

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2006-3787

Minutes September 6, 2006

The special meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 6:05 p.m. in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School with Mr. Snyder, Board President, presiding.

Board Members Present: Mrs. Barnett, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Hinsey, Mr. Larkin, Mrs. McCready, Mrs. Sakmann, Dr. Shuttlesworth (arr. 6:30 p.m.), and Mr. Snyder.

Board Member Absent: Mr. Deem

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Larson, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Riedel, Mr. McDonnell, Mrs. Motze, Mr. Laubach, and Mr. Dawson.

Attendees: Mr. Brian Boland, Kozloff Stoudt, Mr. John Pryor, Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates, and Diane Schaeffer. Sign-in sheet of other attendees included as part of these official minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Immediately following the pledge, President Snyder welcomed everyone and announced that the Board needed to meet briefly in executive session. The Board members convened in the district office for 15 minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Snyder stated that audience members would have an opportunity to address the board regarding their concerns about the football field and requested they identify themselves prior to speaking.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Dr. Larson stated she was aware of their concerns about the condition of the football field after Saturday's game. The weather on Saturday, September 2, began without a terrible forecast, and an early morning decision was made to play the scheduled football game.

After viewing the condition of the field today, it is clear that we have a stressed field and a challenge of playing future games with little or no chance for recovery. The sprinkler system was on and not functioning properly.

During consultations with Mr. Dawson and Mrs. Motze today, background information was shared, suggested steps were discussed, and action taken. Mr. Dawson had the field aerated, seeded, and rolled today, and he has consulted with a turf specialist who will visit tomorrow to view the field and offer professional advice.

A long-term solution is needed, but we need to do our best to honor the field use requests from outside groups also. Schools are now looking to artificial turf as the practical solution.

John Turner, 1327 Cleveland Ave., Wyomissing – Mr. Turner wanted to make the Board aware of a situation in the Latin program. Last year there were 36 students and 26 books. This year, there are 37 students and not enough desks.

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Mrs. Turner has spoken to the teacher, Dr. Riedel, Mr. Hartman about the problem. The large number of students in one class of eighth graders is unacceptable.

Mr. Turner stated it was his understanding that in June only 22 students were registered but many students changed their course selection and there are no controls in place on class size. He offered solutions would be to move some students to another class, hire another teacher, or refuse to enroll late or changed schedule requests. He heard that using the German teacher to assist was discussed as an option that would not make sense.

Dr. Larson thanked Mr. Turner for sharing his thoughts and perspective. She assured him she would investigate the situation and get back to him in a few days.

Mr. Jack Lord, 2023 Lincoln Court, Wyomissing – Mr. Lord asked why something was not done about the malfunctioning sprinkler system prior to Saturday. Dr. Larson responded that the situation forced us to look at the system. Mr. Lord noted that the first concern should be the well-being of the students.

Mr. Larkin asked why the option of a Monday game was not considered.

Dr. Larson responded that typically holidays are avoided as game days. She noted that there was enough dialog among individuals to make the decision to proceed with the game.

Mr. Bob Evans, 1723 Cleveland Ave., Wyomissing, stated it was not appropriate at this stage to dwell on why the situation occurred, but to instead to work to find a solution. The parent group has done a good deal of research and feels the field is gone at this point. They have been pursuing information on resodding quickly. He asked the Board's position on the concept and how prepared they would be to make an investment to make it playable.

Dr. Larson stated she would be willing to hear more about the idea, but would be surprised if it were a viable solution. She invited Mr. Evans to come in and have a discussion.

Mr. Evans informed the Board that the group is willing to contribute significant funds to make the resodding possible within a three-week time frame.

Mr. Lord noted that injuries will be scrutinized closely and coming up with a solution quickly is what we are all trying to do.

Mr. Tim Donough, 21 Hummingbird Rd., Wyomissing, noted that safety is a major concern.

President asked the group to please give administration an opportunity to meet with the consultant.

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Mr. Lord requested that signs be put up to keep groups from using the field. Mr. Dawson indicated that signs were put up that afternoon.

Mr. Gary Zebrowski, 550 Lauers Lane, Wyomissing – Is using the inside track field an option? Dr. Larson responded that it was discussed and we might be shifting one heavily used field for another but will look at that again. She noted other schools would be contacted to look at other options.

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Snyder noted there was a correction made to the July 24, 2006, minutes to the appointment of support staff member Lisa Reichardt, from 32.5 to 35 hours per week.

Upon motion by Mr. Fitzgerald, and seconded by Mrs. McCready, the minutes of the following meeting were approved as amended and are included as part of these official minutes.

July 24, 2006 Regular Business Meeting

Yeas: 8.
Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVED SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Upon motion by Mrs. Barnett, seconded by Mrs. Sakmann, the Board of School Directors approved the Superintendent's Report dated September 6, 2006.

Yeas: Barnett, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, Larkin, McCready, Sakmann,
 Shuttlesworth, and Snyder.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Snyder stated that before appointing the members to the Tax Study Commission as required by Act 1 of 2006, the Board would need to determine whether they would choose 5, 7, or 9 members to serve on the Board.

MOTION DEFEATED 9 MEMBER TAX STUDY GROUP

Mrs. Barnett made a motion to appoint 9 members to serve on the Tax Study Commission, seconded by Mr. Hinsey.

