

Board Minutes

September 8, 2021

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Western Wayne Board of Education was held on September 8, 2021 in the High School Auditorium.

The meeting was advertised in the legal section of the September 4, 2021 edition of the Tri-County Independent.

Board President Bernice Fiorella called the meeting to order at 6:24 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 Vice President – Rick Hoch
Board Treasurer Jeffrey Gogolski
Board Member – Dana DeSiato
Board Member – Gary Enslin

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

Solicitor Matthew Meagher was present.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Dr. Matthew Barrett, Assistant to Superintendent Cindy LaRosa, and Business Manager/Board Secretary Rose Emmett. All other administrators were excused from the meeting.

Dr. Barrett made the following statement at the beginning of the meeting: He would like to go on record by stating that as a commissioned school official he is obligated to uphold the mask mandate set forth by the Department of Health and that we provided all attendees here today with a mask required for entry. All audience members are asked to respectfully put the masks, that were provided, on as they are required for this meeting. If anyone is declining to wear a mask at this point, we ask that you remain in your seat until the meeting is over and if you decide to leave prior to the meeting being over that you exit immediately through the nearest hallway door and not access any other part of the building.

Recognition of Public

Joe Palazzo has 4 children in the School District. Mr. Palazzo spoke about the mask mandate and he does not agree with it. He wants it to be parent choice.

Sam Faddis was invited by the Palazzo family. Mr. Faddis wants to know the basis of the mandate.

Kevin Race asked what obligation the school has to follow the mandate. Dr. Barrett stated the School District follows the mandate under the order of the Department of Health, this is a communicable disease. Mr. Race stated he is the authority of his children and he will withdraw them, it is his choice.

Bernice Fiorella stated she agrees with the audience. This does not make sense. She want the rest of the Board to realize their decisions effect our children.

Aliya Fiorella questioned Dr. Barrett about enforcing the masks.

Joy Fischer has children in the School District. Joy started to discuss the proper way to wear a mask, by using examples, and stated it is pointless to wear a mask.

Henry Hinz made a demonstration with a device that he stated measures oxygen.

Nicole Rodriguez does not believe in masks and will pull her students.

After the public comment, Mrs. Fiorella asked the Board of Education to vote on a religious exemption. Dr. Barrett stated that this would need to be reviewed by a Committee before it should be voted on. Attorney Meagher reminded the Board of Education that the majority of the Board would need to vote on whether or not a motion could be added to the agenda before the motion could be acted on (Part of Act 65 of 2021 regarding changes to the Sunshine Law). He also stated there would need to be policy and practice put in place.

Mr. Gombita stated he was hesitant to make a decision on that request at this time. Mr. Enslin asked if the Board were to make a decision on a religious exemption, would the Board still be liable? Mrs. Fiorella then asked to form a Committee to review at our next work session.

A motion was made by Mr. Gershey and seconded by Mr. Wood to approve a consent block motion for items 6-19, withholding items numbered 10 and 13.

6. Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education accepted the minutes generated from the Board Work Session – August 4, 2021, and the Regular Board Meeting - August 11, 2021.

7. Treasurer's Reports

The Board of Education accepted the Treasurer's Reports generated from the General Account, and the Food Service Account.

8. Approval of Bills

The Board of Education approved the payment of bills generated from the General Account, and the Food Service Account.

11. Transportation Contracts

The Board of Education approved the Transportation Contracts for the 2021-2022 school year. ATTACHMENT I

12. Transportation Contractors, Drivers and Substitutes

The Board of Education approved the attached list of Western Wayne School District Transportation Contractors, Drivers, and Substitutes for the 2021-2022 school year. ATTACHMENT II

14. Furniture Purchase

The Board of Education approved the purchase of office furniture from BMC Office Furniture for the Athletic/Transportation Department, and the Middle School Office. The total is \$13,881.24 through Co-Stars pricing.

15. PROSPER Participation

The Board of Education allowed Western Wayne School District to participate with Penn State Extension in PROSPER (Promoting School, Community, University Partnership to Enhance Resilience)

16. Agreement – Wayne Pike Shine Program

The Board of Education approved an Agreement between Western Wayne School District and the Wayne Pike Workforce Alliance Shine Program to provide students with services authorized by the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

17. Facility Use Request

The Board of Education approved the listed facility use request for the 2021-2022 school year with the understanding that the buildings are unavailable if the school is closed for Covid 19 regulations, weather, other emergencies or holidays:

- a. EverGreen Elementary - North Pocono Preschool-Hamlin LEAP After-school care Gail Laskowski, Director.

