

# WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 15, 2024

The Wattsburg Area School District Board of Education held their Regular Board meeting at the Wattsburg Area Elementary Center on January 15, 2024.

President Jeremy Bloeser called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Gregory Brumagin, Mrs. Britni Burlingham, Mrs. Lea Hetherington, Mr. Steve Morvay, Dr. Andy Pushchak, Mr. Jesse Williams, Mr. Brian Young, 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. Mrs. Nicole Lee was absent.

## Roll Call

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

## Agenda

Motion by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Brumagin to approve the meeting minutes of the December 4, 2023, Board Organization and Regular Board Meeting and the January 8, 2024, Work Session Minutes with the revision of Mr. Morvay commented on Mr. O'Donnell's resignation of stage director. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

## Meeting Minutes

No guest/citizen addressed the Board.

## Guest and Citizen Comments

Middle school Principal, Mr. Paris, started his school report by quizzing the Board with several seventh grade PSSA math questions that had been released to prepare students to take the PSSA test. He shared that there were 5 perfect math scores out of 90,812 tests in 2021 and 77 perfect scores out of 118,357 tests in 2022. Mr. Paris said that although the 2023 PSSA test totals have not yet been released, we know of at least one student that earned a perfect seventh grade math score. Mr. Paris recognized middle student, Angela Fischer, for obtaining a perfect score on the 2023 seventh grade PSSA math test. Angela was recognized with a certificate from the District and a treat from The Nutrition Group. Mrs. Burlingham complimented Angela and recognized Mrs. Boyd's work as the seventh grade Mathematics teacher. Mr. Bloeser also recognized Angela's accomplishment and acknowledged her parents.

## School Report

Dr. Berlin shared the following:

- There will be a campus-wide SECURE drill on January 25, 2024.
- A Curriculum meeting will be held February 12, 2024, to provide an academic update.
- The Comprehensive Plan is completed every 3 years and Mrs. Kelley is leading the committee for the plan. The Board will be asked to approve the plan when completed.
- Act 93 Agreements will be renewed this year. PSBA is currently compiling the updated compensation study for this. Review should begin in February.

## Superintendent's Report

- New wrestling mats will be soon be delivered and installed in the WAMS wrestling room. The mats were ordered over a year ago but were delayed due to supply chain issues.
- The District is renewing its Sewer Plant permit, and a public posting is required.
- A brief update on the State Budget and PA State-wide School Funding lawsuit.

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

- Revenue & Expenditure Reports for December
  - [General Fund](#): \$14,404,431.49
  - [YTD Budget to Actual Report](#)
  - [Capital Projects](#): \$379,682.39
  - [Cafeteria](#): \$747,102.72
  - Cafeteria Profit/Loss: [Nov. \\$\(3,750.79\)](#) [Dec.](#) \$925.55
- Checks and Invoices
  - [Exhibit A1](#) Checks Already Written: \$265,710.08
  - [Exhibit A2](#) Checks Already Written: \$5,680.27
  - [Exhibit A3](#) General Fund Bills: \$280,184.13
  - [Exhibit B1](#) Cafeteria Checks Already Written: \$44,197.80
  - [Exhibit B2](#) Cafeteria Checks Already Written: \$88.83
  - [Exhibit B3](#) Cafeteria Bills: \$43,466.29
  - [Exhibit C3](#) Capital Project Fund Bills: \$8,234.64
  - [Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$68,514.26

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

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Young to approve the recommendation from the Erie County Tax Claim Bureau for the removal of taxes for the tax years noted and all future years for Parcel numbers: 26-003-011.0-013.50. This parcel was recently removed from the Assessment records based on the determination of no value or existence of each trailer per field review as outlined in [Exhibit E](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

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

- The following transfers:
  - Monthly budgetary transfer from the budget vs. actual report as outlined in [Exhibit F](#).
  - \$8,234.64 from Committed Fund for Safety and Security to Capital Projects for the Doyle invoice for additional access doors at WAMS.
- The use of the IRS Mileage Rate of 67¢/mile for district business travel effective January 1, 2024.
- The Local Audit Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023, as prepared by Buffamante, Whipple, Buttafaro, P.C

Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried. Dr. Pushchak complimented the administration on the excellent audit report.

### **Business Administrator's Report**

### **Exoneration of Delinquent Property Taxes**

### **Transfers**

### **IRS Mileage Rate**

### **Local Audit 2023**

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

- The Notice of Assignment between WASD and Mid-American Natural Resources as outlined in [Exhibit G](#).
- The following facility use requests:
  - SHS Auditorium and Classrooms by Paula and Judy's Dance Connection for an annual dance show on June 13, 14, & 15, 2024 at an estimated cost of \$3,065.11.
  - Gymnasium on Saturdays in February 2024 by Winter Storm Basketball Clinic at an estimated cost of \$578.28.

