

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2011-4276

Minutes March 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 (6:03 p.m.), Mr. Larkin, Mr. Painter, Mr. Portner, Mrs. Seltzer and Mrs. Sakmann.

Administrative Staff Present:

Mr. Krem, Mrs. Vicente, Mrs. Mason, Mr. Fries, Ms. Garman (6:26 p.m.), Mr. Griscom, Mrs. Morett, and Mr. Roberts.

Attendees:

Mr. Brian Boland, Kozloff Stoudt, Teresa Schutt, BCIU, 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 would be an executive session following the meeting to discuss personnel issues.

The following meeting schedules and locations were announced.

- Economic Development Committee Meeting – March 16, 2011, 5:30 p.m.
- School Board Meeting – March 28, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
- Uniform Committee Meeting – March 30, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
- Finance/Facilities Committee Meeting – April 4, 2011, 11:30 a.m.
- Technology/Curriculum Committee Meeting – April 4, 2011, 3:30 p.m.
- Personnel/Policy Committee Meeting – April 5, 2011, 5:45 p.m. (Executive Session for Personnel will begin at 5:00 p.m.)

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

PRESENTATION

Mrs. Vicente and Teresa Schutt from BCIU explained and presented the Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System (PVAAS) data showing achievement and student growth for the district.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance –Mrs. Helm reported the meeting was held March 7 initially in a public session to discuss the agenda items then moved into an executive session to review the budget deficit impact on positions in the district.

Minutes March 14, 2011

- B. Facilities – No report
- C. Curriculum – Mrs. Sakmann reported the committee met March 7. Mrs. Vicente made a presentation on PVAAS. The committee reviewed the proposed textbook request and summer reading titles. She reviewed the field trip requests and noted that the trip to the WorldQuest competition was due to Wilson being unable to make the trip to Washington. They deferred the expense money to us as second place finishers. The only cost to the district will be a half-day sub for Mr. Dramby. Mr. Dramby has high expectations for this team.
- D. Technology – No report.
- E. Personnel – Mr. Painter noted that the March 1 meeting was an executive session.
- F. Policy – Mr. Portner reported that the committee met March 1. There are seven policies on the agenda for first reading.
- G. Ad Hoc Committees
- Economic Development – Mrs. Bamberger noted that this month represents the one-year anniversary for the committee. Although a lot of good ideas have come forth, she is frustrated that the committee has no results to show for it. They have been focused on three areas: advertising and naming rights, working with the boroughs to increase the tax base by bringing in more businesses, and organizing a group to go to Harrisburg and make our case for better funding. Neighboring districts are receiving much more funding even in view of our changing demographics.
 - Community Relations – Although there have been no recent meetings, Mrs. Seltzer reported that the community area of the website is up and running. She also noted that labels have been placed on the census forms soliciting e-mail addresses from residents for a community relations database. She is also coordinating a date in April with Mr. Fries for a meeting to update the community on the progress at WREC.
 - Uniform – Mrs. Sakmann reported that on March 30 a public meeting will be held in the Community Board Room to present the proposed concept of a uniform code of dress and to hear input of anyone who attends the meeting. On April 12 at 7pm there will be a public fashion show in the auditorium to present examples of uniforms.
- H. Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Report – Mrs. Seltzer

Minutes March 14, 2011

reported that the next meeting is March 17.

- I. Berks Career & Technology Center Board Report – Mr. Portner substituted for Mr. Painter at the meeting. He said there were two items of interest: the preliminary budget was discussed in which they intend to use \$250,000 of their fund balance to balance the budget; a huge solar project was discussed. Mr. Painter said at the Building Committee Meeting the discussion continued and he doesn't expect the project to happen.
- J. Berks EIT Report – No report. There is a meeting next week.
- K. Wyomissing Area Education Foundation – Mrs. Bamberger reported there was a meeting on March 8. The Foundation recently mailed a solicitation letter to residents of the district as part of their two-year strategic plan in an effort to ramp up fundraising efforts. They are hoping that the “Toast to the Teachers” event will be even more successful than last year.
- L. Legislative Report – No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

**A. CURRICULUM/
TECHNOLOGY**

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

During discussion Mr. Krem suggested that the WorldQuest trip be approved contingent upon securing a female chaperone.

- 1. Approved Field Trip Requests
 - a. Art Majors III & IV, New York City Museum and Gallery, April 13, 2011
 - b. WorldQuest Competition, Washington, DC, April 29- May 1, 2011.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

The other items under Curriculum and Technology including approval of textbook requests and suggested summer reading titles were opened for discussion. Copies of the books were available for the Board's review.

Minutes March 14, 2011

**B. FINANCE/
FACILITIES**

Upon a motion by Mr. Larkin and second by Mr. Painter, the following Finance and Facilities items were approved:

During discussion Mrs. Bamberger questioned why the purchase of the storage area network is being made from the 2010 bond issue as opposed to the 2009 bond issue. Mrs. Mason responded that it was at the direction of the Finance Committee because the 2009 funds are already earmarked for other things.

