

Board Minutes October 6, 2014

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 October 6, 2014 in the Western Wayne Administration Building located at 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436.

The meeting was advertised in the legal section of the September 26, 2014 edition of the Wayne Independent.

Board President Alvin Hollister called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

Miss Faliskie offered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Secretary Rose Emmett took roll call. (8) Board Members were present and are listed as follows:

Board President – Alvin Hollister	Board Member – Andrew Gaudenzi
Board Vice President – Donald Olsommer Jr.	Board Member – Donald McDonough
Board Treasurer – William Gershey	Board Member – Doris Pliss
Board Member - Bernice Fiorella	Board Member – Gary Podunajec

Board Member David Lindow was excused.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Dr. Clayton LaCoe, Business Manager/Board Secretary Rose Emmett, Assistant Superintendent Patrick Sheehan, High School Principal Dr. Matthew Barrett, Middle School Principal Kristen Donohue, EverGreen Principal Ellen Faliskie, Robert D. Wilson Principal Maria Miller, Assistant Principal Paul Gregorski, Assistant Principal Mary Ann Olsommer, Director of Special Education Tanya Carrelle, Assistant Director of Special Education Cynthia LaRosa, and Early Intervention Supervisor Elizabeth Gregory.

Food Service Director Maria Liptak was excused.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Pliss and seconded by Mrs. Fiorella to accept the minutes generated from the Regular Board Meeting of September 8, 2014 with the addition of correspondence read by Board Member Andrew Gaudenzi, who stated that his correspondence should have been read into the minutes of the September meeting.

Fellow Board Members, Dr. LaCoe, and Administration:

First, I'd like to apologize to the entire Western Wayne School District as well as the community for my absence at this evening's meeting, September 8 and subsequent work session this past Wednesday, September 3rd. This evening's vote and decision to hire an assistant principal for the Western Wayne High School is one I must voice my opposition to. Over the past few years, the burden has grown on our educators throughout the district by the elimination of countless positions which have caused lasting negative impacts in programs and curriculum. The latest example being our formalized music instruction that was cut district wide in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade at the Robert D. Wilson and Evergreen Elementary Schools. Our classroom sizes have risen in light of these decisions while cutting supplies for our students and teachers. We are asking more of our teachers, professionals, and staff than we ever have before. It is only right we should ask the same of our administrators as well. In my absence this evening, I found it necessary and imperative to voice my dissent against the hiring of an assistant principal of our high school as well as the subsequent science position that would be filled as well.

Sincerely yours,
Andrew J. (AJ) Gaudenzi
Western Wayne School Director

The motion carried with seven affirmatives and one no vote from Mr. McDonough.

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Mr. Gershey and seconded by Mrs. Pliss to accept the Treasurer's reports generated from the General Account and the Food Service Account.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Approval of Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Gershey and seconded by Mr. Podunajec to pay the bills generated from the General Account and the Food Service Account.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Accounting of Taxes

There were no questions regarding the accounting of taxes.

Student Recognition

High School Principal Matthew Barrett introduced two outstanding students, Matthew Witt and Adam Curtis for student recognition.

Recognition of Public

Mr. Hollister made a statement prior to the recognition of public that this is the time for all public comment, once the voting part of the meeting begins, the Board will not entertain further public comment.

JoEllen Forney voiced her concern for the RDW Pre-K PM Program, she wants more than just Library for her child.

Laura Davis read the following statement and asked that it become a part of the minutes of this meeting:

Good evening Board members, Dr. LaCoe and Mr. Sheehan
My name is Laura Davis

Mr. Gaudenzi when you were hired you took an oath of office and that oath of office as stated in the public school code of 1949 reads as follows:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey and defend the constitution of the United States and the constitution of this commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity."

This oath implies that it is the duty of a director to act with fidelity.

Synonyms for fidelity are trustworthiness, faithfulness and loyalty, all of these qualities inform the general understanding of ethical conduct.

There is a court case "Burger vs. McGuffey School district (2007)" which tests the interpretation of the constitution as it relates to public officials conduct. A board member was terminated for unethical conduct. He sued. It was taken to a higher court and the court sided with the school district. The court did this by interpreting each article of the constitution as if it stood alone. Therefore, under the first sentence of Article 6 section 7, the constitution states that continued service is dependent upon the director behaving him or herself in office. The court suggested that public officers, including school directors could be removed under the constitution "upon the officer behaving in a manner not befitting of the trust placed in him by the public".

