

Board Work Session Minutes

January 6, 2021

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

The work session of the Western Wayne Board of Education was held on January 6, 2021 at 6:00 PM via Zoom meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was live broadcast over YouTube in preparation for the January 2021 Board Meeting.

The meeting was advertised in the legal section of the December 31, 2020 edition of the Tri-County Independent.

Board Members present are as follows:

Board President – Bernice Fiorella
Board Vice President – Rick Hoch
Board Treasurer – Jeffrey Gogolski
Board Member – Dana DeSiato
Board Member – Gary Enslin

Board Member – William Gershey
Board Member – Joseph Gombita
Board Member – Michael Ochlan
Board Member – Ethan Wood

Solicitor Matthew Meagher was present.

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

Brad Murray of Brian T. Kelly, CPA & Associates, LLC presented a brief summary of the Audited Financial Statements of the District for the Year Ended June 30, 2020.

There were a few emails that were discussed during the comment section of the work session in regards to Virtual versus in-person learning.

Dr. Barrett presented a draft of the upcoming items for January 13, 2021 Board Meeting.

After review of the agenda, Dr. Barrett discussed the possibility that Western Wayne School District may need to continue virtual learning for all students because of the substantial level of community transmission in Wayne County. It is the recommendation of PA Department of Education and the PA Department of Health. Dr. Barrett recommended continuing virtual learning from January 11th through January 15th. Many of the Board Members disagreed with this recommendation and felt the students needed to be back to in-person learning. After lengthy discussion, the following motion was made.

Mr. Ochlan made a motion seconded by Mrs. Fiorella for in-person learning during the week of January 11th through January 15th.

The motion carried with a roll call vote of five (5) yes votes from Mrs. Fiorella; Mr. Gogolski; Mrs. DeSiato; Mr. Gombita and Mr. Ochlan and four (4) no votes from Mr. Hoch; Mr. Enslin; Mr. Gershey, and Mr. Wood.

Dr. Barrett and Miss Emmett also discussed what is happening at the State level in regards to Transportation payments to Contractors while virtual. This issue is addressed in Act 136 of 2020 and we have received clarification on final language from Act 136. The options were discussed and the administration will continue to research the pros/cons of each option and report back to the Board so that they can make an informed decision at the January 13th meeting.

The meeting concluded at approximately 7:25 PM.

The Board of Education went into an Executive session immediately after the work session for personnel and legal matters.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose E. Emmett
Board Secretary

ATTEST: _____

APPROVED: _____