

WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORRISDALE, PA
REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 23, 2006

The regular meeting of the West Branch Area School District Board of Directors was held in the High School Library on January 23, 2006, beginning at 7:10 PM.

ROLL CALL Members present: Anna Mae Pezulla; Ronald Mollura; Tom Veres; Larry Allen; Timothy Eyerly (arrived at 7:30 PM); Robert Smith; Mary Ann Couteret; Erling Anderson; Larry Cowder.

OTHERS PRESENT Others present: Arleen P. Multhauf, D.Ed., Superintendent; Paul Carr, Business; William Hayward, High School Principal; Wendy Fernburg, Supervisor of Special Education; Sharlene Yontosh, Elementary Principal; Miriam Ennis, Board Secretary; Jaime Bumbarger-The Progress; Kim Struble; Betty Fry; Jennifer Lannen; Jane McDowell; Brenda Ward; Susan Betts; Christine M. Hertlein; Holly Michael; Lorrie Miles; Shari Buck; Dorothy Gaines; Ronda Hanslovan; Phyllis Gable; Tara Crain; Trent Yarrison; Carlene Houston; Edward Houston; Andrew Brickley; Jeff Ennis; Alvin McCracken; Suzanne Hertlein; Jerry White; Bonnie Fenush; Thomas Partner; Michele Koleno; Amanda McCartney; Evelyn Merritt; Adam Carr; Jennifer Sproull; Gerald Coble; Laura Coble; Matt Johnson; Martha White; Chris Mason; Karen Bosak; Kim Hunter; Charles Howe; Aggie Hubler; Sharon Josefik; Jaimy Buck; Rhonda Trude; Chad Koleno; Lynne Rockey; Jerome Nevling; Preston Raymond; Scott McCamley; Patty Wood; Mike Wood; Adam Hunter; Julie Hunter; Ellen Monella; Jane Catanzaro; Adele Williams; Stephanie MacTavish; Brandon Williams; Karen Kochkodin; Cindy Williams; Wendy Timblin; Crystal Parks; Bruce George; Kristin Elensky; Donald Cassler; Alice Wilson; Randy Wilson; Len Coval; Kimberly Karcher; Jonathan Bauman; Don Zimmerman; Michael Ward; Jennifer Brickley; Sara Merritt; Stacey Guenot; Joe Kovalcin; Ed Hanslovan; Holly Petriskey; Amanda Moore; Lynn Brewer; Allison Koleno.

WIRELESS INTERNET Dr. Robbins – Presentation was given on the wireless internet. Appalachia IU 8, Seneca Highlands IU 9 and Central Intermediate Unit #10, received a grant to bring high-speed broadband Internet and Wide Area Network telecommunications services to the area. The grant was in the amount of 3.4 million dollars for a (5) five year period. Sting Communications received the bid to install the equipment. The district currently pays \$1,283 per month from Verizon. The first year of the grant would be \$1,050 and increase to \$1,370 per month.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

Robert Smith motioned, Mary Ann Couteret seconded, to approve the following motion:

ACT 83 CONSORTIUM 3. Propose the Board approve the participation of the school district in the Act 83 Consortium for Internet and Internet II services for five (5) years, July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2011.

A discussion was held on the hiring of a special education teacher and the lack of a special education teacher in the resource room. Dr. Robbins suggested that the district needs to "think outside the box" when it comes to having supervision for the resource room. The district could possibly create a tutoring center in the high school that could accommodate all students who are struggling. Dr. Robbins explained that the resource room does not require a teacher but could have an aide with supervision by a teacher. Dr. Kerri Bloom, CIU, Wendy Fernburg, Special Education Supervisor, and Dr. Multhauf, Superintendent will meet to "brainstorm" a solution to the problem.

Tim Eyerly arrived at 7:30 PM.

Dr. Robbins discussed the pros and cons of the district assuming the responsibility of the Middle School and High School Life Skills classes. If the district assumes the responsibility of the classes, Wendy Fernburg would be responsible for the billing to other districts and also Access will need to be billed for those students and then the money sent to those districts. Tim Eyerly would need to see figures before he would vote for the district assuming the classes.

Charlie Franson, Walter Hopkins and Company, explained the audit for 2004-2005 school year. There were no findings.

Robert Smith motioned, Larry Allen seconded, to approve the following motion:

AUDIT 2004-
2005

Propose the Board approve accepting the Audit for 2004 – 2005 as given.

Voice roll call: unanimous approval.

RECOG OF
VISITORS

Recognition of Visitors:

Holly Michael - Elementary Librarian: Ms. Michael spoke concerning the elementary library and the current circulation of books. The elementary and high school library are open six times during the summer. One hundred students are coming to the elementary library during the summer and the average child is taking six books out of the library. She teaches between six to eight classes per day. She has a paraprofessional who checks out books and returns the books to the shelves. Approximately 250 books are returned and taken out per day.

