

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2009-3983

Minutes January 26, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of School Directors convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School with Mr. Larkin, Board President, presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge, the secretary called the roll of Board members.

Board Members Present: Mr. Althouse, Mrs. Barnett, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Hinsey, Mrs. McCready, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Sakmann and Mr. Larkin.

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Larson, Dr. Pulkowski, Ms. Garman, Mrs. Mason, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Babb, Mr. Gall, Mrs. Motze, Dr. Moyer, Dr. Speace, Mrs. Whye, and Dr. Zerr.

Attendees: Mr. Boland, Kozloff Stoudt; Darrin Youker, Reading Eagle; and Shelley Filer, substituting for Diane Schaeffer, recording secretary. Audience sign-in sheet included as part of these official minutes.

WELCOME

President Larkin welcomed everyone. He announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting and no action was taken. He noted the upcoming meetings as follows:

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- February 9, 2009 – Personnel/Policy Committee – 5:00 p.m.
- February 9, 2009 – Finance/Facilities Committee – Following Personnel/Policy Meeting
- February 23, 2009 – Curriculum/Technology Committee – 5:00 p.m.
- February 23, 2009 – School Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

All meetings will be held in the Community Board Room at the Jr. /Sr. High School.

PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Susan Derr reported on her participation in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program. Following her presentation, Dr. Larson thanked Mrs. Derr for being a wonderful ambassador from Wyomissing Area as well as the country during her three-week itinerary.

Mrs. Motze gave an overview of the Fall sports season, in particular highlighting the success of the football team and girls' cross-country team. Mr. Larkin read a proclamation honoring the student athletes. A copy of the proclamation was given to each senior athlete who was present. A copy is also included as part of these official minutes.

Mr. Ken Phillips from RBC Capital Markets presented information on refinancing the 2003 and 2003A bond issues. The board recommended a target savings of \$150,000 for refinancing. A parameters resolution will be presented at the February 9, 2009 Finance/Facilities Committee meeting for approval to begin the process.

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PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Larkin opened the floor for questions specific to the refinancing. Several members of the public asked questions such as the amount of the bond issues, the breakdown of the expenses incurred in refinancing and whether or not the board shopped around for lower broker and legal fees. Mr. Phillips responded the value of the bonds is about \$8.7 million. Approximate expenses incurred in refinancing include \$78,000 for broker commissions, \$50,000 for legal fees, rating fees, and printing costs, and \$59,000 for bond insurance which may not be required. He indicated that most broker fees and legal fees are standard.

Public comment on other agenda items included questions about the contract for the interim superintendent. Mr. Larkin responded that it is not necessary to advertise the position, but Mr. David Robbins was interviewed by the board. He recently completed an interim stint at Tulpehocken. He will serve for six months at a per diem rate of \$500 for approximately 107 days until the end of the fiscal year. There are two three-month options for renewal. His primary responsibilities will include performing the usual and customary duties involved in running the District. Long-term decisions such as the future plans for West Reading Elementary Center will be handled when a new Superintendent is selected. Payment for Mr. Robbins' services already exists in the budget due to savings realized when vacant positions were not immediately filled.

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Portner, seconded by Mrs. McCready, the following minutes were approved:

- November 17, 2008 Work Session
- November 24, 2008 Board Meeting
- December 2, 2008 Board Reorganization Meeting
- December 22, 2008 Special Board Meeting

Yeas: Althouse, Barnett, Davis, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, McCready, Portner, Sakmann, and Larkin.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

FINANCE/ FACILITIES

Mr. Larkin asked for a motion to approve the Finance/Facilities items as noted. Upon motion by Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mrs. Barnett, the Board approved the following items:

APPROVED FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial reports for November and December 2008 are included as part of these official minutes.

APPROVED PAYMENT OF INVOICES

Payment of properly approved vendor invoices for the General Fund, Athletic Fund, Food Service Fund and Capital Reserve Fund.

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APPROVED
RESOLUTION

Not to raise taxes above the index of 4.1% for the 2009-10 school year.

APPROVED
SUBMISSION OF
DELINQUENT REAL
ESTATE TAXES

Approved submission of the 2008 delinquent real estate taxes in the amount of \$512,175.22 to BMF Law Group.

