

# WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 20 2023

The Wattsburg Area School District Board of Education held their Regular Board meeting at the Wattsburg Area Elementary Center on March 20, 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. Steve Morvay, Mrs. Tara Pound, 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 and Attorney Patricia Kennedy also attended. Mr. Shawn Matson was absent.

## Roll Call

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Lee 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. Pound to approve the meeting minutes of February 20, 2023 Regular Board Meeting and the March 13, 2023 Work Session. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

## Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Peebles introduced Audra Carnes and Robert Sanford students from Penn State Behrend who are a part of the WAMS Mentoring Program leadership team. The team works with the middle school students in providing relationship building not only with the mentors, but also between other students. This is a crucial time in adolescents lives with much change and transition taking place in their lives. Team building helps students with overcoming loneliness, downgrading technology effects, effects of COVID (isolation, disconnection) with proactive activities. It cultivates strong relationships between students, mentors, and adults. It provides support to students before the difficulties arrive. The program is usually 8-10 weeks. Carter McQuaid, one of the middle school students shared his prospective of the program.

## School Reports

Mr. Berlin thanked Ms. Carnes and Mr. Sanford for sharing this program with the Board. Mrs. Farrell thanked them for providing a phenomenal opportunity to our students.

Danny Carter III addressed the Board concerning the baseball and softball team.

## Guest and Citizen Comments

Danny Carter II addressed the Board concerning storage for the baseball and softball equipment near the field and accessibility to the visiting team stands.

Dr. Berlin introduced Attorney Pat Kennedy from Knox and welcomed her.

**Superintendent's  
Report**

He shared there will be a Finance Committee meeting before the work session on April 10, 2023 regarding the 2023-2024 General Fund Budget and announced that the April 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting will be held in the Grade 1 & 2 Gathering Area due to a spring musical being held in the auditorium.

Motion by, seconded by to approve the following reports, payments, and invoices as presented:

**Business  
Administrator's  
Report**

- Revenue & Expenditure Reports for February
  - [General Fund](#): \$12,087,094.91
  - [YTD Budget to Actual Report](#)
  - [Capital Projects](#): \$491,950.20
  - [Cafeteria](#): \$606,750.95
  - [Cafeteria Profit/Loss](#): (\$25,241.61) YCTD \$8,792.48
- Checks and Invoices
  - [Exhibit A1](#) Checks Already Written: \$63,148.66
  - [Exhibit A2](#) Checks Already Written: \$14,355.19
  - [Exhibit A3](#) General Fund Bills: \$168,112.64
  - [Exhibit B1](#) Cafeteria Checks Already Written: \$1,436.80
  - [Exhibit B2](#) Cafeteria Checks Already Written: \$43,770.16
  - [Exhibit B3](#) Cafeteria Bills: \$236.00
  - [Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$93,387.34

Motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Hetherington. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the following transfers:

**Transfers**

- Monthly budgetary transfer from the budget vs. actual report as outlined in [Exhibit E](#).
- \$126,100 from the committed fund for Nora Flooring to the committed fund for Tarkett flooring for the cafeterias.

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

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Dr. Pushchak to approve the [Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget for the 2023-2024 school year](#) in the amount of \$66,989,275 and to further approve Wattsburg Area School District's contribution to the School Improvement School Improvement Services (Fund 020) budgets of the Intermediate Unit for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$31,330.58 and \$239,230 to the Special Education Services Consortium (Fund 23). In a recorded rollcall vote, Mr. Steve Morvay, Mrs. Tara Pound, Dr. Andy Pushchak, Mrs. Britni Burlingham, Mrs. Amanda Farrell, Mrs. Lea Hetherington, Mrs. Nicole Lee, and Mr. Jeremy Bloeser voted to approve the IU Budget for 2023-2024. Motion carried.

**Northwest  
Tri-County  
Intermediate Unit  
Operating Budget  
for 2023-2024**

Dr. Pushchak thanked the Board for their support of the IU.

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Burlingham to approve an Equipment Lease Schedule and Finance Agreement with LEAF Capital Funding, LLC for staff laptops with delivery and first payment after July 1, 2023, as outlined in [Exhibit E](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**LEAF Equipment  
Lease Schedule &  
Finance Agreement**

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

- The purchase of flooring for the WAEC and SHS cafeteria floors as outlined in [Exhibit G](#).
- The Lease Agreement between the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5 and WASD for rental of WAEC space during the 2023-2024 school year as outlined in [attachment 1](#).
- The change order to purchase and install a new LCD Laser Projector in the Seneca auditorium funded out of budgetary reserve as outlined in [attachment 2](#).

