

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2011-4261

Minutes February 14, 2011

The regular meeting with committee reports of the Board of School Directors convened at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School with Mrs. Davis, Board President, presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, Mrs. Davis asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. No one indicated the intent to record.

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Bamberger, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Helm (6:04 p.m.), Mr. Larkin, Mr. Painter, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Seltzer and Mrs. Sakmann.

Administrative Staff Present:

Mrs. Vicente, Mrs. Mason, Mr. Fries, Ms. Garman, Mr. Griscom, and Mrs. Morett.

Attendees:

Mr. Brian Boland, Kozloff Stoudt, Mr. David Kostival, *Reading Eagle*, and Shelley Filer, recording secretary. Audience sign-in sheet included as part of these official minutes.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the roll call by the Board secretary, Mrs. Davis welcomed everyone and noted that there was an executive session of the Finance Committee held at 7:30 a.m. February 14, 2011 relating to personnel issues.

The following meeting schedules and locations were announced.

- School Board Meeting – February 28, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
- Policy/Personnel Committee Meeting – March 1, 2011, 5:00 p.m.
- Finance/Facilities Committee Meeting – March 7, 2011, 11:30 a.m.
- Technology/Curriculum Committee Meeting – March 7, 2011, 3:30 p.m.

All listed meetings are held in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School unless otherwise noted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance – Mrs. Helm reported that the Finance Committee met to review the preliminary budget. There is approximately a \$1.6-1.9 million deficit. They discussed 56 line items worth of cuts to reduce the deficit to \$1 million, but more work needs to be done. There are three major contributors to the deficit: a reduction in state funding, assessment appeals that need to be covered, and factors tied to the recession such as per capita tax, transfer tax and delinquent tax collection.

B. Facilities – Mr. Larkin reported that the meeting was held on Monday, February 7. Mr. Fries provided an update on the West

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Reading project. The project is on schedule and approximately 95% of the asbestos abatement has been completed. There was also a discussion on the modulars at Wyomissing Hills. Mr. Fries said we will continue to use the modulars as long as they are in a serviceable condition. When they deteriorate to the point they cannot be used we will remove them rather than repair or rebuild them for the long haul. Another topic of discussion was the large areas of sidewalk throughout the District that are in need of repairs. Under new business was a discussion of the engineering study on the boiler room at the JSHS. Some significant decisions need to be made in the next several months after review of the study. Mr. Fries intends to present recommendations for repair/replacement at the next meeting. The last topic for the meeting was use of facilities on the various campuses. In comparison to what other schools are doing, we may not be charging enough for their use.

- C. Curriculum – Mrs. Sakmann reported that there was a meeting on February 7. Although there was a general discussion, there are no items that need the Board’s immediate attention.
- D. Technology – Mr. Fitzgerald said there was a meeting on February 7. Mr. Griscom addressed some new items that were coming up.
- E. Personnel – Mr. Painter reported that there was a meeting on February 8, when several items were discussed. Two support staff positions are being reclassified as Confidential Support Staff. Changes are being made to the Confidential Support Staff Handbook to align it with current contracts of other unions and groups in the District. Interviews will be starting shortly on the interim position of Dean of Students. We will be adding two psychology interns. Ms. Garman indicated that some policies will be changed to reflect the decisions made on using paid time off concurrent with some leaves.
- F. Policy - Mr. Portner reported five policies are up for a first reading based on recommendations from PSBA, our administration and our solicitor. Mrs. Vicente added that after the first reading the policies will be posted on the website for public review until the second reading at the following Board meeting.
- G. Ad Hoc Committees
 - Economic Development – Mrs. Bamberger reported that there was a meeting on February 9. They discussed the hiring of a Director of Development to secure outside funding for the District. They also discussed coordinating their efforts with

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WAEF because they have similar goals.

- Community Relations – No report.
- Uniform – Mrs. Sakmann reported that there was a meeting on January 24. The next steps for the committee include meeting with uniform companies that will help present a fashion show so parents and students can get an idea what uniforms may look like. Following the fashion show, a spring survey is planned to get feedback on whether the District should proceed with a uniform policy.

H. Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Report – Mrs. Seltzer said the next meeting is February 17.

I. Berks Career & Technology Center Board Report – Mr. Painter reported that last month’s meeting was canceled due to inclement weather. The next meeting is February 23.

J. Berks EIT Report – Mr. Larkin reported for the five-month period of July 1 – November 30, 2010, Berks EIT receipts are down just under 4% due to economic factors. Mrs. Mason said ours are unchanged.

