

WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 18, 2024

The Wattsburg Area School District Board of Education held their Regular Board meeting at the Wattsburg Area Elementary Center on March 18, 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, Mrs. Nicole Lee, 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 Jennifer Gornall, Solicitor also attended.

Roll Call

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

Agenda

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the meeting minutes of February 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting and the March 11, 2024 Work Session. Motion approved by a voice vote with one opposing (Mr. Brumagin). Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

There were no guest or citizen comments.

Guest and Citizen Comments

Dr. Berlin introduced Mr. Grossman who talked about special guests that visited the elementary center recently. Author, Jerry Pallotta gave a captivating presentation to the students and Bright Star theater (sponsored by the PTO) presented African Folk Tales. Mr. Grossman also shared that elementary students are working diligently on Rachel's Challenge highlighting Vanessa Mitchell, who purchased smencils (scented pencils) for her entire class, so each student had their own and no one felt left out.

School Report

Dr. Berlin shared the following:

- The extended school-day power outage in January brought to light items that need to be addressed. The elementary center needs additional power to operate the IP phones and run water during an outage that exceeds the capacity of the current emergency generator. Purchasing a larger backup generator is recommended as a first step in addressing these needs.
- Durham transportation is updating the mobile application used for parent communication and alerts from Bus Tracker to Bus Zone. Information will be shared with parents in advance of the transition.
- The next required biannual review of the District's Health/Safety Plan will occur in April. Last week, the Pennsylvania Department of Health released a significant change for Covid protocol. The new guidance for

Superintendent's Report

Covid is to stay home until fever-free for 24 hours, which will be updated in the plan.

- The door security update project is nearing completion. A few parts still need to be installed; however, alerts are being sent to key staff members when doors are open and should not be.

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

- Revenue & Expenditure Reports for February
 - [General Fund](#): \$12,069,068.80
 - [YTD Budget to Actual Report](#)
 - [Capital Projects](#): \$382,960.17
 - [Cafeteria](#): \$770,188.15
 - [Cafeteria Profit/Loss](#): \$21,615.50 YTD: \$56,119.97
- Checks and Invoices
 - [Exhibit A1](#) Checks Already Written: \$54,131.51
 - [Exhibit A2](#) Checks Already Written: \$19,155.40
 - [Exhibit A3](#) General Fund Bills: \$230,868.81
 - [Exhibit B1](#) Cafeteria Checks Already Written: \$1,191.41
 - [Exhibit B2](#) Cafeteria Checks Already Written: \$44,158.98
 - [Exhibit B3](#) Cafeteria Bills: \$3,753.60
 - [Exhibit C3](#) Capital Project Fund Bills: \$9,582.00
 - [Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$67,287.24

**Business
Administrator's
Report**

Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Mrs. Bendig also shared that the food service must have the RFP/bid process this year. Two companies attended the walk-through last week. The board will be asked to approve the bid at the May meeting.

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the In Lieu of Expulsion Agreement for a WAMS student. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Student Disciplinary
Placement**

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, second by Mr. Morvay to approve the 2024-2025 General Fund Operating Budget for the Erie County Area Vocational-Technical School in Secondary Programs and Regional Career and Technical Center Adult programs as presented for adoption. The 2024-2025 General Fund Budget includes total expenditures of \$7,553,428 with total district contributions of \$4,878,654 and the Wattsburg Area School District contribution of \$401,063. In a recorded roll call vote, the following voted to approve the budget: Dr. Pushchak, Mr. Williams, Mr. Young, Mr. Brumagin, Mrs. Burlingham, Mrs. Hetherington, Mrs. Lee, Mr. Morvay, and Mr. Bloeser. Motion approved.

**2024-2025 ECTS
General Fund
Operating Budget**

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Burlingham to approve the Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$70,091,220 and to further approve Wattsburg Area School District's contribution to the School Improvement School Improvement

**Northwest
Tri-County IU5
2024-2025 General
Operating Budget**

Services (Fund 020) budgets of the Intermediate Unit for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in the amount of \$38,585.37 and \$232,560 to the Special Education Services Consortium (Fund 23). In a recorded roll call vote, the following voted to approve the budget: Dr. Pushchak, Mr. Williams, Mr. Young, Mr. Brumagin, Mrs. Burlingham, Mrs. Hetherington, Mrs. Lee, Mr. Morvay, and Mr. Bloeser. Motion approved.

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

- The Lease Agreement between Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5 and WASD for rental of WAEC space during the 2024-2025 school year as outlined in [Exhibit F](#).
- The purchase of KOHLER Emergency Generator, Automatic Transfer Switches, and associated components at a cost not to exceed \$35,000 as outlined in [attachment1](#). Funded from Committed Funds for Safety & Security. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Emergency
Generator Purchase**

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

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

- Christian Dombrowiak and Lindsay Suydan as additions to the ESS Substitute List
- Mercede Myers as an addition to the Service Substitute List.
- The following resignations:
 - Brooke Gibbs, special education aide effective February 20, 2024.
 - Andrew Foster, educational aide effective February 20, 2024.
 - Keagan Yonkers, Autistic Support teacher effective March 22, 2024.
 - Valerie Zampogna, Social Studies Teacher, for the purpose of retirement effective June 10, 2024.
 - Mercede Myers, custodian effective March 23, 2024.
- The following appointments:
 - Jamie Trayer as a special education aide, class B, 7 hours/day, 180 days/year effective March 4, 2024.
 - Sarah Wasson as special education aide, class B, 7 hours/day, 180 days/year effective March 5, 2024.
 - Michelle Hewell as special education aide, class B, 7 hours/day, 180 days/year effective March 14, 2024.
 - Erica Hawes as long-term Autistic Support Teacher, at Bachelors, Step 1 anticipated March 18 – June 7, 2024.
 - Larissa Applebee as cafeteria aide, class B, 5 hours/day, 180 days/year effective March 18, 2024.