Bonnie Fenush - AR Program – This program is 20% of a student's grade. It is very difficult for students who have a reading problem to do the required reading for AR. She feels those students need instructional reading. The AR program is not helping those students who find reading difficult. She would like the district to find a solution. Anna Mae Pezulla would like William Hayward, Sherry Yontosh and Dr. Multhauf to work together to find a solution.

Kim Struble - High School Guidance Counselor – Athletic Policy: The district needs the policy to teach students consistency and dependability.

Sherry Yontosh, Elementary Principal and William Hayward, Acting High School Principal introduced the mentors and mentored teachers, to the board for the year 2005. Certificates were given to the following individuals: Janice Hugar–Jaimy Buck; Michelle Koleno–Kristin Elensky; Sean Wechtenhiser–Jerry White; Preston Raymond–Kim Karcher; Adele Williams–Renee Weible.

Betty Fry – Teacher of Algebra and PSSA Math grades 11 & 12 and parent of a sixth grader: supports the Middle School concept. Her child has benefited academically and socially. The students are isolated from the other students and discipline issues are down in the hall.

Laurie Josephson – Second grade teacher: She would like to know when the keys will be available to the elementary staff so that they can come to the school to work in their rooms. Mr. Carr responded that Lance Bunnell, Technology Coordinator, is distributing the keys.

Kim Hunter – High School English teacher: Spoke concerning the Middle School concept. It has been a pleasant, positive change. William Hayward, Acting High School Principal, is doing an awesome job.

Chad Koleno – First grade teacher and athletic coach: He would like the athletic policy to remain as was previously written. He is concerned about the morale of the team if an athlete is allowed to join for example at play-off time or after the season as started when the other athletes have been through the pre-season process. A committee should be formed to talk to the coaches and see how it affects their sport.

Charles Howe – Volunteer coach: Is concerned about the liability for the district if this policy is changed. In football, the students are involved in a camp in June and two weeks of practice in August. He has not seen team unity as he has seen this year since 1988. If a committee is formed, he would like to be on that committee.

Jerome Nevling – Coach: The athletic policy should remain as is and all coaches should have input in revising the policy. If a committee is formed, he would like to be a part of that committee.

Preston Raymond – Secondary Art: He would like to see the Middle School concept remain. He feels a drawback is that we have one principal. He would like to see another principal hired in the high school.

Jane Catanzaro – Coach: The athletic policy needs to have a positive effect on the athletes. The athletes need to learn commitment and conditioning is also necessary for success. She makes adjustments for students who have family situations such as divorced parents.

Sara Merritt - Parent: Spoke on the unrestricted access that the board members would have to her child. The Board should all have Act 34 & 151 clearances.

Jessica Sabol – Student / Athlete: She participates in soccer, football-kicker and holds down a job. She cited an example of an athlete joining the team after the soccer season started and the effect it had on the soccer team.

STUDENT
REPS.

Student Reports:

Jessica Sabol –

- Haley White has been offered a scholarship for Clarion University to play volleyball.
- International Club went on a trip to Washington, DC.
- Drama Club will be holding the play "Fiddler on the Roof" March 24-26, 2006.
- Tiffany Dixon was chosen to represent West Branch at Regional band.
- District Chorus will be held February 1 – 4, 2006 at State College.

Haley White –

- PSSA Writing grades 8 & 11 will be held February 13 – 15, 2006.
- PSSA & Terra Novas grades 7 & 11 will be held March 20-23, 2006.

Administrative Reports –

ELEM PRIN

Elementary Principal: none

HS PRIN

William Hayward:

- Explained the dual enrollment program with Penn Highlands Community College. Students can earn three (3) college credits and credits are transferable to other colleges.
- The summer driver's education program serviced 58 students. Mr. Hayward is arranging for the students who need to finish driver's education to do so.

CAFÉ COMM

Cafeteria Committee - Anna Mae Pezulla:

- The previous cafeteria manager sent surplus chicken to a company to make chicken nuggets and patties. The district will then receive a discount from the supplier to buy the nuggets and patties. The chicken should have remained here for the cafeteria to make homemade soup. Mr. Carr has not found the contract.

CCCTC

CCCTC - Larry Allen:

- The career and technology center is in the middle of an \$8 million dollar project. The renovations are needed.
- The staff is excellent.

TECH COMM Technology Committee –

Sherry Yontosh reported that the committee is preparing a list of needs for the budget for next year.

TREAS REP & CAFÉ/DIST
BILLS APPRVD Tim Eyerly motioned, Robert Smith seconded, to approve the Treasurer's Report, district and cafeteria bills.

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

A discussion was held on the construction fund. Anna Mae Pezulla is concerned that the light bill has jumped \$2,000 a month since July. The district has spent \$62,000 in the last six months. Paul Carr, Business Manager, is to check with Penelec, Architect and the Engineer. Paul Carr recommended that the district pay \$107,286.92 to Leonard Fiore from September 2005. He also recommended paying Showalter Masonry in the amount of \$33,886.38 as the west wall is already sealed. Ron Mollura is disturbed that the district paid \$480,000.00 for someone to watch the building during construction and there are so many problems.

