

# WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

October 16, 2023

The Wattsburg Area School District Board of Education held their Regular Board meeting at the Wattsburg Area Elementary Center on October 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, 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 Patricia Kennedy, Solicitor also attended.

## **Roll Call**

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

## **Agenda/Addendum**

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Pound to approve Minutes from the September 18, 2023 Regular Board Meeting and the October 9, 2023 Work Session. 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**

Dr. Berlin introduced Mr. Grossman, who shared highlights from the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pumpkin Run. Mr. Grossman shared that this is an all encompassing community event. It is also a big Fall highlight for the elementary students and their parents.

## **School Report**

Dr. Berlin updated the Board on new programs under consideration at the Erie County Technical School. The proposed programs were selected from the PA In-Demand Occupations list. As an example. Dr. Berlin highlighted the growing need for EMS personnel and the corresponding certification program in Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Fire Fighter, and Protective Services. The addition of programs is possible because of new classroom space added at ECTS during the recent renovation.

## **Superintendent's Report**

He also shared that the need to invest in Districtwide Safety & Security is predicted to grow and he recommended the district commit funds annually to remain proactive with upkeep and upgrades.

The Tax Assessment/Appeal Process was completed for 2024 Assessment vs. Sale resulting in an additional \$1.3 million in taxable value, which adds nearly \$30,000 in recurring annual revenue.

Dr. Berlin also recommended that any considered property tax increase for the 2024-2025 school year remain within or below the Act 1 limit for 2024. A motion for Board consideration will be placed on the November meeting agenda.

Seneca High School is displaying new signage that was recently installed, funded entirely by grants. The displays are well done and add are a welcome upgrade to the building's appearance.

Dr. Berlin concluded his report by sharing some fall highlights that include Brayden Johnson All-Region Boys' Golf. Oliva Jefferson, Olivia Stainbrook, and Kyle Bednar All-Region Girls' Golf. The Girls' Soccer team are the Region 3 Champions with a 15-0 record and the Marching Bobcats placed 1<sup>st</sup> place in the North East Competition (Class A) and 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the McDowell Competition (Class A).

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

- Revenue & Expenditure Reports for September
  - [General Fund](#): \$10,360,008.86
  - [YTD Budget to Actual Report](#)
  - [Capital Projects](#): \$506,508.57
  - [Cafeteria](#): \$630,538.39
  - Cafeteria Profit/Loss: [Aug Revised](#) \$(7,258.50) [Sept](#) \$32,443.56
- Checks and Invoices
  - [Exhibit A1](#) Checks Already Written: \$368,228.34
  - [Exhibit A2](#) Checks Already Written: \$30,513.70
  - [Exhibit A3](#) General Fund Bills: \$405,249.50
  - [Exhibit B1](#) Cafeteria Checks Already Written: \$973.21
  - [Exhibit B3](#) Cafeteria Bills: \$44,693.61
  - [Exhibit C1](#) Capital Project Fund Bills: \$186,591.87
  - [Exhibit C3](#) Capital Project Fund Bills: \$554,850.36
  - [Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$66,666.37

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

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Hetherington to approve the Expulsion Hearing Waiver and Stipulation for an SHS student. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Dr. Pushchak commended the administration for working with families to find the best options for students and families.

**Business  
Administrator's  
Report**

**Student Disciplinary  
Placement**

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

- Monthly budgetary transfer from the budget vs. actual report as outlined in [Exhibit E](#).
- Transfer \$261,537.76 from the Committed Fund to Capital Projects for Paving/Concrete projects.
- Transfer \$125,000 from the Committed Fund to Capital Projects for Tarkett Flooring for Cafeterias.

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

Motion by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mrs. Burlingham to approve the use of the high, middle and elementary gymnasiums on December 29-30, 2023 by the WASD 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Basketball team for a basketball tournament at an estimated cost of \$966.85. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