Mr. Gaudenzi, the public generally does not trust individuals who have been incarcerated. This is evidenced by the fact that anyone entering a school would have to give their driver's license at the window before being allowed to enter into the school. Driver's licenses that come up with having a criminal record, misdemeanor etc .. are flagged and the person is detained and barred from entering the building.

Mr. Gaudenzi, right now with your current driver's license, you would not be allowed to enter any buildings in this district without being detained, yet you remain on the board in a position to make decisions about our children's education.

I do not want my sons to go to a school that is governed by an unethical person. And furthermore I do not feel that you represent the morals of our community.

To support my position in a public arena I visited the Wayne County Courthouse. There public records report that in 2009 you were discovered in a 1998 Plymouth Voyager that was flipped over on its passenger side as a result of fishtailing down the street. The officers noted you showed signs of being

intoxicated and that you admitted to drinking several beers. You had a passenger with you at this time, you failed a field sobriety test and as a result you were transported to Wayne Memorial for a blood test which you refused. The police report noted that throughout the incident you became unruly, threatening to go after the cop and his family. You also attempted more than one time to head butt the officers and as a result you had to be stunned with a taser. You were charged with resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, driving outside of the lane, careless driving and terroristic threats. Your bail was posted at \$25,000.00. You were sentenced June 11th, 2009 and subject to 6 months parole and 12 months probation.

On January 8th, 2010 you violated your parole when you were picked up at the Colessuum night club and found with two small bags of cocaine in your front pocket. At this time you tested positive for benzodiazepines (beno) which is a chemical used in treating anxiety. It is used for its sedative qualities. You were charged for the possession of a controlled substance, public drunkenness and once again you were tasered to be subdued while resisting arrest.

This brings us to February 27th, 2014 where the records report that you ran over a fire hydrant while intoxicated, left the scene and were found by the cops at your home. Your vehicle was 100 feet from the scene and the officers noted when you answered the door your eyes were red and glossy, your speech was slurred and you had a strong odor of alcohol. Blood work was processed and your blood alcohol content was .246 which carries with it the highest penalty because it is over three times the legal limit. For this you were charged with a misdemeanor along with several other counts related to wreckless driving and the influence of controlled substances. You were sentenced August 28th and released from jail on September 27th, 2014. Just in time to make this board meeting.

Mr. Gaudenzi, I find it inconceivable that a person with this record would not resign in the best interest of the students, the parents, and the school district. Therefore I am asking it to go on public record in the board minutes that I am personally asking Mr. Gaudenzi to resign from this board immediately. If Mr. Gaudenzi does not willingly resign then I am asking the board members to vote on his removal. This is a civil matter. The board would have to vote on it. Your current board policy makes reference to the school code in that it states that "The board will act in accordance with its statutory mandate (School code)".

Your policy does not supersede compliance with the school code. The "Burger vs. McGuffey" case referenced school code 10-1080 when they terminated a board member for unethical conduct. The school district won. The court set a precedent in upholding the school districts decision. Mr. Gaudenzi is a volunteer. He is not losing a liberty if he is terminated.

Your policy and the PA school code will uphold his termination. You just need to be willing to pay our solicitor to do this and you need to vote on it. This matter is in your hands. Mr. Gaudenzi, will you resign from the Western Wayne board of education? Then it is done. Board directors I am asking you to seriously consider the implications of continuing to support this behavior of a board member.

Mr. Gaudenzi's response was no, he will not resign.

Amanda Johnson asked to submit a letter on behalf of Lisa Bunting, she wants to know if we can consider patching the roof instead of a full repair? Mr. Hollister told her they would take it into consideration. She also told us that a list of clubs need to be added to the new website, not just athletics. She also addressed Laura Davis' comments and said that after serving time, someone should be given a new opportunity.

Joe Espisito also commented on Laura Davis' comments, he stated that the public elected Mr. Gaudenzi, the public needs to vote him out.