ESS Substitutes

Service Substitutes

Resignations

Appointments

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

Motion by Mrs. Lee, seconded by Dr. Pushchak to approve the Compensation Agreements and Job Descriptions for the following employees effective July 1, 2024:

**Compensation
Agreements
&
Job Descriptions**

- Administrator – Hillary Barboni, Steve Carter, Robert Englert, Eric Schultz, Justin Grossman, Lisa Jablonski, Rebecca Kelley, Christopher Paris, Susan Peebles, and Krista Wehan - [Exhibit G](#).
- Information Technology Staff – Callan Coolidge, Matt Harmon, and Joshua Thayer - [Exhibit H](#).
- Student Services Staff – Sherry Beckwith and Theresa Williams - [Exhibit I](#).
- Manager – Todd Landis, Pam Pudlick - [Exhibit J](#).
- Confidential Staff – Rachel Graham, Susan Huff, Sara Land, Jessica Mathis, and Debra Nuhfer - [Exhibit K](#).
- Aerospace Instructor – Raymond Oshop

In a recorded roll call vote, the following voted to approve the Compensation Agreements and Job Descriptions: Mrs. Lee, Mr. Morvay, Dr. Pushchak, Mr. Williams, Mr. Young, Mr. Brumagin, Mrs. Burlingham, Mrs. Hetherington, Mr. Bloeser. Motion approved.

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

- The following appointments for Kindergarten Bootcamp with teacher prep on August 1, 2024 and Bootcamp August 5-15, 2024: Ariel Bartlett, Pam Burdic, Michelle McAvoy, Emma McDermott, Haley Ottaway, Emily Stratton, Emma Murzynski (Speech/Language) and Kayla Trapp (Medical Assistant).
- The following appointments for Extended School Year July 16 – August 8, 2024.
 - Lynn Orton – Life Skills Teacher – WAEC
 - Elizabeth Donikowski – Life Skills Teacher – Secondary
 - Pam Carson – In Home ESY Teacher
- The following conference requests:
 - Pam Burdick to attend IXL Live on March 12, 2024 in Cleveland, OH at an estimated cost of \$215. Funds from Professional Development.
 - Erin Fonzo and Heather Hedderman to attend Share Northwest on April 18, 2024 in Erie, PA at an estimated cost of \$280. Funds from Professional Development and Substitute accounts.
- The following leave requests:
 - An unpaid Family Medical Leave of Absence Like Leave for Mercede Myers effective February 20, 2024 through February 25, 2024.
 - An Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence utilizing unpaid time off for Shelley Behr beginning February 26, 2024.

**Kindergarten Boot
Camp**

ESY Teachers

**Conference
Requests**

Leave Requests

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

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

- The Wattsburg Area School District Comprehensive School Plan for 2024-2027 as outlined in [Exhibit L](#).

**Comprehensive
School Plan for
2024-2027**

- The pilot of Math 180 at the middle school for the spring of the 2023-2024 school year at a cost of \$800 as outlined in [attachment 2](#).
- The following new RMU Courses
 - Hist 1100 – United States History I
 - Hist 1200 – United States History II
 - Envs 1160 – Environmental Science

Math 180 Pilot

RMU Courses

The Board discussed successes and concerns of the RMU program currently in its first year of implementation. 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 3](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Transportation Requests

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

- Shelly Barber, Danny Carter, Alycia Edmonds, Katrina Hoover, Kerrie Parkhurst, Tori Svetz, and Danielle Szklenski as additions to the WASD Volunteer List.
- Emily Stratton as WAEC SAP Case Worker at Step 1, effective March 1, 2024.

Volunteer List

Extra-Curricular Appointment

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

Motion by Mr. Young, second 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 2024-2025 school year as outlined in [Exhibit N](#).
- Items as surplus as outlined in [Exhibit O](#) and [attachment 4](#).

Bethesda Agreement

Surplus Items

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

Mr. Morvay reported that the Erie County Vocational Technical School Joint Operating Committee meeting included recognition of 2nd quarter exemplary students (Mallory Campbell, Chloe Starvaggi, Jesse Larson, Robert Hodas, Alexander Cihon, Benjamin Hedderman, Hannah Berry, Taylor Bunce, McKenna Edwards, Mackenzie Trayer, Max McClintock, Briana Nunemaker, Averil Pushchak, Joseph Brennan, Braydon George, Parker Henderson, Anthony Scalise, Nicholas Smith, Josiah Gingrich, Allison Russ, Isabella Black, Hanna Curtis, Allison Kennerknecht, Veronica Talley, Allison Walker, Ryder Percy, and Aeneva Shuma) and the Be-Attitude Students for January 2024 (Elijah Carner, Katrina Carver and Ryder Percy). He also shared students went on field trips to local business in their career paths and the director reported a projected increase in students attending ECTS for 2024-25 and a 2nd construction trade instructor is to be hired for the fall. All areas of the building renovation are occupied now, and the grand opening is scheduled for August 2024.

Erie County Technical School

During Board Correspondence and Dialogue, Dr. Pushchak noted that he appreciated the discussion on the curriculum items as curriculum is important

to the district's educational process. He also shared that attending "Leap Day with a Loved One" was a nice event and that he read to 3rd graders for "Read Across America" day. Mr. Brumagin shared about the increase of female wrestling opportunities since the board voted to approve women's wrestling 2 years ago and highlighted the student's successes. He also referenced the finance committee meeting where his takeaway was that we are not taxing too little but have too little to tax and felt that the district should be incentivizing tax rebates.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Young, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Signature on File
Vicki Bendig
School Board Secretary