

# Board Minutes December 6, 2023

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

The regular meeting of the Western Wayne Board of Education was held on December 6, 2023 at the Western Wayne Administration Building located at 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436.

The meeting was advertised in the legal section of the November 6, 2023, edition of the Tri-County Independent.

President William Gershey called the meeting to order at 6:50 P.M.

Mr. Gershey offered a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Board President – William Gershey  
Board Vice President – Joseph Gombita  
Board Treasurer – Dana DeSiato  
Board Member – Angela Booths  
Board Member – James Collins  
Board Member – Christina Hinz  
Board Member – Michael Ochlan  
Board Member – Kerin Weinberger  
Board Member- Ethan Wood

Solicitor Brendan Ellis was present

Administrators Present: Superintendent Dr. Matthew Barrett, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cindy LaRosa, Business Manager/Board Secretary Rose Emmett, High School Principal Paul Gregorski, Middle School Principal Jennifer Bradley, EverGreen Principal Justin Pidgeon, Robert D. Wilson Principal Maria Miller, Principal of STEAM Elizabeth Watson, Assistant Middle School Principal Matthew Barr, Assistant Elementary Principal Kerrie Fitzsimmons, Director of Special Education Jennifer DeNike, Ed.D., Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Katie Shemanski, Psy.D., Early Intervention Supervisor Elizabeth Gregory, Food Service Director Maria Liptak, Technology Director Brian Seaman, Assistant High School Principal Robert Black, and Athletic Director Tyler Jakes.

## 5. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Mrs. DeSiato to accept the minutes generated from the Board Work Session – November 1, 2023 and the Regular Board Meeting - November 1, 2023.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

## 6. Treasurer's Reports

A motion was made by Mrs. DeSiato and seconded by Mr. Wood to accept the Treasurer's Reports generated from the General Account and the Food Service Account.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

### **7. Approval of Bills**

A motion was made by Mrs. DeSiato and seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the payment of bills generated from the General Account, the Food Service Account and the Construction Account.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

### **8. Accounting of Taxes**

### **9. Student Recognition**

Mr. Gregorski announced the principal's list for the first marking period:

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Abigail Bell and Isabella Kolp
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Paul Borowski and Grace Moser
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Mackenzie Adams and Lance Maiocco, Jr.
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Adrian Agnello and Jacob Schott

Mr. Gregorski also recognized staff member Elaine Ort for her participation in Saluting America's Band Directors. Mrs. Ort has participated in the Rose Bowl Parade, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and various local media events. The district is honored to have her representing us at these events.

Mr. Gaudenzi and Mr. Grodack thanked the Board of Education and Administration for continuing to honor Veterans through our Veteran's Day program each year. Dr. Barrett thanked both gentlemen for their service to our nation and for organizing and hosting our Veteran programs year after year.

Mr. Gershey thanked the students and faculty for their hard work, he is proud of them and all their accomplishments.

### **10. Recognition of Public**

Kimberly Gifford raised concerns about recent issues in the school that are taxing our SPO's and staff. Wants the board to review our policies with the administration.

Bernice Fiorella congratulated Mr. Gershey on being elected Board President. In regards to the concern of Mrs. Gifford listed above, she would like to know what has been done to prevent similar recent issues from happening.

### **11. Enrollment Report:**

GRADE	EG	RDW	MS	HS	TOTAL
EARLY INT.	14	8			
PRE-K	67	45			
KDG	68	42			
GR. 1	77	49			
GR. 2	82	50			
GR. 3	68	58			
GR. 4	94	43			
GR. 5	84	39			
GR. 6			119		
GR. 7			134		
GR. 8			135		
GR. 9				142	
GR. 10				143	
GR. 11				141	
GR. 12				131	
TOTAL	554	334	387	557	1,832

Totals: EverGreen-\_554\_ ; RDW-\_334\_ ; MS-\_387\_ ; HS-\_557\_ TOTAL:1,832

Last month's Total: 1,825

A motion was made by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Ochlan to approve a consent block motion for items 12 through 24 withholding items 17 and 22f1 only.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

**12. Policies**

The Board of Education approved a new policy (Second and Final Reading) entitled:

**Section 100 Programs**

Section 113.4 Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information

The Board of Education approved the revisions to the following policies:

**Section 100 Programs**

Section 103 Discrimination / Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students

Section 103.1 Nondiscrimination – Qualified students with Disabilities

Section 104 Discrimination / Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff

Section 123 Interscholastic Athletics

**Section 200 Pupils**

Section 248 Sexual Harassment – Students

Section 249 Bullying / Cyberbullying

**13. Budget Resolution**

The Board of Education adopted the attached resolution regarding no increase in the rate of any tax for the support of its public schools for the 2024-2025 fiscal year by more than the index established by the Department of Education for the District. The index for the District is 5.3%. **ATTACHMENT 1**