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

- Mary Dubek and Krista Rooney as an addition to the ESS Substitute List.
- Diana Twaroski and Stacy Praetzel as an addition to the Service Personnel Substitute List for the 2023-2024 school year.
- The following appointments:
  - Lisa Gottschling as custodian, class B, 7 hours/day, 210 days/year effective October 9, 2023.
  - Wendy Werner as cook, class B, 5.50 hours/day, 180 days/year effective October 16, 2023.
  - Jack Corey as a long-term district daily floating substitute for the 2023-2024 school year at bachelors, Step 1.
- The following conference requests:
  - Mary Rea to attend the 2023 Professional Immunization Seminar on October 27, 2023 in Erie, PA at an estimated cost of \$67.86. Funds from Professional Development.
  - Elizabeth Smith to attend 2023 Professional Immunization Seminar on October 27, 2027 in Erie, PA at an estimated cost of \$160. Funds from Professional Development and Substitute.
  - Matt Harman and Josh Thayer to attend Pete & C February 4 – 7, 2004 in Hershey, PA at an estimated cost of \$2,196.85. Funds from Professional Development.
  - Elizabeth Diehl to attend Erie County Technical School Counselor meetings for the 2023-2024 school year in Erie, PA. at an estimated cost of \$70.74. Funds from Guidance Travel.
  - Elizabeth Diehl to attend a Counselor Luncheon at Kent State University, Kent OH on October 20, 2023 at an estimated cost of \$174.23. Funds from Guidance Travel.
  - Elizabeth Diehl to attend School Counselor Workshop, October 26, 2023 at Penn State Behrend at no cost to the district.

## **Transfers**

## **Facility Use Request**

## **ESS Substitutes**

## **Service Substitutes**

## **Appointments**

## **Conference Requests**

- Saint Vincent Medical Group as the school Physician at the rate of \$15.00 per physical exam effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.
- Dr. Richard Brozewicz, DDS as the school Dentist at the rate of \$5.00 per exam effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.
- PSBA to complete a Compensation Plan Study as outlined in [Exhibit F](#).
- The MOA between Wattsburg Area School District and the Wattsburg Education Association for Unified Bocce Coach as outlined in [attachment 1](#).

**School Physician**

**School Dentist**

**PSBA Compensation  
Plan Study**

**MOA Unified Bocce**

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

Dr. Berlin added that the addition of Mr. Corey as a district floating substitute teacher is great for our students.

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Pound to amend the school calendar to move the snow Make-up day from May 24, 2024 to April 8, 2024 as outlined in [Exhibit G](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**School Calendar  
Revision**

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

- The transportation requests and ratification of field trips since last meeting as outlined in [Exhibit H](#).
- The additions of Jennifer Rivera, and Karen Hirtzel as Durham Bus Drivers for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Transportation/Field  
Trip Requests**

**Durham Drivers**

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

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

- The following as additions to the WASD Volunteer List.

Hannah Allesie	Melissa Hall	Jessica Lewis	Kevin Scalise
Shelley Bojarski	Elizabeth Heliker	Jill O'Connor	Becky Sue Troutman
Rebecca Cox	Julia Herrmann	Matthew Pinzok	Terri Will
Michael Dvorznak	Toni Kibbe	Stacy Praetzel	Kelly Yost

**Volunteer List**

- Accept the resignation of Owen Jefferson, wrestling coach effective September 29, 2023.
- Extra-curricular appointments for 2023-2024 school year:
  - Susan Nolan as Student Assistance Program Case Manager at Step 1.
  - Leah Bootes as WAMS Newspaper Advisor at Step 1.

**Athletic Resignation**

**Extra-Curricular  
Appointments**

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

Mr. Morvay updated the Board on the Erie County Technical School September JOC meeting.

- The Tech School Foundation wrote a check to our football team for helping put the labs back together after the renovation.
- Looking at leasing the Skills building.

**Erie County  
Technical School**

- Jesse Larson (Autobody) was recognized as a “hard working young leader”. Jesse is a Wattsburg student.
- In Phase 3 or renovation, estimated completion is February 2024.
- 829 students attending the tech school. All labs are at 65% or higher capacity.
- Wholistic approach to the search for new programs. Resources can be moved around.

Mrs. Burlingham welcomed the idea of the new ECTS program considerations because the professions that help people are in need of new workers.

Dr. Pushchak reported that the IU gave their annual report. He shared that only 2% of the Intermediate Unit’s budget comes from the districts. September 21<sup>st</sup> was the Adult Education Graduation. Four of the graduates obtaining their GED were from the Erie County Prison. The County Executive has made it a priority to help inmates obtain their GED. There were many heartwarming stories for the graduation.

**Northwest Tri-  
County Intermediate  
Unit**

During Board Correspondence and Dialogue, Dr. Pushchak thanked the administration for reports that help keep the Board up to date on what is occurring. He also complimented the Board for their work Sytng that the Wattsburg Area School District is well suited to be a Premier District.

**Board  
Correspondence and  
Dialogue**

Mr. Bloeser also complimented the success of the Pumpkin Run and the work of all involved to make it a success.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Farrell, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Signature on File  
Vicki Bendig  
School Board Secretary