Enrollment: Day #21 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

GRADE	EVERGREEN	SN	P	RDW	SN	P	MS	SN	P	HS	SN	P	TOTAL
EARLY INT.		4			5								9
PRE K	61			35	8								96
KDG	78	6		38	8								130
GR. 1	61	12		46	8								127
GR. 2	92	7		44	9								152
GR. 3	74	9		41	12								136
GR. 4	66	14		29	5								114
GR. 5	80	10	1	42	20								153
GR. 6							101	37	3				141
TOTAL	512	62	1	275	67	0	101	37	3	0	0	0	1,058
GR. 7							122	38	2				162
GR. 8							147	33	2				182
GR. 9										133	32	2	167
GR. 10										107	39	8	154
GR. 11										127	36	5	168
GR. 12										154	31	6	191
TOTAL	512	62	1	275	67	0	370	108	7	521	138	21	2,082

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

Totals: EverGreen-575; RDW-342; MS-485; HS-680

TOTAL 2,082

Day#3 Total 2,113

First Reading – Adoption of Board Policy

A motion was made by Mrs. Pliss and seconded by Mrs. Fiorella to consider the adoption of the following Policies – First Reading:

- 913.1 COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY/WEBSITE
- 219 STUDENT COMPLAINT PROCESS
- 220 STUDENT EXPRESSION/DISTRIBUTION AND POSTING OF MATERIALS
- 221 DRESS AND GROOMING
- 222 TOBACCO
- 223 USE MOTOR VEHICLES
- 224 CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY
- 225 RELATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
- 226 SEARCHES
- 227 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES/PARAPHERNALIA
- 228 STUDENT GOVERNMENT
- 229 STUDENT FUNDRAISING

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Final Adoption of Board Policy

A motion was made by Mrs. Fiorella and seconded by Mr. Gershey to consider the final adoption of the following Policies – Second Reading:

- 210.2 POSSESSION/USE OF EPINEPHRINE AUTOINJECTORS
- 211 STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE
- 212 REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS
- 213 ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PROGRESS
- 214 CLASS RANK
- 215 PROMOTION AND RETENTION
- 216 STUDENT RECORDS
- 216.1 AFFIRMATION OF PRIOR DISCIPLINE RECORD
- 216.1 SUPPLEMENTAL DISCIPLINE RECORDS
- 216.2 STUDENT RECORDS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
- 217 GRADUATION
- 218 STUDENT DISCIPLINE
- 218.1 WEAPONS
- 218.2 TERRORISTIC THREATS/ACTS
- 907 SCHOOL VISITORS

The motion carried with all affirmatives. Mr. Hollister thanked the policy committee.

Waivers of Expulsion Hearing and Stipulation

A motion was made by Mr. Podunajec and seconded by Mr. Olsommer to adopt the proposed Waivers of Expulsion Hearing and Stipulation relating to the following students, thereby excluding the students from the Western Wayne School District in accordance with the terms thereof.

- a) S# 02-14-15
- b) S# 03-14-15

The motion carried with seven affirmatives and one abstention from Mr. McDonough.

Transportation – New

A motion was made by Mr. Podunajec and seconded by Mr. Olsommer to approve the following new Transportation contract at State Formula for the 2014-2015 school year:

- a) Herbert Black – Van #116 – Honesdale to Robert D. Wilson School effective September 22, 2014.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Transportation – Extension

A motion was made by Mr. Gaudenzi and seconded by Mr. Olsommer to approve the following Transportation Contract Extension at State Formula for the 2014-2015 school year:

- a) RC Beam Transportation LLC – Van #103 – Hamlin to Western Wayne High School Multi-Handicapped classroom effective September 5, 2014.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Transportation – Change

A motion was made by Mrs. Pliss and seconded by Mr. Gershey to approve the following Transportation Contract Change at State Formula for the 2014-2015 school year:

- a) Scottie Swingle – Van #97 – Scranton to Western Wayne Middle School effective September 11, 2014.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Personnel

District Substitute List

A motion was made by Mr. Gershey and seconded by Mrs. Pliss to approve the following personnel to be added to the District Substitute List for the 2014-2015 school year per Certification, Act 24/34/151/114 Guidelines, Employment Eligibility Verification - U.S. Department of Justice:

1. Christopher Ancewicz – Area: Custodial
2. Heather Bonker – Area: Cafeteria
3. Daniel Frost – Area of Certification: Health & Physical Education
4. Brittany Hollister – Area of Certification: Elementary
5. Kimberly Minor – Area of Certification: Elementary/Math/Business Computers
6. Kimberly Ortola – Area: Cafeteria
7. Elaine Schweinsburg – Area: Cafeteria
8. Sarah Wood – Area of Certification: Special Ed/Elementary

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Appointment – Temporary Professional Employee

A motion was made by Mr. Podunajec and seconded by Mr. Olsommer to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent and District Administrators in the following appointment:

1. Nichole Musewicz - Temporary Professional Employee –Science – Step 1B - \$44,083.00 pending adjustment upon updated contract - with applicable fringe benefits effective September 9, 2014.

