

# Board Minutes

## December 28, 2020

WESTERN WAYNE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
1970C Easton Turnpike  
LAKE ARIEL, PA 18436

The special meeting of the Western Wayne Board of Education was held on December 28, 2020 via Zoom meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was live broadcast over YouTube.

The meeting was advertised in the legal section of the December 24, 2020 edition of the Tri-County Independent.

Board President Bernice Fiorella called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Mrs. Fiorella offered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Miss Emmett took roll call. Nine (9) Board Members were present and are listed as follows:

Board President – Bernice Fiorella	Board Member – William Gershey
Board Vice President – Rick Hoch	Board Member - Joseph Gombita
Board Treasurer – Jeffrey Gogolski	Board Member - Michael Ochlan
Board Member – Dana DeSiato	Board Member – Ethan Wood
Board Member – Gary Enslin	

Solicitor Matthew Meagher was present.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Dr. Matthew Barrett, Assistant to the Superintendent Dr. LaRosa, and Business Manager/Board Secretary Rose Emmett.

All other Administrators were excused.

### **District Instructional Mode to be determined:**

Dr. Barrett began the discussion in regards to virtual versus in-person instruction. Wayne County has entered its fifth week of substantial transmission and Dr. Barrett has been in discussion with Wayne Memorial Hospital and the other Wayne County School Superintendents. The Hospital is recommending that our District continue virtual learning for the first two weeks of January 2021. Dr. Barrett recommends staying virtual from January 4, 2021 through January 15, 2021.

Mr. Wood asked about the vaccine – “will all staff be getting the vaccine or just teaching staff?” Dr. Barrett stated he is not sure yet and that we are waiting further guidance.

Mrs. Fiorella wanted to know how many staff are currently out on FMLA or other leaves. Dr. Barrett stated 11 now and possibly more. Mrs. Fiorella suggests 1 week of virtual and then re-evaluate, don't just go two weeks to start.

There was a lengthy discussion among the Board members, Dr. Barrett, and Attorney Meagher about the pros and cons of virtual and in-person learning.

We received a question via the email account as to how the Hybrid Model fits into these discussions. Dr. Barrett thinks we would still have a staffing issue as this point and not be able to move to a hybrid model, but it may be safe to move to hybrid at some point in the future.

The Board will discuss the possibility of a second week of virtual learning for January 11, 2021 through January 15, 2021 at the work session scheduled for January 6, 2021. They do not feel they would need to vote on anything, just discuss and give Dr. Barrett guidance on the decision.

Mr. Hoch made a motion seconded by Mr. Wood to remain in virtual learning mode from January 4, 2021 through January 8, 2021.

Mr. Enslin asked Dr. Barrett if this motion falls within his recommendation. Dr. Barrett said it is within his recommendation. Mr. Hoch reiterated that the Board will discuss this again at the January 6, 2021 Work Session.

The motion carried all affirmatives.

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Hoch and seconded by Mrs. Fiorella to adjourn the special meeting of the Western Wayne Board of Education at 6:44 P.M.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rose E. Emmett  
Board Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_