

Board Minutes

January 12, 2022

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 January 12, 2022 at the High School Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 1970A Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436.

The meeting was advertised in the legal section of the December 28, 2021 edition of the Tri-County Independent.

President Rick Hoch called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

Mr. Hoch 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 – Rick Hoch	Board Member – William Gershey
Board Vice President – Dana DeSiato	Board Member – Joseph Gombita
Board Treasurer - Jeffrey Gogolski	Board Member – Michael Ochlan
Board Member – James Collins	Board Member – Ethan Wood (via phone)
Board Member – Gary Enslin	

Solicitor Brendan Ellis was present.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Dr. Matthew Barrett, Assistant to 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 High School Principal Matthew Barr, Assistant Elementary Principal Kerrie Fitzsimmons, Director of Special Education Jennifer DeNike, Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Katie Shemanski, Psy.D., Food Service Director Maria Liptak, Technology Director Brian Seaman, and Athletic Director/Transportation Robert Black.

Early Intervention Supervisor Elizabeth Gregory was excused.

5. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Gershey and seconded by Mr. Gombita to accept the minutes generated from the Board Reorganization; the Board Work Session and the Regular Board Meeting – December 1, 2021.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

6. Treasurer's Reports

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

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

8. Accounting of Taxes

There were no questions on the Accounting of Taxes.

9. Student/Community Recognition

a. January - School Board Recognition Month –

Thank you to the School Directors for your hard work and dedication.

Student Council members Alexandria Bien-Aime and Morgan Heenan thanked the Board of Education and presented them with a small token of appreciation.

b. Student Recognition

High School Principal Mr. Gregorski introduced two outstanding students Sarah Collins, who was present and spoke about her accomplishments and Kennedy Mistishin who shared a video of her accomplishments with the Board of Education. Mr. Gregorski and Mr. Hoch thanked the students and their families.

c. Staff Recognition

1. Law Enforcement Recognition – SPO's

Assistant To Superintendent Dr. LaRosa spoke in regards to January 9th is Law Enforcement Recognition Day. We would like to publicly recognize and thank our School Police Officers. The primary goal of the school police officer is to assist school administration in maintaining a safe and secure environment, and we are so thankful for their willingness to go above and beyond to support our Wildcat Family.

Our School Police Officers provide a welcoming presence during arrival and departure. Their presence is equally important inside our buildings, where this group of gentlemen are frequently walking the halls, stopping into lunches, and speaking with faculty and staff.

So tonight, on behalf of the Board of Education and the Western Wayne Administrative team, we would like to thank Officer Paul Semler, Officer Marty Robbins, Officer Wayne Thomas, and Officer Danny Martin for their service and dedication to our students, faculty, staff, and community members.

2. Elaine Ort, Band Director

Dr. LaRosa recognized Band Director, Mrs. Elaine Ort. On January 1st, Mrs. Ort joined band directors from across the country to perform in the annual Pasadena Tournament of Roses Rose Parade. The parade entry conveyed the theme, *"We teach music. We teach life."*

This theme reflects Mrs. Ort's passion for music education. Since 2014, she has served as Director of Instrumental Activities at Western Wayne School District - teaching 6th grade brass, 8th grade band, and the Pride of Western Wayne, the Wildcat High School Band. Under her direction and guidance, the music program was recently named a KHS America Academic Alliance Platinum school for its investment in instrumental education. It is the only school in Pennsylvania, and one of only 39 in the United States to have received that honor.

Congratulations, Mrs. Ort, on your accomplishments and for representing Western Wayne on a national level!

10. Recognition of Public - 15 minutes

Kim Butler stated she sent emails to the Board of Education regarding agenda item #19b - the WWESPA MOU. She feels \$2 per hour is not enough and she urges the Board to vote no, the Board can do better. The food service staff works hard and deserves more.

Tanya Klippel stated her children are in private school because of masks. She thinks the number of children with severe cases of COVID are low and we are lessening our children's immune systems by making them wear masks.

Jeremy Edwards asked if we will lose funding if we do not mask our students. What does benefits mean in the ESSER Grant agreement? Miss Emmett said they are social security, Medicare, and Worker's compensation. How much are we spending on Tremco and other construction with the ESSER Funds? Dr. Barrett said around \$500,000 for safety and security items. He urges the Board to take masks off our kids.

Christina Hinz feels we keep pushing the mask mandate into the future. When will it be optional? Dr. Barrett stated that the revised health and safety plan that is on the agenda tonight will allow for mask optional times provided certain percentages of staff/student positivity rates are below a certain number per building. She also wanted to urge the Board not to make a vaccine mandate. She understands we do not have one now, but wants it to stay that way. She also stated that Western Wayne has amazing teachers and staff who work hard, especially during these times.

Amanda Johnson spoke in protest to the agenda item about the Health and Safety plan. She feels it is a violation of the Sunshine Act to give the Superintendent the authority to review and revise the plan as needed. She asked the Board to oppose this motion.