K. Wyomissing Area Education Foundation – Mrs. Bamberger said there is a strategic planning meeting on February 17.

L. Legislative Report – Mr. Fitzgerald, no report

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. William Murray questioned whether the preliminary budget as presented represents the figures with a \$1.9 or \$1 million deficit. Mrs. Mason said it reflects the figures with \$1.6 million deficit. He asked if the listing of 56 items proposed as cuts would be released to the public after the preliminary budget is approved. Mrs. Helm answered that while the budget is a working document that information would not be released because it is subject to change many times. He expressed dismay that when attending committee meetings there is no opportunity for public comment and no minutes are being kept. Mrs. Davis responded that going forward minutes will be taken and approved and there will be opportunity for public comment. Mrs. Helm stated further that when the final budget is approved it will be made available to the public.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mrs. Vicente presented the Superintendent’s Report on behalf of Mr. Krem.

A. CURRICULUM/TECHNOLOGY

No items

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**B. FINANCE/
FACILITIES**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sakmann and second by Mrs. Seltzer, the following Finance and Facilities item was approved:

Mr. Fitzgerald asked what our current millage is. Mrs. Mason responded it is 27.894.

- 1. Approve Adoption of the Preliminary General Fund Budget for 2011-2012.

The Proposed Preliminary General Fund Budget for the following expenditures is recommended for approval:

1000 Instruction.....	\$16,150,336
2000 Supporting Services.....	9,235,668
3000 Operation of Non-Instructional Services	1,018,138
4000 Facilities, Acquisition & Construction.....	0
5000 Financing Uses.....	4,590,366
TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET EXPENSES.....	\$30,994,508

and that the Board re-enact the following local taxes for the 2011-2012 school year:

- 1. Real Estate Tax..... 28.8345 Mills
- 2. Local Services Tax (to a maximum of) \$10.00
 - Wyomissing Borough..... \$ 5.00
 - West Reading Borough..... \$ 5.00
- 3. Earned Income Tax..... 1.0%
- 4. Business Privilege Tax (to a maximum of) 1.5 Mills
- 5. Per Capita Tax, Act 679..... \$ 5.00
- 6. Per Capita Tax, Act 511 (to a maximum of) \$10.00
 - Wyomissing Borough..... \$ 5.00
 - West Reading Borough..... \$ 5.00
- 7. Real Estate Transfer Tax (to a maximum of)..... 1%
 - Wyomissing Borough..... 0.5%
 - West Reading Borough..... 0.5%

The budget includes all staff positions and salaries, and requires a .9405 mill tax increase.

Mrs. Mason reviewed the remaining Finance and Facilities items and opened them for discussion. Mr. Boland stated that the previous temporary easement that was approved allowed the contractors to gain access to the West Reading Elementary building along the side of the Wilkes' property. The permanent easement allows us to store the dumpster on their property. Mrs. Bamberger asked if there was a cost

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involved in this easement. Mr. Boland answered that the only cost involved was to macadam the area we are acquiring and parking for them.

Mr. Fitzgerald questioned when in the budget process the Board would know the differential in costs from last year to this year covered by the Berks County Joint Purchasing agreement. Mrs. Mason replied that this is an agreement to allow us to participate in the consortium. Cost differentials will be apparent throughout the year as bids for supplies are approved.

**C. PERSONNEL/
POLICY** A motion was made by Mr. Larkin and second by Mr. Portner, to approve the Personnel and Policy agenda items.

Mrs. Helm asked if we will be interviewing in the spring to fill the position at WHEC. Ms. Garman responded that Mr. Roberts is reviewing the building staffing needs and will make that determination.

1. APPOINTMENTS

a. Professional

- 1) **Brittany E. Reber**, transfer from Life Skills Teacher at the JSHS to Transition Coordinator at the JSHS, effective February 22, 2011, with no change in salary.
Background information: Ms. Reber is assuming the duties that were formerly performed by Andrew Hoffert.
- 2) **Christine L. Mohler**, Life Skills Teacher at the JSHS, at B, Step 1, \$40,720, pro-rated, effective February 15, 2011, pending receipt of necessary documentation.
Background information: Ms. Mohler graduated Magna Cum Laude from Millersville University with her B.S. in Education. She holds Pennsylvania certification in Elementary Education K-6, Special Education N-12 and English 7-12, and has worked in a variety of part-time and LTS special education positions at Muhlenberg and Wilson School Districts. Christine is filling the vacancy created by the transfer of Brittany Reber.
- 3) **Sarah E. Cirba**, Long-Term Substitute Teacher at WHEC, at B, Step 1, \$40,720, pro-rated, effective January 3, 2011.
Background information: Mrs. Cirba is filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Steve Reazor. She has been substituting in this position up to this point and was a former teacher with our District.

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2. Appoint Brian Boland, Esq. as Parliamentarian effective immediately per Policy 006.

Yeas: Bamberger, Fitzgerald, Helm, Larkin, Painter, Portner, Sakmann, Seltzer and Davis.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Personnel and Policy items were opened for discussion. There were no additional questions. Mrs. Davis thanked Susan Derr and Peter Beck for their donations to the Drama Club.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS None.

HEARING FROM WAEA None.

HEARING FROM AFSCME None.

HEARING FROM WAEF None.

ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by Mr. Larkin, seconded by Mr. Portner to adjourn at 6:32 p.m.

Corinne D. Mason
Board Secretary