

WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 17, 2024

The Wattsburg Area School District Board of Education held their Regular Board meeting at the Wattsburg Area Elementary Center on June 17, 2024.

President Jeremy Bloeser called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mr. Bloeser announced that the Board met in executive session prior to the work session and the board meeting to discuss personnel.

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 Christine McClure, Solicitor also attended. Mr. Gregory Brumagin was absent.

Roll Call

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

Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Lee, seconded by Mrs. Hetherington to approve the meeting minutes of the May 20, 2024, Regular Board Meeting and the June 10, 2024 Work Session. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

No guests or citizens in attendance.

Guest and Citizen Comments

No school reports for this evening.

School Report

Dr. Berlin shared that Paris Brothers & Company donated the labor and materials for construction of a new discus pad. He also thanked the Board for another successful year and for their continued support.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Berlin recognized Attorney McClure who will be retiring this year and has served the district for many years as the solicitor.

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

- Revenue & Expenditure Reports
 - [General Fund](#): \$8,348,644.54
 - [YTD Budget to Actual Report](#)
 - [Capital Projects](#): \$388,010.26
 - [Cafeteria](#): \$698,854.55
 - [Cafeteria Profit/Loss](#): \$14,409.10 YTD \$79,347.39
- Checks and Invoices

Business Administrator's Report

- [Exhibit A1](#) Checks Already Written: \$63,537.86
- [Exhibit A2](#) Checks Already Written: \$25,009.55
- [Exhibit A3](#) General Fund Bills: \$258,469.18
- [Exhibit B1](#) Cafeteria Checks Already Written: \$700.49
- [Exhibit B2](#) Cafeteria Checks Already Written: \$56,651.81
- [Exhibit D](#) SHS Activity Fund Report: \$78,500.27

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

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

Transfers

- Monthly budgetary transfer from the budget vs. actual report as outlined in Exhibit E.
- \$20,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance to the Committed fund for Dustvent refurbishment project at SHS.
- \$10,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance to the Committed fund for the discus pad project at the athletic complex.
- \$10,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance to the Committed Fund for the Life Skills Classroom setup project at SHS.

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

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Burlingham to approve adoption of the General Fund Budget for 2024 – 2025 fiscal year in the amount of \$30,387,841. In a recorded roll call vote, the following members voted to adopt the General Fund Budget: Dr. Pushchak, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Burlingham, Mrs. Hetherington, Mr. Young, Mrs. Lee, Mr. Morvay, and Mr. Bloeser. Motion carried.

2024-2025 General Fund Budget

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the Real Property Tax Resolution:

Real Property Tax

Resolved, that the Wattsburg Area Board of School Directors does hereby levy for the school fiscal year July 1, 2024, to and including June 30, 2025, on each dollar of the total assessment of all real property in the Wattsburg Area School District comprised of the Borough of Wattsburg and Townships of Amity, Greene, Greenfield and Venango in the amount of 23.6607mills or \$2,366.07 on each one hundred thousand (\$100,000) dollars of assessed valuation of taxable property for general school purposes and the payment of teachers' salaries and rentals to school authorities.

In a recorded roll call vote, the following members voted to approve the Real Property Tax Resolution: Dr. Pushchak, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Burlingham, Mrs. Hetherington, Mr. Young, Mrs. Lee, Mr. Morvay, and Mr. Bloeser. Motion carried.

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Morvay to approve the Per Capita Tax Resolution:

Per Capita Tax

Resolved, that the Wattsburg Area Board of School Directors hereby reenacts upon the residents and/or inhabitants of the

Wattsburg Area School District, nineteen (19) years of age and older, within the School District a Per Capita Tax in the amount of five (\$5.00) dollars as provided for in the Public-School Code of 1949 (Section 679) as amended during the Period July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.

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

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Young to approve the Act 511 Per Capita Tax Resolution:

Act 511 Per Capita Tax

Resolved, that the Wattsburg Area Board of School Directors hereby reenacts upon the residents and/or inhabitants of the Wattsburg Area School District, nineteen (19) years of age and older, within the School District a Per Capita Tax in the amount of (\$5.00) dollars as provided for in the Public Law, 1257, dated December 31, 1965, as amended, commonly referred to as Act 511 or as The Local Tax Enabling Act, 53 P.S. Section 6924.101 et seq., during the period July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.

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

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the Earned Income Tax (Wage Tax) Resolution:

Earned Income Tax

Resolved, that the Wattsburg Area Board of School Directors hereby reenacts and continues an earned income tax, to be levied in the amount of one percent (1%) on salaries, wages, commissions and other compensation earned during the period July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, on all residents of the Wattsburg Area School District who have attained the age of eighteen (18) years and older, and on the net profits earned during said periods from business, professions or other activities conducted by residents of the said District in accordance with Public Law, 1257, dated December 31, 1965, as amended, commonly referred to as Act 511 or as a The Local Tax Enabling Act, 53 P.S. Section 6924.101 et seq.