11. Enrollment Report:

ENROLLMENT - DAY #75

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

GRADE	EVERGREEN	SN	P	RDW	SN	P	MS	SN	P	HS	SN	P	TOTAL
EARLY INT.		12			7								19
PRE K	44			41									85
KDG	57	10		41	15								123
GR. 1	56	14		42	12								124
GR. 2	66	19		26	12								123
GR. 3	52	18		29	11	1							111
GR. 4	64	14	1	24	14	1							118
GR. 5	65	17	1	30	11								124
GR. 6							94	38	1				133
TOTAL	404	104	2	233	82	2	94	38	1	0	0	0	960
GR. 7							100	33	0				133
GR. 8							110	32	2				144
GR. 9										119	23	2	144
GR. 10										107	25	4	136
GR. 11										110	19	4	133
GR. 12										121	26	9	156
TOTAL	404	104	2	233	82	2	304	103	3	457	93	19	1,806

Key: SN – Special Needs, P – Placement outside of District

Totals: EverGreen-510; RDW-317; MS-410; HS-569 TOTAL:1,806

Last meeting total: 1,817

A motion was made by Mr. Gershey and seconded by Mr. Ochlan to approve a consent block motion for items 12 through 25, excluding 16, 19b, and 25a.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

12. 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 2022-2023 fiscal year by more than the index established by the Department of Education for the District. The index for the District is 3.4% ATTACHMENT I

13. Audit

The Board of Education accepted the Audit Report of the Western Wayne School District for the year ended June 30, 2021 as prepared by Brian T. Kelly, CPA.

14. Fund Balance Designation

The Board of Education approved the recommendation of the Business Manager to designate a portion of our ending 2020-2021 Fund Balance to manage future budgets as per Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 54 (GASB 54). Committed: \$1,130,051; Assigned: \$7,840,505 and Unassigned: \$3,637,852.

15. 2019 Construction Fund

The Board of Education approved the use of funds from our 2019 Construction Fund for the following capital projects: Replace carpeting in 3 rooms at the Middle School (approximate cost \$18,400); replace flooring in the Middle School Cafeteria (approximate cost \$29,850); and replace flooring in the Middle School lower level offices (approximate cost \$11,326.10).

17. 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 2021-2022 school year as follows contingent upon receipt of necessary paperwork:

- a. Contractor Henwood Busing: Driver Christine Amato
- b. Contractor April DeRosa: Driver Neil DeRosa

18. Transportation Contract - New

The Board of Education approved the following New Transportation Contract at State Formula for the 2021-2022 school year:

- a. Contractor Henwood Busing – Van #143 – AM PreK to EverGreen Elementary – effective December 13, 2021.

19. Memorandum of Understandings

The Board of Education approve the following Memorandum of Understandings (MOU):

- a. WWEA – VLA

20. Legislative Representative/Liaison

The Board of Education appointed William Gershey as PSBA Legislative Representative/Liaison for the remaining 2021-2022 school year.

21. Tax Rebate

The Board of Education approved a Real Estate Tax Rebate from the 2020-2021 School Year in the amount of \$34,625.35 on property # 22-0-0043-0010 in Salem Township. The rebate is the result of Civil Case #594-2019.

22. Building Use Request

The Board of Education approved the Building Use request from Johnson College to use a High School classroom for the USDA Distance Education Program from January 18, 2022 to May 6, 2022. All fees to be waived.

23. Agreement – JC Ehrlich Co.

The Board of Education approved the 2022 Pest Control Service Agreement between Western Wayne School District and JC Ehrlich Co. Inc. at \$61.36 per month per building.

24. Agreement Termination

The Board of Education approved termination of the Agreement between the Western Wayne School District and The Agency for Community Empowerment of NEPA, Head Start Program effective January 24, 2022.

25. Personnel

b. 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, contingent upon receipt of clearances and employment paperwork:

1. Emily Ballard – Area: Guest Teacher
2. Amanda Martyn – Area: Guest Teacher
3. Anthony Morgantini – Area: Custodial
4. Bethany Salak – Area: Nurse/Teacher Aide

c. Resignation

The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Gabrielle Ronchetti, Paraprofessional effective January 14, 2022.

d. Appointment – Paraprofessional

The Board of Education appointed the following as a paraprofessional with applicable fringe benefits effective January 13, 2022.

1. Jeannie Hedglin - \$10.50 per hour

e. Transfer – Custodian shift

The Board of Education approved the transfer of Custodian John VanLeuven from second shift to first shift effective date to be determined.

f. Appointment

The Board of Education approved participation in the Special Olympics PA Interscholastic Unified Track and Field program. Siena Cardamone will be the 2021-2022 Co-Ed Inclusive Unified Track and Field Advisor at a rate of \$1,500.00 and Suzette Basile will volunteer for Western Wayne. Special Olympics PA will provide funding and resources for this program.

g. Appointment – Co-Advisors

The Board of Education approved the following Co-Advisor position for the 2021-2022 school year at the salary listed in the Professional Employees Contract:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Steve Salley – Set Construction, Musical | \$ 379.00 |
| 2. Reed Hollendonner – Set Construction, Musical | \$ 379.00 |
- *one position split two ways

h. Appointment – Coaching

The Board of Education approved the following Interim coaching positions for the 2021-2022 school year at a pro-rated salary to be determined.

