

# Board Minutes

## December 9, 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 9, 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 8, 2020 edition of the Tri-County Independent.

Board President Bernice Fiorella called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 second week of substantial transmission and he has received communication from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Department of Health in regards to this. They are recommending that our district move to virtual learning. Dr. Barrett recommends going virtual from December 14<sup>th</sup> through December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Currently we have 40 people in quarantine, 5 positive cases and several others pending test results.

Mrs. Fiorella asked if it was possible for in-person December 14<sup>th</sup> through December 18<sup>th</sup> and then virtual for December 21<sup>st</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Barrett said it is possible, but he is recommending the longer time frame.

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.

Mr. Hoch made a motion seconded by Mr. Wood to follow the superintendent’s request to go to a virtual learning module from December 14<sup>th</sup> through December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The motion did not pass with Directors Hoch, Enslin, Gershey and Wood voting yes, and Directors Fiorella, Gogolski, DeSiato, Gombita and Ochlan voting no.

Mrs. DeSiato made a motion seconded by Mrs. Fiorella to stay with in-person learning through December 18<sup>th</sup> and go to a virtual learning module from December 21<sup>th</sup> through December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The motion carried with Directors Fiorella, Gogolski, DeSiato, Gombita and Ochlan voting yes and Directors Hoch, Enslin, Gershey and Wood voting no.

It was noted that the Administration will notify parents of their options to have their students move to the virtual Google live option if they desire over the next two weeks, even though it is between semesters.

**District Substitute List**

A motion was made by Mr. Hoch and seconded by Mr. Gombita to approve the following personnel to be added to the District Substitute List for the 2020-2021 school year per Certification, Act 24/34/151/114/153/168 Guidelines, Employment Eligibility Verification - U.S. Department of Justice, Contingent upon receipt of employment paperwork:

- 1. Ashlyn Anderson – Area: Guest Teacher
- 2. Alyvea Scarfalloto – Area of Certification (pending certification):  
Early Childhood PreK-4, Special Education PreK-8

The motion carries with 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 6:47 P.M.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose E. Emmett  
Board Secretary

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

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