

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Work Session Minutes
March 20, 2006

The Wyomissing Area School District Board of School Directors' work session convened at 6:05 p.m. in the Community/Board Room.

Board Members Present: Mrs. McCready, Mrs. Barnett, Mr. Deem, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Hinsey, Mr. Larkin, Mrs. Sakmann, Dr. Shuttlesworth (arr. 6:19 p.m.), and Mr. Snyder.

Administrators Present: Mr. McDonnell, Dr. Riedel, Dr. Kennedy, Mr. Hartman, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Babb, Mr. Laubach, Mrs. Motze, Dr. Zerr, Mrs. Whye, Mrs. Steele, and Dr. Dietz.

Others Present: Brian Boland, Kozloff Stoudt (arr. 7:15 p.m.) and David Carroll, Reading Eagle. List of others in attendance included as part of official minutes.

I. Personnel –

The Superintendent briefed the Board on the personnel items that will appear on next week's agenda.

II. Curriculum –

Mrs. Mangold presented the social studies textbooks and the K–12 curriculum review of social studies.

Several textbooks from the social studies, English, mathematics, and world languages departments were available for review. As part of the curriculum revisions, the new scope and sequence was discussed. It was stated that new textbooks are needed because of changes in the curriculum, and because the current textbooks are outdated.

Mrs. Gernert spoke about Spanish and French programs and noted more availability of updates in Spanish than French. She commented that no state standards are in place currently for world languages, but the new textbooks would stress communication and higher level thinking skills and address students of all abilities. The department is currently using the national standards.

Mr. Comerford, English Department Chair, and Ms. Bansner, Math Department Chair, commented on the intervention texts their departments had selected.

Mrs. Barnett asked about intervention courses and the range of grades involved.

The Superintendent said that money would be placed in the budget for the textbooks that were presented.

The Board agreed to place the curriculum items on the next agenda.

III. Finance –

Mr. McDonnell discussed the upcoming acceptance of the bids for the \$1.4 million borrowing. The bids are due Thursday, March 23, 2006, and he will review them with Ken Phillips from RBC Dain Rauscher on Friday, March 24, 2006. A recommendation will be made to the Board at the meeting on Monday, March 27, 2006.

Mr. Dawson reviewed the 2006-07 budget with an 11% increase.

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IV. Facilities –

Mr. Dawson reviewed the Jr./Sr. High School project. He reported that the auditorium is ready for use and over the next several days they will be testing the sound and lighting. He also stated that the scoreboard would be ready to use by the weekend.

V. School Activities & Athletics –

Mrs. Motze reviewed the athletic items on the agenda that will appear on next week's agenda for approval.

VI. Technology –

Dr. Kennedy reviewed the rationale behind the use of Compass Learning and noted the cost for the current year will be approximately \$60,000.

The Board agreed to place the agreement on the next agenda for approval.

VII. Policy –

Mrs. Barnett commented that there are no policies to review at this point, but next week's agenda will include two food service policies for a first reading.

VIII. Community Relations –

Superintendent Dietz announced a meeting of the Community Relations liaisons took place earlier today.

IX. Other Items –

The Superintendent commented that the Berks Business Education Coalition Membership is the annual renewal and there are it definitely benefits the school district.

X. Discussion Items –

Mr. Snyder mentioned an article he read recently in the Reading Eagle about PSSA testing and student initiatives. He asked if anyone was interested in reading it, they could find it in the newspaper.

XI. Public Comments – None

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m., and Mr. Snyder announced that the Board would meet in executive session for personnel reasons.

Arthur J. McDonnell
School Board Secretary