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

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mr. Morvay to approve the Realty Transfer Tax Resolution

Realty Transfer Tax

Resolved, that the Wattsburg Area Board of School Directors hereby reenacts and continues a Realty Transfer Tax, to be levied in the amount of one percent (1%) on Transfers beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, of real property or any interest in real property situated within the Wattsburg Area School District in accordance with Public Law, 1257, dated December 31, 1965, as amended, commonly referred to as Act 511 or as The Local Tax Enabling Act, 53 P.S. Section 6924.101 et seq.

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

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the Local Services Tax Resolution

Local Services Tax

Resolved, that the Wattsburg Area Board of School Directors hereby reenacts upon the privilege of engaging in an occupation within the limits of the Wattsburg Area School District, who have attained the age of eighteen (18) years and older, a Local Services Tax in the amount of ten (\$10) dollars as provided in The Local Tax Enabling Act, 53 P.S. Section 6924.101 et seq., during the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

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

Motion by Dr. Pushchak, seconded by Mrs. Burlingham to approve the Act 1 Exclusion Resolution - Homestead/Farmstead as outlined in [Exhibit F](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

**Act 1 Exclusion
Homestead –
Farmstead**

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

- The DCED Act 34 Public-School Facilities Improvement Grant Resolution, application fee of \$100 and the commitment of funds to the project as outlined in [Exhibit G](#).
- The 2024-2025 Snow Removal Agreement between Nelson Trucking and the Wattsburg Area School District as outlined in [Exhibit H](#).
- The use of Seneca High School locker rooms and athletic facilities by the county Save-An-Eye football team for weekday practice from June 20 to June 27, 2024 with all fees waived.

**Facilities
Improvement Grant**

**Snow Removal
Agreement**

Facility Use

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

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

- The voluntary deletion of Special Education (PDE Instructional Code 9227) from Bretton Smith’s Pennsylvania Teacher Certificate.
- The following conference requests:
 - Hillary Barboni, Justin Grossman, Rob Englert, Lisa Jablonski, Chris Paris, Susan Peebles, Becca Kelley, Ken Berlin and administrator pending to attend the Knox Law Title IX Training on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 in Erie, PA 16507 at an estimated cost of \$3,000. Funds from Professional Development.
 - Jesse Williams to attend PSBA Board Delegate meeting November 2, 2024 in Mechanicsburg, PA at an estimated cost of \$572.76.
- The following appointments:
 - Tirzah Kurien as a Long-Term Elementary Substitute Teacher anticipated August 20, 2024 through January 17, 2025 at bachelors, step 1.
 - Christian D. Constantine, Lt. Col. (Ret), USAF as Senior Aerospace Instructor effective July 1, 2024, and the agreement between Colonel Constantine and WASD.

**Voluntary Deletion
of Instructional
Certification Code**

**Conference
Requests**

**Personnel
Appointments**

- Veronica Lipinski as a long-term district floating substitute anticipated August 20, 2024 through June 6, 2025 at bachelors, step 3.
- Hunter Wagner as a long-term district floating substitute anticipated August 20, 2024 through June 6, 2025 at bachelors, step 2.
- Emily Burkett as Seneca English Teacher effective August 20, 2024, at Masters, Step 10.
- Erica Neal as Middle School English Teacher effective August 20, 2024, at Masters, Step 12.
- The following summer program appointments for June 17 – July 25, 2024, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
 - Jenna Wright, Special Education Teacher SHS
 - Amanda Green as Medical Assistant.
 - Pam Carson, Special Education Teacher WAMS
 - Lynn Orton, Special Education Teacher WAMS
 - Corey Badaracco, Social Studies Teacher SHS
- The Superintendent's 2023-2024 Annual Performance Evaluation.
- Tuition reimbursement as outlined in [Exhibit I](#).
- Accept the following resignation:
 - Kayla Ballew, Special Education Aide effective June 5, 2024.
 - Derek Peterman, Technology Education teacher effective June 10, 2024.
 - Krista Wehan, Supervisor of Special Education effective July 1, 2024.
 - Bonnie Gibala, Cafeteria Aide effective June 10, 2024.
- Christopher Lynde as summer help maintenance retro effective to May 21, 2024.
- The following Leave Requests:
 - Family Medical Leave of Absence utilizing paid time off for Jeffrey Gifford beginning June 10, 2024.
 - Family Medical Leave of Absence utilizing paid time off for Christopher Paris beginning July 10, 2024.
- Attendance for travel reimbursement for all PDE related meetings and the following meetings for the 2024-2025 school year:
 - Superintendent
 - Curriculum Meetings
 - Federal and Special Program Meetings
 - Superintendent Advisory Meetings
 - Other District related meetings
 - Assistant to the Superintendent
 - Curriculum Meetings
 - Federal and Special Program Meetings
 - Other District related meetings
 - Professional Development and other job-related meetings as approved by the Superintendent
 - Business Administrator/Assistant Business Administrator
 - PASBO Meetings
 - Business Administrators' Meetings
 - Federal and Special Programs Meetings