APPROVED BUDGET
TRANSFERS

Approved budget transfers in the amount of \$265,602.

ACCEPTED GRANT
MONEY

Accepted Title III grant monies in the amount of \$11,650. This grant will amend the 2008-09 budget as follows:

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expense</u>	
8516 Title III English Language Learner (ELL)	1100-121 Teacher Salaries	\$ 8,500
\$11,650	1100-220 Social Security	650
	1100-230 Retirement	405
	1100-610 Supplies	<u>2,095</u>
Total:		\$11,650

APPROVED
SUBSTITUTE BUS
DRIVERS

Approved Adam Casner, Jackie Evanson, William Jordan and Karl Koenig as substitute bus drivers as per the contract with Gross School Bus Service, Inc.

AWARDED BCIU
JOINT PURCHASING
BIDS

Awarded BCIU Joint Purchasing bids as follows:

Copy paper to be shipped to Administration:

Ricoh Americas	\$ 5,033.50
Ris Paper	<u>342.00</u>
	\$ 5,375.50

Custodial Supplies to be shipped to JSBS

Eagle Maintenance	\$ 2,843.45
Calico Industries	1,051.10
Interboro Packaging	5,004.93
Hillyard	2,673.88
MJ Earl	4,360.00
Pyramid School Products	<u>25.95</u>
	\$15,959.31

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APPROVED INTERIM
SUPERINTENDENT
CONTRACT

Approved the contract with David H. Robbins as Interim Superintendent.

Yeas: Althouse, Barnett, Davis, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, McCreedy, Portner, Sakmann, and Larkin.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

**CURRICULUM/
TECHNOLOGY**

No agenda items.

PERSONNEL/POLICY

Mr. Larkin asked for a motion to approve the Personnel/Policy items as listed. Mrs. McCreedy asked that Item XI., Approve work outside the contract year, be voted on separately. Upon motion by Mrs. Sakmann, seconded by Mrs. Barnett, the Board approved the January 26, 2009 Personnel Report, excluding Item XI., as follows:

APPROVED
PROFESSIONAL
APPOINTMENT

Approved Professional Appointment of Michelle Kersikoski, Summer Academy Coordinator, at a stipend of \$3,000, effective January 27, 2009, for the 2008-09 school year.

APPROVED SUPPORT
TEACHERS

Approved Support Teachers for new professional staff (2008-09):

<u>Support Teacher</u>	<u>Inductee</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Michael Miller	Nicole Harlacher	LTS French (JSHS)	\$250
Jennifer Mangold	Lisa Lawrence	LTS Spanish (JSHS)	\$250

APPROVED SUPPORT
STAFF APPOINTMENT

Approved Support Staff Appointment of Mary Thacker, Full-time Special Education Instructional Aide at the JSHS, 7 hrs./day, \$10.80/hr., Effective January 27, 2009, pending receipt of necessary documents.

APPROVED
PROFESSIONAL
PSYCHOLOGY
INTERN

Approved Professional Psychology Intern for the 2009-10 school year at a stipend of \$12,000.

APPROVED/RATIFIED
FMLA LEAVES

Approved/ratified FMLA Leaves:

- a. Melissa Devlin, secondary English Teacher at the JSHS, a family and medical leave of absence effective February 27, 2009 for approximately 5 to 10 days.
- b. Karen Sichak, Part-time Teacher's Instructional Aide at WHEC, a family and medical leave of absence effective November 24, 25, December 2-5, and December 8-9, 2008.

RATIFIED EFFECTIVE
DATE OF FMLA
LEAVE

Ratified effective date of FMLA leave for Diane Schaeffer, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, effective January 20, 2009, for approximately 4-6 weeks.

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APPROVED/RATIFIED
SUPPORT STAFF
UNPAID LEAVE
REQUESTS

- Approved/ratified Support Staff unpaid leave requests:
- a. Sheilah Nestro, Part-time Crossing Guard at WREC, unpaid leave for January 12-16, 2009.
 - b. Linda Nickey, Full-time Teacher's Instructional Aide at WHEC, unpaid leave for January 7-9, 2009.
 - c. Lisa Lamp, Part-time Food Service Worker at the JSHS, unpaid leave January 9, and January 12-13, 2009.
 - d. Rebecca Sibbett, Part-time Special Educational Instructional Aide at WREC, unpaid leave January 5-9, 2009.