#### **14. Amended Agreement Scranton School District to Reflect Current Rates**

The Board of Education approved an agreement between the Western Wayne School District and Scranton School District for admission to its Monticello School for the 2023-2024 school year for the following services:

- a. Multiple disabilities support at a rate of \$400.00 per day, paraprofessionals or one to one nursing services will be billed in addition to the base tuition at \$400.00 per day and extended school year at a rate of \$200.00 per day for a total of 12 days totaling \$2,400.00.
- b. Autistic support at a rate of \$375.00 per day, paraprofessionals or one to one nursing services will be billed in addition to the base tuition at \$375.00 per day and extended school year at a rate of \$185.00 per day for a total of 12 days totaling \$2,200.00.
- c. Emotional support at a rate of \$300.00 per day, paraprofessionals or one to one nursing services will be billed in addition to the base tuition at \$300.00 per day and extended school year at a rate of \$150.00 per day for a total of 12 days totaling \$1,800.00.

#### **15. Agreement Soliant**

The Board of Education approved an agreement between the Western Wayne School District and Soliant Health, LLC for tele-practice speech language pathology services at a rate of \$110.00 per hour for 16 hours per week from November 20, 2023, through to May 30, 2024.

#### **16. Agreement Procure Therapy**

The Board of Education approved an agreement between the Western Wayne School District and Procure Therapy for Behavior Health Technician services at a rate of \$50.00 per hour for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

#### **18. Waiver of Expulsion Hearing and Stipulation**

The Board of Education adopted the proposed Waiver of Expulsion Hearing and Stipulation relating to the following student, thereby excluding the student from the Western Wayne School District in accordance with the terms thereof.

- a. S#04-23-24

#### **19. Transportation Drivers and Substitutes**

The Board of Education approved the following list of Western Wayne School District Transportation Drivers and Substitutes for the listed contractor for the 2023-2024 school year as follows contingent upon receipt of necessary paperwork:

- a. Contractor, Kurt Caruth-Driver, Jeffrey Beach
- b. Contractor, Cavage Transit Inc.-Driver, Chassidy Babcock
- c. Contractor, Cavage Transit Inc.-Driver, Christina Weinberger
- d. Contractor, April DeRosa-Driver, Denise DeRosa
- e. Contractor, April DeRosa-Drive, Kathy Shock
- f. Contractor, Bill Henwood-Driver, Erika Corazzi
- g. Contractor, Bill Henwood-Driver, Nicole Kinny
- h. Contractor, Joshua Swingle-Driver, Kenneth Stewart

**20. Transportation Contract - Amendment**

The Board of Education approved the following Amendment to the Transportation Contract to rectify the correct number of the van, which was Board Approved on November 1, 2023, at State Formula for the 2023-2024 school year:

- a. Contractor Bill Henwood-Van #73—to the Lighthouse Academy effective October 23, 2023.

**21. Transportation Contracts - New**

The Board of Education approved the following New Transportation Contracts at State Formula for the 2023-2024 school year:

- a. Contractor April DeRosa-Van #142-Waymart to EverGreen effective November 29, 2023.

**22. Personnel**

**a. District Substitute List**

The Board of Education approved the following personnel to be added to the District Substitute List for the 2023-2024 school year per Certification, Act 24/34/151/114/153/168 Guidelines, Employment Eligibility Verification - U.S. Department of Justice, Contingent upon receipt of clearances:

- 1. Tara Jordan Teacher’s Assistant/Custodial
- 2. Jessica Palidino Guest Teacher\*
- 3. Gabrielle Olivo Cafeteria \*
- 4. Charles Williams Guest Teacher

\*Effective upon receipt of clearances

**b. Resignation**

The Board of Education accepted the following resignation:

- 1. Tamara Dobrzyn retirement effective April 30, 2024.

**c. Appointment Long-Term Substitute**

The Board of Education approved the recommendation of the Superintendent and District Administrators in the following extension of appointment:

1. Kaitlin McConnell–Temporary Professional Employee–Long Term Substitute Elementary– Step 1B- \$60,203.00 pro rated with applicable fringe benefits through the third semester of the 2023-2024 school year.

**d. Appointments**

The Board of Education approved the recommendation of the Superintendent and District Administrators in the following appointments:

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 1. Alexandra Solimine Assistant Director Musical 1st year | \$1339.00* |
| 2. Brandyn Black Set Construction Musical 1st year        | \$ 803.00  |

\*Contingent upon receipt of all clearances

**e. Appointment – Custodians**

The Board of Education approved the following appointments as Custodians at \$13.25 per hour with fringe benefits contingent upon receipt of employment paperwork/clearances.