1. Approved Change Orders for the West Reading project.
 - a. Change Order GC 001 - \$11,100. Add structural steel to the top of the existing walls on the ground floor of the existing building to support the walls and provide required bracing.
 - b. Change Order GC 002 - \$12,110. Shift the location of all exterior replacement window units in classrooms and hallway spaces to accommodate existing conditions which were identified during demolition.
2. Approved the purchase of a Dell EqualLogic Storage Area Network (SAN) in the amount of \$37,617.43 as per PEPPM. *Background information: The SAN is used to store all District electronic files including e-mail, files and student information system data and serves as a disaster recovery point for critical systems. This purchase will be made from the 2010 Bond Issue.*
3. Authorized administration to accept bids for 28 smart boards for the WREC project.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

The other items under the Finance and Facilities were opened for discussion. There were no comments or questions.

Mr. Fries presented a pictorial update on the progress of the WREC project. He reported that progress is going well and construction is pretty well through the demolition phase with very few surprises. The week of April 25 is the target date to move and assemble the modular portion of the building.

**C. PERSONNEL/
POLICY**

A motion was made by Mr. Painter and second by Mrs. Seltzer, to approve the Personnel and Policy agenda items. Mr. Fitzgerald requested that Policy 620 be voted on separately. Mr. Painter and Mrs. Seltzer agreed to the amended motion.

1. APPOINTMENTS
 - a. Professional Staff

Minutes March 14, 2011

- 1) **Amanda Giannotti** as a substitute teacher effective March 7, 2011.

Background Information: Ms. Giannotti is the daily substitute for Sarah Rugg, Elementary Teacher at WHEC, while she is on leave.

2. SALARY INCREASE

- a. Administrative salary increase of .5%, retroactive to January 1, 2011, as per attached list.

Background information: This was agreed upon by the Board as part of the Total Rewards Program approved September 27, 2010.

3. POLICIES

First reading of the following policies:

- 335 – Family and Medical Leaves – Administrative Employees
- 339 – Uncompensated Leave – Administrative Employees
- 435 – Family and Medical Leaves – Professional Employees
- 439 – Uncompensated Leave – Professional Employees
- 535 – Family and Medical Leaves – Classified Employees
- 539 – Uncompensated Leave – Classified Employees

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Seltzer, second by Mr. Larkin, the Board approved the first reading of Policy 620 – Fund Balance. During discussion Mr. Fitzgerald said he doesn't believe it is a good idea to be bound by the 6%.

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

Nays: Fitzgerald. Motion carried.

The Personnel and Policy items were opened for discussion. Mrs. Bamberger questioned the need for an Assistant to the Athletic Director (Spring Sports). Mr. Krem stated that the position has been filled for the fall and winter sports and it is already in the 2010-11 budget. Mrs. Davis asked whether the person

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2011-4281

Minutes March 14, 2011

has already begun the duties since spring sports have already started. Mr. Painter recommended looking at whether it is necessary in the 2011-12 budget, but for now if the person has already started we should continue as planned and budgeted. Mrs. Helm indicated that these positions are being scrutinized for next year's budget.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Davis requested that if a Board member intends to discuss an item as old business that Mrs. Filer be apprised in advance to allow the administrators to be prepared with necessary paperwork.

The next negotiations session with WAEA is April 14, 2011.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Davis made a recommendation to have a former graduate speak at commencement in lieu of the Board President. The administration will start the process in searching for a speaker. Any Board members with suggestions should forward the name to Mr. Krem. When possible candidates are suggested, the senior class president may be invited to be part of the selection process.

The Board was asked to appoint a representative to the Berks County Intermediate Board for a three-year term from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014. Mrs. Bamberger nominated Mrs. Seltzer. Mr. Larkin seconded the nomination.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

The 2011-12 school calendar was opened for discussion. Mr. Krem highlighted the differences between the proposed calendar from past years. Homework blackout dates are listed in response to repeated requests by a local rabbi and parents because students are unable to participate in family holiday activities due to the excessive homework given during breaks. The majority of the Board disagreed with denoting blackout dates on the calendar in favor of making it a directive from administration to teachers that they refrain from assigning homework over breaks and holidays.

Mr. Krem also indicated that there will be no mid-term exams in favor of a more constructive measurement system during class time to evaluate students' progress. Teachers will be expected to communicate with the parents of those students who are in danger of failing during a mid-year conference in January. Board members then questioned whether students would still be exempt from finals and if so, were concerned that they would be ill-prepared to take cumulative exams at the college level. Mrs. Davis suggested that posing evaluations that proposed higher level thinking skills were more beneficial due to the

WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2011-4282

Minutes March 14, 2011

battery of standardized testing students already receive. Mr. Krem indicated that final exams are listed on the calendar and approval of the calendar should not be delayed by further discussions of the merits of final exams.

Mr. Portner questioned that there were no built in snow make up days in the calendar proposal. Mr. Krem preferred tacking snow days on in June. The majority of Board members disagreed in favor of reducing the spring break for make-up snow days. Mr. Krem will revise the calendar proposal based on the suggestions that were discussed

**HEARING FROM
WAEA**

None.

**HEARING FROM
AFSCME**

None.

**HEARING FROM
WAEF**

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Seltzer, seconded by Mr. Portner to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.

Corinne D. Mason
Board Secretary