

# WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2009-3998

**Minutes** March 23, 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:

Mr. Robbins, Dr. Pulkowski, Ms. Garman, Mrs. Mason, Mr. Gall, Mrs. Motze, and Dr. Speace.

Attendees:

Mr. Boland, Kozloff Stoudt; Darrin Youker, Reading Eagle; and 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

- April 14, 2009 – Personnel/Policy Committee – 5:00 p.m.
- April 14, 2009 – Finance/Facilities Committee – Following Personnel/Policy Meeting
- April 27, 2009 – Curriculum/Technology Committee – 5:00 p.m.
- April 27, 2009 – School Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

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

## PRESENTATION

Mr. Larkin introduced Athletic Director Jennifer Motze who introduced members of the swimming and wrestling teams and coaches in attendance.

## WINTER SPORTS CHAMPIONS

A proclamation was read by President Larkin honoring the winter sports champions for their accomplishments. A copy of the proclamation is included as part of these official minutes.

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Larkin opened the floor for questions on agenda items.

An audience member asked the purpose of the executive session and Mr. Larkin indicated they met to discuss personnel matters.

## APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Mrs. Barnett, seconded by Mrs. McCready, the minutes of the February 23, 2009 Board meeting were approved.

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

**FINANCE/  
FACILITIES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Barnett and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the following Finance/Facilities items:

APPROVED  
FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial reports for February 2009 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, Capital Reserve Fund and Capital Project Fund.

APPROVED G.F.  
BUDGET TRANSFERS

General fund budget transfers in the amount of \$114,307.

APPROVED  
ATHLETIC FUND  
BUDGET TRANSFERS

Athletic fund budget transfers in the amount of \$2,195.

APPROVED BCTC  
BUDGET

The 2009-10 Berks Career & Technology Center budget. (The proposed maximum share for Wyomissing is \$226,216.)

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

**CURRICULUM/  
TECHNOLOGY**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Sakmann, the Board approved the following Curriculum/Technology items:

APPROVED  
SUBMISSION OF  
GRANT

Secondary English Department Summer Reading List. List included as part of these official minutes.

APPROVED HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
MATERIALS-GRADE 6

Human development materials for grade 6. (Video viewable on-line at [www.pgschoolprograms.com](http://www.pgschoolprograms.com) "puberty" link.)

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

**PERSONNEL/POLICY**

Mr. Larkin asked for a motion to approve the Personnel/Policy items as listed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Barnett and seconded by Mrs. McCready to approve the Personnel/Policy items as follows:

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Mr. Portner asked how many new positions were included in the budget. Mr. Robbins stated that a teacher for autism support was approved prior to his arrival and the recommendation for a speech and language pathologist is the second new position.

APPROVED  
PROFESSIONAL  
RETIREMENTS

**Rosemary A. Shannon**, Elementary Teacher at WHEC, retirement effective the end of the 2008-09 school year.

**Rita Tomashitis**, Elementary Teacher at WREC, retirement effective June 12, 2009.

APPROVED  
PROFESSIONAL  
EMPLOYEE STATUS

Professional Employee Status - **Jennifer Lengel**, Elementary Spanish Teacher, WHEC.

*Background Information: As a temporary professional employee Ms. Lengel has completed three years of satisfactory service to the Wyomissing Area School District and therefore is entitled to become a professional employee subject to the provision of the "Public School Code of 1949."*

APPROVED NEW  
PROFESSIONAL  
POSITION

New Professional Position - Speech and Language Pathologist, effective for the 2009-10 school year.

RATIFIED  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
APPOINTMENT

**David H. Robbins**, Acting Superintendent, effective February 2, 2009 for no longer than one year.

APPROVED  
EXTENSION TO  
LEAVE

Extension to Child Rearing Leave - **Maria Gernert**, Secondary Spanish Teacher at the JSHS, from on or about May 11, 2009 to the beginning of the 2009-10 school year.

APPROVED/RATIFIED  
FMLA LEAVES

**Kristy L. Martin**, Secondary Learning Support Teacher at the JSHS, a family and medical leave of absence and child rearing leave, effective August 25, 2009, returning November 19, 2009.

**Jennifer Motze**, Athletic Director, a family and medical leave of absence effective March 30, 2009 for approximately 5 days.

**Dawn Schropp**, Crossing Guard/Cafeteria Monitor at WREC, a family and medical leave of absence effective January 29, 2009 and returning February 4, 2009.

**Louise Werthman-Mitchell**, Secondary Teacher at the JSHS, a family and medical leave of absence effective February 17, 2009 and returning

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RATIFIED  
SUPPORT STAFF  
UNPAID LEAVE  
REQUESTS

**Barbara Brehony**, Full-time Building Secretary at WHEC, unpaid leave March 11-13, 2009.

**Cheryl Davis**, Part-time Teacher's Instructional Aide at WHEC, unpaid leave February 19-20, 2009 and February 23-25, 2009.

**Teresita Gallegos-Rosa**, Part-time Teacher's Instructional Aide at WHEC, unpaid leave March 18-20, 2009.

**Robert Troxel**, Part-time Van Driver, unpaid leave January 13-March 3, 2009.

APPROVED CHANGE  
IN CPR TRAINING  
DATE

Change in Training Date - CPR and First Aid Training for Support Staff at the Reading Hospital from March 6, 2009 to June 10, 2009.