1. Hunter Harrison

**f. Appointment Coaches**

The Board of Education approved the following to the listed coaching position for the 2023-2024 school year at the salary listed in the Professional Employees Contract contingent upon receipt of clearances:

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 2. Joseph Romanowski-Varsity Girls Softball 10th year | \$6,957.27 |
| 3. Leonard Wargo-Junior High Softball Coach 3rd year  | \$4,178.94 |

**g. Volunteer**

The Board of Education approved the following to the list of volunteers for the 2023-2024 school year contingent upon receipt of necessary clearances and upon request of the Building Principal:

1. Ashley Johnson-Robert D. Wilson Elementary School for Santa’s Workshop\*

\* Contingent upon receipt of all clearances

**23. Approval for formation of the Western Wayne Local Advisory Committee**

The Board of Education approved the formation of the Western Wayne Local Advisory Committee to provide advice regarding the delivery of career and technical education that is most important to the economic development of the local area.

**24. Schedule of Meetings 2024**

The Board of Education approved the following schedule of Monthly Public Board Meetings for 2024:

All meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month except when noted different. (\*not on the first Wednesday)

- \*January 10, 2024
- February 7, 2024
- March 6, 2024
- April 3, 2024
- May 1, 2024 – Tentative Budget Adoption for the 2024-2025 school year
- June 5, 2024 – Adoption of District Budget for the 2024-2025 school year
- July (if needed)
- August 7, 2024
- September 4, 2024
- October 2, 2024
- November 6, 2024
- December 4, 2024 (Reorganization Meeting)

Note: All meetings are held at 6:00 PM – Western Wayne School District, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436. Work Sessions will be scheduled as needed.

**17. Memorandum of Understanding**

A motion was made by Mr. Gombita and seconded by Mrs. DeSiato to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Western Wayne School District and the Western Wayne Education Association for the addition of an assistant varsity coach.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

**22. f. Appointment Coaches**

A motion was made by Mrs. DeSiato and seconded by Mr. Ochlan to approve the following to the listed coaching position for the 2023-2024 school year at the salary listed in the Professional Employees Contract contingent upon receipt of clearances:

- 1. Matthew Leslie-Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach 1st year \$5,055.00

**25. Informational Items:**

Dates to Remember:

- 1. Month of December-Middle School Door Decorating Contest
- 2. December 2, 2023-High School Semi-Formal, Ladore Lodge 4:00 PM-9:00 PM
- 3. December 6, 2023-Middle School PBIS Kids Night Out 3:00 PM-5:15 PM
- 4. December 7, 2023-Middle School Winter Chorus Concert featuring 6th, 7th & 8th grade students in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

5. December 11th and 12th, 2023-CPR Testing High School Gymnasium
6. December 11th to 15th, 2023-EverGreen Elementary Santa's Workshop (PTA)
7. December 12, 2023-Middle School Winter Band Concert featuring 6th, 7th & 8th grade band students in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
8. December 13, 2023-Robert D. Wilson 3rd & 4th grade Christmas Chorus Program 6:00 PM
9. December 15, 2023-High School Christmas Concert, Veteran's Memorial Auditorium 7:00 PM
10. December 16, 2023-EverGreen Elementary PTA Winder Wonderland 12:00 PM-4:00 PM
11. December 19, 2023-EverGreen Elementary 3rd and 4th grade concerts
12. December 22, 2023 – Noon Dismissal – Christmas Break
13. December 25-January 1, 2024 – No School – Christmas Break
14. January 2, 2024, School Back in Session
15. January 3-17, 2024- High School Winter Wave Keystone Exams

**Student Teacher**

1. Nicholas Gombita– Area: Student Teacher Social Studies Western Wayne High School from March 11, 2024 to May 8, 2024.

**Observation**

1. Owen Kotchessa-Area: Early Intervention Elementary.

**Correspondence**

None.

**Superintendent's Report**

**Assistant Superintendent's Report**

**Principal's Reports**

**Federal Program Report**

No report.

**Other Business**

Mrs. DeSiato thanked the Board for the girl's wrestling coach.

**Future Meetings:**

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 – 6:00 PM – Board Work Session followed by the Public Board Meeting, Administration Building, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436. In case of inclement weather, the meetings will be held on January 11, 2024, or the next school day.

Mr. Gershey noted that the Board of Education met in executive session after the reorganization meeting and will meet again after this meeting for legal matters.



**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Gombita to adjourn the regularly scheduled meeting of the Western Wayne Board of Education at 7:21 P.M.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Rose E. Emmett  
Board Secretary

ATTEST: 