Summer Appointments

Superintendent Annual Review

Resignations

Summer Help

Leave Requests

Attendance for Travel Reimbursement

- Other District related meetings
- Principals
 - Erie County Principals' Meetings for all principals
- Special Education Supervisor
 - Special Education Supervisor Meetings
- Plant Operations and Transportation Supervisor
 - Plant Operations Supervisors' Meetings
 - PASBO Meetings
- Superintendent Secretary
 - Personnel meetings
 - Certification meetings
 - Superintendent Secretary's meetings
- Guidance Counselors
 - Guidance Counselor meetings
 - Cyber Mtg
- PIMS Child Accounting Coordinator
 - A/CAPA Meetings
 - PIMS/Penndata
- Athletic Director
 - District 10 and the Erie County Athletic meetings
- Special Education Department Secretary
 - IU5
 - PIMS/PennData
 - SBAP
- School Psychologist
 - Erie County Special Education for School Psychologists meetings
- Speech/Language Pathologist
 - Special Education Speech/Language Pathologist meetings
- Discovery Teacher
 - Gifted/Talented meetings and required trainings

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

Dr. Pushchak thanked the sub committee for their work on the Superintendent Evaluation and the Board for their support. Mr. Young echoed the sentiment.

Dr. Berlin introduced Lt. Col. Constantine who is our Aerospace Instructor for the ROTC program.

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

- The Refocus Room Service Contracts with Sarah Reed for the 2024 – 2025 school year for Seneca High School and Wattsburg Area Middle School as outlined in [Exhibit J](#).
- The contract for Language Instructional Education Program Services (LIEP) between Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit and Wattsburg Area School District as outlined in [Exhibit K](#).
- The agreement between Sarah Reed and WASD to provide the district with mental health support and services as outlined in [Exhibit L](#).

**Refocus Rooms
Contracts**

LIEP Contract

**Sarah Reed Mental
Health Support**

- The College in the High School Enrollment Agreement between Robert Morris University and the Wattsburg Area School District as outlined in [Exhibit M](#).
- The purchase of the 95 Phonemic Awareness and Phonics Core Library Interventions and professional development as outlined in [Exhibit N](#).

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

Robert Morris University Agreement

95 Percent Phonemic Group

Motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Dr. Pushchak to approve the renewal of the Sapphire Suite Software as outlined in [Exhibit O](#). Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

Sapphire Suite Software

Motion by Mr. Morvay, seconded by Dr. Puschak to approve the weekly field trips for Extended School Year students for the summer of 2024 Extended School Year Program. Motion approved by a voice vote with no opposition. Motion carried.

ESY Field Trips

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

- Steven Barnett and Courtney Wroblewski as additions to the WASD Volunteer List.
- Extracurricular appointments as outlined in [Exhibit P](#).
- Athletic appointments for fall sports as outlined in [Exhibit Q](#)
- Game help for the 2024-2025 school year:
 - Jerry Adamus ○ Alyssa Forte ○ Sue Nolan
 - Donna Banks ○ Kyle Forte ○ Debby Peck
 - Katy Beebe ○ Mike Grove ○ Jay Pikiwicz
 - Vicki Bendig ○ Sheri Hoffman ○ Julie Pikiwicz
 - Bernie Cage ○ Kevin Linza ○ Paul Semrau
 - Bethany Cage ○ Elizabeth Linza ○ Lisa Smith
 - Ryan Derner ○ Stacey Mattocks ○ Emily Sonney
 - Elizabeth Diehl ○ Andrea Moreno ○ Eric Sonney

Volunteer List

Extra-Curricular Athletic Appointments

Game Help

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

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

- Affiliation Agreement with Safe Harbor Behavioral Health of UPMC Hamot and Wattsburg Area School District for the 2024-2025 school year as outlined in [Exhibit R](#).
- Surplus the items as outlined in [Exhibit S](#).

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

Safe Harbor Affiliation Agreement

Surplus Items

During Board correspondence and dialogue, Mrs. Hetherington questioned what happens if a teacher vacancy is not filled. Dr. Berlin explained the district's options to obtain emergency certifications or retired teachers can return short-term without PSERS penalty with special permission.

Mr. Young commented on the commencement ceremony and thanked the leadership for the time and service it took to make the graduation a memorable one.

Mrs. Burlingham shared that the Leadership Class did a great job on the Summer Send Off this year.

Mr. Bloeser reminded everyone there is no scheduled board meeting in July, however, there could potentially be a meeting called if necessary.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion by Mr. Young, seconded by Dr. Pushchak, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Adjournment

Signature on File
Vicki Bendig
School Board Secretary