*Background Information: Approval was given for a specified group of support staff members to attend CPR and First Aid training at the February 23, 2009 meeting of the Board of School Directors. Due to a quarantine caused by a norovirus outbreak the Reading Hospital had to cancel the March 6, 2009 date and reschedule for June 10, 2009.*

APPROVED  
SUPPLEMENTAL  
ACTIVITY ADVISOR

Supplemental Activity Advisor Appointment - **Wayne Settle, Jr.** High Drama Producer, 6 points, \$501, effective March 24, 2009, for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year.

APPROVED WEIGHT  
ROOM SUPERVISOR  
SUBSTITUTES

Weight Room Supervisor Substitutes –

**Justin Moyer**, \$10.78/hr., effective February 23, 2009.  
**Andrew Siggins**, \$13/hr., effective March 17, 2009.  
**Christopher Miller**, \$13/hr., effective April 21, 2009.  
**Jameson Beates**, \$10.78/hr., effective April 21, 2009.  
**Kathryn O'Regan**, \$10.78/hr., effective March 9, 2009.  
**Nicholas Kennedy**, \$10.78/hr., effective March 10, 2009.  
**William Hartman**, \$13/hr., effective April 21, 2009.  
**Danielle Mocerri**, \$13/hr., effective April 21, 2009.  
**Timothy Hetrich**, \$13/hr., effective April 21, 2009.

APPROVED  
ADDITIONS/  
DELETIONS TO THE  
DISTRICT  
SUBSTITUTE LIST

Additions/Deletions to District substitute list. List included as part of these official minutes.

APPROVED

Additions to the District volunteer list. List included as part of these

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**VOLUNTEER LIST  
ADDITIONS**

official minutes.

**APPROVED FIRST  
READING OF  
POLICIES &  
PROCEDURES**

First Reading of Policies -

- 324 Personnel Files (K. Garman); 324-AR
- 335 FMLA (K. Garman); 335-AR, 335-AR-2
- 424 Personnel Files (K. Garman); 424-AR; 424-AR-1
- 435 FMLA (K. Garman); 435-AR, 435-AR-2
- 524 Personnel Files (K. Garman); 524-AR
- 535 FMLA (K. Garman); 535-AR, 535-AR-2

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
OFFICE**

**APPROVED ART  
MAJOR 4 FIELD TRIP  
TO NYC**

Upon motion by Mrs. Barnett, seconded by Mrs. Sakmann, the Board approved the Overnight Field Trip Request for Art Major 4 to NYC MOMA & galleries on April 17, 2008.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**BUDGET UPDATE**

Acting Superintendent, Mr. Robbins, provided the board with a copy of the 2009-10 budget summary.

Mr. Robbins stated that the proposed \$29.6 million budget would be a 1.95% increase, the lowest in more than a decade. He noted that he eliminated library book purchases and cut most staff conferences but there would be no impact on student programs. The stimulus money was budgeted based on what the governor has outlined even though it has not been finalized.

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
REPORTS**

The Treasurer's Report is included as part of these official minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Hinsey announced that the annual BCIU School Board Directors Convention is scheduled for April 23 at the Schuylkill Valley Middle School and individuals may register through the superintendent's office.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

An audience member questioned the drop in revenue and Mr. Robbins

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provided an explanation. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that the real estate transfer taxes are also lower.

An audience member stated he sent correspondence to Mr. Robbins requesting information on the letter of recommendation for Dr. Larson and the request was denied. He asked if all of the Board members saw the recommendation letter and Mr. Larkin responded that they did. Mr. Boland said that the letter of recommendation and termination agreement are part of Dr. Larson's personnel file.

An audience member voiced his concern about the arrest of two students 6 or 7 weeks ago and security in the building.

Mr. Robbins noted that he met with the Borough police chiefs and plans to meet with the Borough managers. Students' safety and security is a #1 issue and the principals have been doing a variety of practice emergency drills. Mr. Robbins said his response to the drug dog issue remains the same. Efforts are being made to assure that the security cameras are all operational.

An audience member asked if information on building renovations would be discussed with Board candidates. Mr. Larkin noted after the primary election, more information would be available. He also stated that at the April 14 committee meeting, a timeline for the superintendent search would be discussed.

An audience member stated the policy would need to be changed if the Acting Superintendent alone would be making the decision on the use of drug dogs.

Mr. Robbins stated that as long as it wasn't illegal, immoral, or against School Code, he would make the decision and deal with the consequences.

A question was raised about the difference between use of FMLA leave and sick days.. Mrs. Barnett responded that individual circumstances are considered when determining the type of leave that is used.

A resident asked about the agenda item that was tabled at the February Board meeting. Mr. Larkin responded that a fee schedule for use of facilities is still under discussion.

An audience member asked if the substitute weight room supervisors worked with students or the public. Mr. Robbins responded that weight room supervisors monitor the weight room during the times the public is permitted access.

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The resident also noted that the showers have not been working in the field house for 10 days and there was no water to wash towels.

Mr. Robbins noted that Mr. Fries could not attend this evening, but he would contact him to follow up on the situation.

An audience member stated a finance representative attended a board meeting a few months ago to discuss refinancing bonds and he wanted to know what decision was made.

Mr. Larkin noted that the District refinanced at a savings of \$190,000. Mrs. Mason said the savings was recognized in the current year's budget.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. McCready, seconded by Mrs. Sakmann to adjourn at 7:51 p.m.

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Corinne D. Mason  
Board Secretary