APPROVED CHANGE
IN EFFECTIVE DATE
OF CUSTOMER
AGREEMENT

Approved change in the effective date of the customer agreement with Frontline Placement Technologies for Aesop Substitute Placement Service from February 15, 2009 to February 9, 2009.

APPROVED WEIGHT
ROOM SUPERVISOR
SUBSTITUTE

Approved Weight Room Supervisor Substitute, Franco Ferrandino, Sr., \$10.78/hr., effective January 27, 2009.

APPROVED
SUPPLEMENTAL
ATHLETICS
APPOINTMENT

Approved Supplemental Athletics Appointment of Brenda Phillips, Intramural Supervisor, 12 Base Points, \$1002, prorated for 4 months, effective February 2, 2009, for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year.

APPROVED
ADDITIONS/
DELETIONS TO THE
DISTRICT
SUBSTITUTE LIST

List provided as part of these official minutes.

APPROVED
ADDITIONS TO THE
DISTRICT
VOLUNTEER LIST

List provided as part of these official minutes.

APPROVED
ADOPTION OF
POLICIES

Approved the adoption (second reading) of the following policies:

- 103 - Non-Discrimination in School and Classroom Practices
- 140 - Charter Schools
- 206 - Assignment within District
- 216.1 - Supplemental Discipline Records
- 906 - Public Complaints

Yeas: Althouse, Barnett, Davis, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, McCready, Portner, Sakmann, and Larkin.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

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**APPROVED WORK
OUTSIDE CONTRACT**

Upon motion by Mrs. Barnett, seconded by Mrs. Sakmann, the Board approved the work outside the contract listing included as part of these official minutes.

Yeas: Althouse, Barnett, Davis, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, Portner, Sakmann, and Larkin.

Abstain: McCreedy

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
OFFICE**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Barnett, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald, the Board approved the following items:

**APPROVE OLIVET
AGREEMENT**

Approved the Olivet agreement that provides a place for WREC students to do homework and participate in supervised activities after school. A WREC staff member escorts student to the Olivet facility.

**APPROVE USE OF
STUDENT
PHOTOGRAPHS**

Approved the use of K-12 student photographs with parental permission for use in a textbook co-authored by Dr. Marcia Moyer.

Yeas: Althouse, Barnett, Davis, Fitzgerald, Hinsey, McCreedy, Portner, Sakmann, and Larkin.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**NATIONAL SCHOOL
BOARD DIRECTORS
MONTH**

Dr. Larson honored the school board members by commending the sacrifice they make by committing approximately 20 hours weekly to the District and its students. She presented each member with a copy of Randy Pausch's inspirational book, The Last Lecture.

Commenting that it was her last Board meeting, Dr. Larson thanked the Board and praised her staff. Although her tenure was a difficult journey at times, she said she was leaving with no regrets.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS**

Treasurer's Report and Enrollment Report for December 1, 2008 are included as part of these official minutes

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hinsey reported that BCIU approved the proposed budget for mandated services on January 15. There is no increase to the District.

Mr. Larkin thanked Dr. Larson for her hard work and dedication especially surrounding the referendum. He said it would have been a difficult job for any newcomer and no one could say it was defeated for lack of energy or commitment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Another question was raised on the refinancing of the bond issues. Mr. Boland clarified that the Board authorized the preparation of a resolution

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that will incorporate the target savings amount of \$150,000. Formal advertisement is required upon approval of the resolution.

A question was raised on the omission of names of new personnel on the agenda. Mr. Larkin responded that it is fairer to the individuals to not have their names revealed until after board approval. The names of new personnel will appear in the minutes.

An audience member who attended the recent committee meetings of the Board suggested it would be appropriate to include the Pledge of Allegiance at those meetings as well as the monthly Board meeting.

A Right-to-Know request made by an audience member suggested to him that two support staff members received compensation for excessive overtime last year and are on target to have the same result this year. He questioned why an additional support staff person was not hired to lessen the load. Mr. Larkin responded that in the long run it was better and less expensive to have an experienced person performing the duties because additional costs such as benefits, a computer, a desk, etc. could be incurred with hiring additional staff.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. McCready, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

Corinne D. Mason
Board Secretary