**Cafeteria Floors**

**IU5 Classroom Lease  
Agreement**

**LCD Projector SHS**

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

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

- Hannah Espinosa, Madison Hoover and Kimberly McCain and Mark Shields as additions to the ESS Substitute List.
- Brittany Giannelli (retro to March 2, 2023) and Robert Garner Cryste Lorraine (retro to March 17, 2023) as additions to the Service Personnel Substitute List for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Accept the following resignations:
  - David Applebee, custodian, for the purpose of retirement effective March 18, 2023.
  - Brittany Giannelli, custodian, effective March 3, 2023
  - Karly Long, art teacher, effective March 9, 2023.
  - Emily Sonney, education support aide, effective March 23, 2023.
- The following leave requests:
  - FMLA -Like Leave for Laura Holmes beginning April 4, 2023.
  - Intermittent Family Medical Leave for Sara Land beginning April 26, 2023.
  - Intermittent Family Medical Leave for Rachel Merry beginning February 24, 2023.
- Emma Kowalski as Speech Pathologist for Kindergarten Bootcamp on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays August 1-18, 2023.
- The following conference requests:
  - Cheryl Krider to attend Financial Literacy Event on April 18, 2023 in Edinboro, PA at an estimated cost of \$120. Funds from Professional Development.
  - Erin Fonzo and Heather Hedderman to attend Share Northwest on April 13, 2023 in Edinboro, PA at an estimated cost of \$280. Funds from Professional Development.

**ESS Substitute  
Additions  
Service Substitute  
Additions**

**Personnel  
Resignations**

**Leave Requests**

**Kindergarten  
Bootcamp**

**Conference  
Requests**

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

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

**Dual Credit MCY**

- The Dual Credit Affiliation Agreement with Mercyhurst University as outlined in [Exhibit H](#).
- The Dual Credit Affiliation Agreement with Penn State University as outlined in [Exhibit I](#).
- The Dual Credit Affiliation Agreement with Penn West University as outlined in [Exhibit J](#).
- Integrated Science Course at Seneca High School beginning the 2023-2024 school year as outlined in [Exhibit K](#).
- The science sequence at Seneca High School beginning the 2023-2024 school year as outlined in [Exhibit L](#).
- The Dual Credit Affiliation Agreement with Gannon University as outlined in [attachment 3](#).
- The updated appendices for the Robert Morris University/WASD Agreement with courses and teachers as outline in [attachment 4](#).

**Dual Credit  
Penn State  
Dual Credit  
PennWest  
Integrated Science**

**Science Sequence**

**Dual Credit Gannon**

**Updated  
Appendices Robert  
Morris University**

Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried. Dr. Berlin added there will be a FAQ session for students/parents regarding dual credit soon.

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

- The transportation requests and ratification of field trips since last meeting as outlined in [Exhibit M](#).
- A parent transportation agreement effective February 17, 2023 for the 2022-2023 school year at the current IRS rate of 65.5¢/mile.
- The First Lego League Robotics Team Grades 7-8 to compete in the American Robotics Open Championship Invitational Competition at Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, NJ on May 12-14, 2023 at an estimated cost of \$3,500.

**Field Trips**

**Parent  
Transportation**

**First Lego League  
Robotics  
Championship**

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

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

- Donald Carver, Heather Gifford, Michael Kappler, Scott Kaveney, and Julie Schuster as additions to the WASD Volunteer List.
- Dana Miller, Cross Country 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Coach at step 2+.

**District Volunteers**

**Coaching  
Appointment**

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

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

- The agreement for Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth between Bethesda Lutheran Services and Wattsburg Area School District for the 2023-204 school year as outlined in [Exhibit N](#).
- Declare items surplus as outlined in [attachment 5](#).

**Bethesda  
Agreement**

**Surplus Items**

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

Mr. Morvay reported that there were two exceptional students from Wattsburg Area School District (Mallory Campbell and Aeneva Shumac); Every program at the tech school is above 40% enrollment; They are looking at possibly expanded the Cosmetology class due to the demand of the course; Renovations continue to be on track and looks to be completed at the end of

**Erie County  
Technical School**

the calendar year. A new Executive Director has been selected; Matthew Laverde will begin July 1, 2023.

Dr. Pushchak thanked the Board for approving the budget for the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit for 2023-2024. He shared the next meeting is Wednesday, March 22, 2023 and he will update the Board following the meeting.

**Northwest  
Tri-County  
Intermediate Unit**

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion by Dr. Pushchak seconded by Mrs. Farrell , meeting was adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

**Adjournment**

Signature on File  
Vicki Bendig  
School Board Secretary