1. Kevin Roginski - Interim Head Coach, Wrestling
2. Josh Harrison - Interim Assistant Coach, Wrestling

i. Sabbatical Request

The Board of Education approved the following Sabbatical Leave of Absence request:

1. PS#10-21-22 – Restoration of Health - 2nd semester of the 2021-2022 school year

j. School Police Officer

The Board of Education designated the following individual to act as school police officer for the District: (1)Sheri Palmer of Prompton, PA. This designation is contingent upon the above-named Individual's satisfaction of the requirements set forth under Section 778 of the Public School Code of 1949, 24 P.S. § 7-778, and the appointment of said individual by a judge of the Wayne County Court of Common Pleas. The Board hereby directs the Administration and counsel to take all actions necessary and proper to apply for this appointment, as required under Section 778 of the Public School Code of 1949,24 P.S. § 7-778.

k. Volunteers

The Board of Education approved the following to the list of volunteers for the 2021-2022 school year contingent upon receipt of necessary clearances and request of the Building Principal/Athletic Director:

1. Sarah Skirpan – Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field
2. Michael Goldstock – Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field
3. Christine Schmitt – Drama Club
4. Joshua Harrison – Wrestling
5. Zach Jones – Wrestling
6. George Lee – Wrestling

16. Western Wayne Health & Safety Plan Revised

A motion was made by Mr. Hoch and seconded by Mr. Gershey to approve the revised Western Wayne Health and Safety Plan effective January 31, 2022. This plan is subject to change and allowing the Superintendent the ability to review and revise the plan as needed.

The motion carried with eight affirmatives and one no vote from Mr. Ochlan.

19. Memorandum of Understandings

A motion was made by Mr. Hoch and seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the following Memorandum of Understandings (MOU):

b. WWESPA – Food Service Staff Shortage Salary Adjustment

The motion did not carry with four affirmatives and five no votes from Mrs. DeSiato, Mr. Enslin, Mr. Gogolski, Mr. Gombita, and Mr. Ochlan.

25. Personnel

a. Appointment

A motion was made by Mr. Gombita and seconded by Mr. Gogolski to elect Cynthia LaRosa Ph.D. to the position of District Assistant Superintendent for a term of five years beginning February 1, 2022 subject to signed contract based on the agreed upon terms.

The motion carried with seven affirmatives and two no votes from Mrs. DeSiato and Mr. Enslin.

26. Informational Items:

a. Meagher Ellis Law has been renamed Ellis Law Group, Inc. due to Attorney Matthew Meagher transitioning to his new role as Judge for the Wayne County Court of Common Pleas effective December 1, 2021.

b. Upcoming Dates:

1. January 4-14, 2022 – Keystone Testing
2. January 11, 2022 – 6th Grade Band Concert
3. January 13, 2022 – RDW 3rd & 4th Grade Winter Concert
4. January 14, 2022 – Noon Dismissal – Act 80 Day
5. January 17, 2022 – NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
6. January 20, 2022 – EverGreen 3rd & 4th Grade Concert

c. Student Teachers

WILKES UNIVERSITY – Jacob Weston – Secondary Math 7-12 – High School – Christine Carey – January 24, 2022 to May 6, 2022. KEYSTONE COLLEGE – Adam Kelly – Special Education High School – Annette Fox - March 6, 2022 to April 26, 2022.

- d. Informational: The IRS mileage rate is increasing to 58.5 cents per mile effective January 01, 2022.
- e. The Western Wayne School District received payment on our Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project (RACP) Grant in the amount of \$243,750.00. This grant was in partnership with the Redevelopment Authority of Wayne County and subsidized our High School paving Project from 2017. Dr. Barrett added an acknowledgement of the assistance of Commissioner Joseph Adams.

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

Miss Emmett asked for clarification on agenda item # 20. Mr. Gershey's name was supposed to be read into that motion for Legislative Representative/Liaison. Mr. Hoch confirmed that information.

Future Meeting:

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 – 6:00 PM. – Board Work Session with Regular Monthly Board Meeting to follow, Veterans Memorial Auditorium, High School, 1970A Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436.

Meetings held:

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 – 6:00 P.M. Reorganization Meeting, followed by Board Work Session, and the regular monthly meeting. An Executive Session was held immediately following the regular meeting for personnel, Via Zoom, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436.

Wednesday, January 5, 2022 – 6:00 P.M. Board Work Session – Executive Session for Personnel and Legal matters immediately followed - Veterans Memorial Auditorium, High School, 1970A Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Enslin and seconded by Mr. Hoch to adjourn the regularly scheduled meeting of the Western Wayne Board of Education at 6:57 P.M.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose E. Emmett
Board Secretary

ATTEST: _____

APPROVED: _____