The motion carried with six affirmatives, one no vote from Mr. Gaudenzi, and one abstention from Mr. McDonough.

Resignation/Retirement

A motion was made by Mr. Olsommer and seconded by Mr. Podunajec to approve the resignation for retirement purposes of Lynn Bush, food service effective November 21, 2014.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Appointment – Head Cook

A motion was made by Mr. Gaudenzi and seconded by Mr. McDonough to appoint Denise Williams as Head Cook for the Middle School at the rate of \$13.25 per hour with applicable fringe benefits effective October 7, 2014.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Appointment – Food Service

A motion was made by Mr. Podunajec and seconded by Mr. McDonough to appoint Kim Amorine as a part time food service worker, 5.5 hours per day at the rate of \$10.50 per hour with no fringe benefits effective October 7, 2014.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Coaching Appointments

A motion was made by Mr. Podunajec and seconded by Mr. McDonough to appoint the following to the listed coaching positions for the 2014-2015 school year at the salary listed in the professional employee's contract pending adjustment upon updated contract and contingent upon receipt of clearances:

1. Jerry Fuller	Wrestling, Assistant	\$4,013.00
2. Dan Trygar	Wrestling, Jr. High	\$3,210.00
3. Brian Hodorawis	Basketball, Girls Jr High 7th	\$3,690.00
4. Todd Pauler	Basketball, Girls Jr High 8th	\$3,690.00

Mrs. Pliss asked if the Wrestling Assistant salary is correct, Dr. LaCoe said it was correct.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Volunteers

A motion was made by Mrs. Fiorella and seconded by Mr. Gershey to approve the following volunteer's contingent upon receipt of clearances:

1. Brenda Bryan – EverGreen Elementary
2. Arlene Kasper – Band
3. Bonnie Price – EverGreen Elementary
4. Richard Weinberger – Middle School

Mrs. Pliss asked if all the volunteers have clearances. Dr. LaCoe said he believes they do.

The motion carried with seven affirmatives and one no vote from Mrs. Pliss.

Informational Items

Student Teacher:

UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON – Steven Grabowski – Middle School – Vincent Tomassoni- Fall semester 2014

The 2015-2018 District Level Comprehensive Plan process has been completed. The month of October will serve as a review period prior to Board approval in November. The Comprehensive Plan will be available for review on our website beginning tomorrow, October 7, 2014. It will be posted on the curriculum page and will be available for display in our libraries.

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Superintendent's Report

No questions.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

No questions.

Principal's Reports

No questions.

Special Education Reports

No questions.

Federal Program Report

No report.

Other Business

Mr. McDonough mentioned that we are on a list from PDE regarding PlanCon processing, we are hopeful that we may hear something on our application by next fall.

Mr. Gaudenzi made an apology to the Board of Education and the Public, the reasons he won't resign are because he sits on the board to do what is best for the community, he battles alcohol, he has no excuses for what he has done, but will stay on the board to fight for children, be the voice of the people.

Future Meetings

November 05, 2014 - 6:00 P.M. Board Committee Meeting, District Board Room, Administration Building, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436

November 10, 2014 - 7:00 P.M. Public Board Meeting, District Board Room, Administration Building, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436

Meetings Held

September 10, 2014 – 4:30 P.M. Board Committee for Negotiations, WWESP, District Board Room, Administration Building, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436

September 10, 2014 – 6:00 P.M. Board Committee for Negotiations, WWEA, District Board Room, Administration Building, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436

September 18, 2014 – 9:00 A.M. Board Policy Meeting, District Conference Room, Administration Building, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436

September 30, 2014 – 8:30 A.M. Board Policy Meeting, District Conference Room, Administration Building, 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436

October 1, 2014 – 6:00 P.M. Board Committee Meeting, District Board Room, Administration Building, Lake Ariel, PA 18436

October 6, 2014 – 6:30 P.M. Board Executive Session, District Office, Administration Building, Lake Ariel, PA 18436 for legal matters.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. McDonough and seconded by Mr. Olsommer to adjourn the regularly scheduled meeting of the Western Wayne Board of Education at 7:54 PM.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose E. Emmett
Board Secretary

ATTEST: _____

APPROVED: _____