added that the amount of rigor and the in-depth process required by the students was great to see.

Mrs. Hetherington asked if parents can come in for lunch? Mr. Calabrese stated that there has been discussion regarding parents coming in for special occasions (birthday) , but not as an everyday occurrence.

Mr. Bloeser shared that our fall sports teams had great seasons and we recognized their accomplishment and he wanted to recognize that Mrs. Cage had three students at Chorus competition and they are continuing on and the Lego Robotics Team did very well at their competition. Congratulations to Mr. Semrau and team. It is nice to see our students doing well in all areas of competition.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Lee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Adjournment

Signature on File
Vicki Bendig
School Board Secretary