18. Agreement – Aveanna Healthcare

The Board of Education approved an agreement with Pediatric Services of America, LLC, d/b/a AVEANNA Healthcare for one-to-one nursing services within our Early Intervention program at an hourly rate of \$90.00.

19. Personnel

a. District Substitute List

The Board of Education approved the following personnel to be added to the District Substitute List for the 2021-2022 school year per Certification, Act 24/34/151/114/153/168 Guidelines, Employment Eligibility Verification - U.S. Department of Justice:

1. James Hutchinson* – Area of Certification: Sp Ed Pk-8, Elem PK-4, English/SS 7-12.
*formally approved as a Guest Teacher, now certified to teach.

b. Sabbatical Requests

The Board of Education approved the following Sabbatical Leave of Absence requests for the 2021-2022 school year:

1. PS#04-21-22 – Restoration of Health – second semester.

2. PS#05-21-22 – Restoration of Health – first semester – pending Receipt of completed sabbatical paperwork.

c. Resignations

The Board of Education approved the following resignations:

1. Carrie Ann Henwood, Paraprofessional effective August 23, 2021.
2. Jill Scaduto, Food Service effective the start of the 2021-22 school year.

d. Appointment – Food Service Worker

The Board of Education appointed Leanne O'Rourke as a part time Food Service Worker at the starting rate of \$11.45 per hour effective September 27, 2021.

e. Appointment – Secretary/Paraprofessional

The Board of Education appointed Andrea Covey as a 10 Month Secretary/Paraprofessional effective immediately.

f. Volunteer

The Board of Education approved the following Volunteers for the 2021-2022 school year contingent upon receipt of clearances and COVID 19 regulations. Attendance by request of the Building Principal:

1. Joseph Palazzo - Band

10. Amendment to Western Wayne Health & Safety Plan

A motion was made by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Gershey to approve an amendment of the Western Wayne Health and Safety Plan by including the Tiered Mitigation Measures. This plan is subject to change and allows the Superintendent the ability to review and revise the Plan as needed.

The motion carried with six affirmatives and three no votes from Mrs. Fiorella, Mrs. DeSiato and Mr. Ochlan.

13. Bond Refinance 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Hoch and seconded by Mr. Gogolski to approve the Resolution authorizing the incurrence of non-electoral debt through the issuance of tax-exempt bonds, which bonds shall (i) reduce the school district's outstanding debt service by refinancing its Series of 2016 Bonds, (ii) pay cost of issuing and insuring (if applicable) the bonds, accept a proposal for the purchase of the Bonds, and approve all actions necessary to accomplish the foregoing.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 9 yes votes.

Informational Items

Upcoming Dates:

1. September 10, 2021 – High School Picture Day
2. September 16, 2021 – Middle/High Open House – 6:00-8:00 PM
3. September 17, 2021 – Middle School In-person Picture Day
4. September 20, 2021 – Robert D. Wilson Picture Day
5. September 20, 2021 – Middle School VLA Student Picture Day – 3:00 PM
6. September 21, 2021 – Robert D. Wilson Open House – 6:00-8:00 PM
7. September 23, 2021 – EverGreen Open House – 6:00-8:00 PM
8. September 28, 2021 – EverGreen Picture Day
9. September 30, 2021 – Together For Health (10th grade) Resource Day
10. September 30, 2021 – Financial Aid Night – 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Correspondence

None.

Superintendent's Report

No questions.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

No questions.

Principal's Reports

No questions.

Federal Program Report

No report.

Other Business

None.

Future Meetings

Wednesday, September 29, 2021 - 6:00 P.M. Board Committee Meeting, Administration Building, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436.

Wednesday, October 06, 2021 - 7:00 P.M. Public Board Meeting, Administration Building, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436

Meeting held:

Thursday, August 19, 2021 - 5:30 P.M. Executive Session for Personnel and Safety, Via ZOOM, Administration Building, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Hoch and seconded by Mrs. Fiorella to adjourn the regularly scheduled meeting of the Western Wayne Board of Education at 7:06 P.M.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose E. Emmett
Board Secretary

ATTEST: _____

APPROVED: _____