**Notice of Assignment**

**Facility Use Requests**

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

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

- Reema Kesharwani, Tirzah Kurien, and Sarah Lindsey as additions to the ESS Substitute List.
- The tuition reimbursements as outlined in [Exhibit H](#).
- Accept the following resignations:
  - Lisa Gottschling, custodian effective December 12, 2023.
  - Shirley Avila, cafeteria aide effective December 14, 2023.
  - Thomas Banks, SHS teacher effective December 20, 2023.
- The following appointments:
  - Adam Gottschling as Custodian, Class B, 7 hours/day, 210 days/year effective January 16, 2024.
  - Keith Miller as Long-term substitute English Language Arts Teacher anticipated January 16 through June 7, 2024, at master's +30, Step 1.
  - Callan Coolidge as Information Technology Systems Technician and the prorated Act 93 Agreement anticipated effective date of January 22, 2024.
- The following conference requests:
  - Elizabeth Diehl to attend PASSHE Counselor Information Day on April 12, 2024, in Edinboro, PA at an estimated cost of \$28.95. Funding from Instructional Staff Development Travel.
  - Alissa Pyle to attend PA Association of Student Assistance Professionals Conference, February 25-27, 2024, in State College, PA at an estimated cost of \$782.16. Professional Development.
  - Jack Corey, Seth Hembree, Eric Albrecht, Walter Chevalier, David Tome, and Jerome Adamus to attend Glazier Football Clinic, March 1-3, 2024, in Pittsburgh, PA at an estimated cost of \$1,152.88. Funds from Professional Development/Travel.
- Extended Disability Leave for Sandra Paulsen effective January 11, 2024.

**ESS Substitutes**

**Tuition Reimbursement**

**Resignations**

**Appointments**

**Conference Requests**

**Extended Disability Leave**

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

Motion by Mr. Brumagin, seconded by Mr. Morvay to approve the transportation requests and ratification of field trips since last meeting as outlined in [attachment 1](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

### **Transportation Requests**

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

- Ryan Bemis, David Buona, Lee Anne Campbell, Scott Campbell, Nicole Eliason, Jessica Heaven, Michael Juhas Jr., Rebecca Kosack, Kelly Nies, Jennifer Poklembo, Alexandria Rea, and Erin Spaulding as additions to the WASD Volunteer List.
- The following extra-curricular appointments for the 2023-2024 school year effective December 20, 2023:
  - Kara Barczyk as Rainbow Facilitator, Step 1.
  - David Segoviano as SAP Case Worker for SHS at Step 1.
  - Stephanie Boyd as SAP Case Worker for WAMS at Step 1.
  - Shelly Bojarski as Assistant Cheerleading Advisor at Step 1.
  - Gretchen Ruprecht as WAMS Detention Supervisor.
  - Courtney Shumac as Stage Director, at Step 1.
- The Cooperative Sports Agreement for Boys' Swimming and Diving and Girls' Swimming and Diving between North East School District and Wattsburg Area School District as outlined in [Exhibit J](#).
- The resignation of Stephanie Boyd as Extra-Effort Math Tutor effective January 8, 2024.

### **District Volunteers**

### **Extra-Curricular Appointments**

### **Cooperative Sports Agreement**

### **Extra-Curricular Resignation**

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

Dr. Berlin shared that he investigated transportation in regards to the Cooperative Agreement. Agreements are handled on a case-by-case basis as the addition of students could affect the PIAA enrollment classification and move districts into a different classification.

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mr. Young to approve the following items as surplus:

- Cannon 211 color ink cartridges: quantity 2
- Cannon 210 XL black ink cartridges: quantity 4
- RCA VHS Camcorder: AutoShot 12x zoom: quantity 1
- Novel: Flush by Carl Hiaasen: Publisher Yearling-2005: quantity 102
- Novel: Bud not Buddy: Christopher Paul Curtis: Publisher Yearling-1999: quantity 128

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

### **Surplus Items**

Mr. Morvay reported that the Erie County Vocational Technical School Joint Operations Committee meeting in December included recognition of Wattsburg Be-Attitude Students for October: Jacob McGinnette (Automotive Technologies), Alexander Cihon (Computer Programming), and Averil Pushchak (Early Childhood Education) and for November: Katelyn Tuholski (Health Assistant).

### **Erie County Technical School**

Other highlights for the ECTS include:

- A clean audit report for ECTS.
- Overview of new programming. Which included a desire for the second Cosmotology Lab as 57 students are still on waiting list for the lab or a

Health Assistant Lab (38 students on waiting list). They are looking into expanding the Cosmetology Lab and running an A/B Instruction/Practical. This would also work to allow for a second Health Assistant class. They estimate the cost of renovation to these areas to be \$200,000 and could have the labs ready for fall 2024. This also allows for 1 additional instructional space. The JOC would need districts consensus on this. After discussion, the WASD Board would support this move.

Dr. Pushchak reminded the Board that he sends the report following each meeting. He shared that the IU also had their audit, and the findings were: "unmodified opinion with no findings, no corrected and uncorrected misstatements. No management letter with any further comments." Which is a very good audit for the IU. And of note, the fund balance for the IU is \$10,000,000 (6 million unassigned, 3 million assigned and 1 million committed).

**Northwest Tri-  
County Intermediate**

During Board Correspondence and Dialogue, Mrs. Burlingham shared that there were many parents who were anxious and concerned with the power failure operations and why there was a wait for release. Dr. Berlin shared the protocol and commented on the deliberate pause to the decision for early release because of the practical matter of releasing students without enough parental notice, especially in the elementary center. Everyone, the staff and students, did their best to make a difficult situation work and thanked the staff for handling it well. The administration will have a debriefing meeting to discuss where improvements can be made (back-up systems, phones, etc.).

Dr. Berlin noted that January is Board Appreciation Month, appreciating all the board does for the students and the district. Each member was presented with a gift of recognition for their time and dedication.

Dr. Berlin also reminded the board members of the training on Monday, January 22, 2024. Dinner will be provided beginning at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Burlingham, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Signature on File  
Vicki Bendig  
School Board Secretary