Yeas: Barnett, Hinsey, Sakmann, and Snyder.
Nays: Fitzgerald, Larkin, McCready, and Shuttlesworth. Motion
 defeated.

MOTION DEFEATED 7 MEMBER TAX STUDY GROUP

Mrs. Barnett made a motion to appoint 7 members to serve on the Tax Study Commission, seconded by Mrs. Sakmann.

Yeas: Barnett, Hinsey, Sakmann, and Snyder.
Nays: Fitzgerald, Larkin, McCready, and Shuttlesworth. Motion
 defeated.

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APPROVED 5 MEMBER TAX STUDY GROUP

Mrs. Barnett made a motion to appoint 5 members to serve on the Tax Study Commission, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald.

Yeas: Barnett, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, Larkin, McCready, Sakmann, and Shuttlesworth, and Snyder.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

SELECTION OF TAX STUDY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Snyder reported that 17 applications were received from community members volunteering to serve on the Local Tax Study Commission. The Board was provided with a list to cast their votes for the 4 members to be appointed. It was noted that Board member John Larkin would serve on the Commission.

Mr. Snyder and Mrs. McCready tallied the votes and two tie-breaking votes were required to select the four individuals to be approved as follows:

Mrs. Elizabeth Heckler
Mr. Anthony LaParo
Mrs. Barbara Reeser
Mr. John C. Woodward
Mr. John A. Larkin

APPROVED TAX STUDY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Upon motion by Mrs. McCready, seconded by Mrs. Barnett, the Board of School Directors approved the five members to serve on the Tax Study Commission as follows:

Mrs. Elizabeth Heckler
Mr. Anthony LaParo
Mrs. Barbara Reeser
Mr. John C. Woodward
Mr. John A. Larkin

Mr. Snyder noted that the first meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2006, at 6:30 p.m.

Yeas: Barnett, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, Larkin, McCready, Sakmann, and Shuttlesworth, and Snyder.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Alban from Edwards Business Systems stated he was looking for clarification on the copier bid process used for the award to Fraser since Edwards was the low bidder based on specifications.

Mr. McDonnell clarified that prior to an e-mail sent to all bidders, Edwards seemed to be lower, but due to the way the companies bid, the bids were recorded by the school in error. We asked the bidders to verify their bids prior to our award. At this point, Fraser was the lowest bid.

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Mr. Alban stated that he thought companies shouldn't be able to see each other's bids. Mr. McDonnell stated it was a "public" bid and all information is public to bidders or anyone interested.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Larkin and seconded by Mrs. McCready to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

Arthur J. McDonnell
Board Secretary

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

I. Personnel

A) EMPLOYEE

1. Approve Professional Staff Resignation – **Michael T. Mitchell, Jr.**, submitted a letter of resignation on August 29, 2006, from the positions of student dean and head varsity boys' basketball coach, effective no later than October 27, 2006.
2. Ratify Support Staff Resignation – **Melissa Giacobello**, Reading Aide at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center, effective the beginning of the 2006-07 school year.
3. Ratify Support Staff Appointments –
 - a. **Kylee Carlson**, full-time Special Education Instructional Aide at West Reading Elementary Center for 35 hours per week at \$8.87 per hour during the school year, effective September 5, 2006, pending receipt of all necessary documents.
 - b. **Marilyn Carlson**, full-time Special Education Instructional Aide at Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School for 35 hours per week at \$9.54 per hour during the school year, effective September 5, 2006, pending receipt of all necessary documents.
4. Approve Unpaid Leave for Support Staff Member – **Margo Brickner**, Receptionist Monitor at Wyomissing Hills, on September 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, 2006.
5. Approve Payment for Curriculum Writing at the rate established in the teachers' contract.

Background Information: A list of the completed curriculum is enclosed as part of the board packet. An additional list will be provided for approval when the remaining curriculum writing for 2006-07 has been completed.

II. Curriculum

III. Finance

- A) Accept the Digital Copier/Scanning Bid submitted by Fraser Advanced Information Systems.

Background Information: After extensive analysis and due diligence, we are recommending Fraser Advanced Information Systems of West Reading, PA, for the replacement of our copiers and document scanning services for the district. Of the seven firms bidding on replacing 12 copiers, Fraser was the lowest with an annual lease price of \$103,423.68, while providing a single brand for usage and service consistency across the district. The term of the lease is three years. The document scanning to digital media services will be paid for on an as needed basis for \$178 per day. We were impressed by Fraser's ability to accurately scan documents of poor quality. The district annual copier volumes exceed 7.5 million. Vendors bidding were: Konica-Minolta, Keystone, Ricoh, Ikon, Phillips, Edwards, and Fraser.

IV. Facilities

V. School Activities & Athletics

VI. Technology

- A) Accept Technology Office and Server Room Renovation Project Bid submitted by Perrotto Builders, Ltd.

Background information: Accept the recommended bid of \$239,000 from Perrotto Builders, Ltd, of Reading, PA, for the Technology Office and Server Room Renovation Project. Crabtree, Rohrbaugh, and Associates are recommending we accept the low bidder after performing their due diligence on the contractor. We have used this contractor in the past and have had good results.

- B) Approve payment of \$13,696 to Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates for their fees related to the Technology Office and Server Room Renovation bid.

VII. Policy

VIII. Community Relations

IX. Other Items