CONST BILLS
APPRVD Robert Smith motioned, Ron Mollura seconded to approve paying the following construction bills:

Pittsburgh Stage	4836.24
Stanley Security Solutions	813.00
Pathline	2763.71
Siegel Engraving	1500.00
Glenn Hawbaker	106,399.77
M & M Plastic Design	2905.50
Comm Group	16323.80
American Roofing	3512.20
Silvertip Inc.	7644.93
TOTAL:	\$146,699.13

Individual roll call: Tom Veres – yes; Larry Cowder – yes; Mary Ann Couteret – yes; Erling Anderson – yes; Larry Allen – yes; Robert Smith – yes; Ron Mollura – yes; Tim Eyerly – yes; Anna Mae Pezulla – yes. 9 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

BLDS & GRNDS Buildings and Grounds – on agenda

ATH & TRANS Athletics and Transportation – on agenda

PERSONNEL Personnel – on agenda

CORRSPNDCE Correspondence – none

Personnel:

Robert Smith motioned, Ron Mollura seconded, to approve the following motion:

GRIEVANCE DENIED 3. Propose the Board deny the Grievance submitted by the WBAEA on December 20, 2005.

Individual roll call: Robert Smith – yes; Erling Anderson – yes; Tim Eyerly – no (Tim Eyerly quoted Policy No. 002, Title: Authority and Powers, Section 2: "Individual members or a group of individual members of the Board have no authority over school affairs."); Larry Cowder – yes; Tom Veres – yes; Larry Allen – yes; Ron Mollura – yes; Mary Ann Couteret – yes; Anna Mae Pezulla – yes. 8 yes, 1 no. Motion carried.

Robert Smith motioned, Larry Allen seconded, to approve the following motion:

M. EVANS
FMLA

- Propose the Board approve family medical leave for Markay Evans starting on January 23, 2006. Approximate date of return is March 6, 2006.

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Robert Smith motioned, Ron Mollura seconded, to approve the following motion:

SUBS
APPRVD

- Propose the Board approve the following substitutes pending receipt of all necessary paperwork:

Holly Crain – Family / Consumer Sciences
Jennifer George - Elementary
Dorothy Williams – Social Studies
Doris Hudish – Classroom Aide / Cafeteria
Annette James – School Nurse / Emergency Certificate

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Program:

WORKSHOP
REQUESTS

Robert Smith motioned, Mary Ann Couteret seconded, to approve the following workshops:

PSSA Video Conference: Altoona IU; January 13, 2006
Rebecca Houser: Sub – 85.00. Total cost: \$85.00
Christopher Mason: Sub – 85.00. Total cost: \$85.00
Chris Marsh: sub – 85.00. Total cost: \$85.00
PA Federal Program Coordinators: Hershey, PA; April 3–5, 2006. Total cost: Title 1 Program
Karen Kochkodin: Reg. fee – 300.00; motel–238.00; meals–51.00. Total cost: \$589.00 (3 prof. days)
Linda Watson: Reg. fee – 300.00; motel– 238.00; meals– 51.00. Total cost: \$351.00 (3 prof. days)
Sharlene Yontosh: Reg. fee–300.00; motel–238.00; meals– 51.00; mileage – 101.25. Total: \$690.25
PSSA Video Conference: Blast IU, Williamsport, PA; January 13, 2006
Christina Onuskanich Sub – 85.00. Total cost: \$85.00
AT Roundtable: Central Intermediate Unit, West Decatur, PA; January 27, 2006
Susan Betts: Sub – 85.00. Total cost: \$85.00
Adele Williams: Sub – 85.00. Total cost: \$85.00
PA Music Ed. Association Conference: Valley Forge, PA; March 30 – April 1, 2006
Jennifer Sproull: Reg. fee – 85.00; motel – 223.50; meals – 80.00; mileage – 182.25; sub – 170.00.
Total costs: \$740.75. (2 prof. days)
ESL Consortium Meeting: Central Intermediate Unit, West Decatur, PA; February 3, 2006
Bruce George: sub – 85.00. Total cost: \$85.00

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Robert Smith motioned, Tom Veres seconded, to approve the following workshop with the understanding that the driver's education car or district van must be used if possible:

Student Assistance Prof. Conf.: Penn Stater Conf. Center, State College, PA; March 12-14, 2006
Kim Struble: Reg. fee – 297.00. Total cost: \$297.00 ALL COSTS: DRUG FREE GRANT
Doug Sankey: Reg. fee – 297.00. Total cost: \$297.00
Deb Gomola: Reg. fee – 270.00; sub – 170.00. Total cost: \$440.00
Gary Hubler: Reg. fee – 297.00. Total cost: \$297.00

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Tim Eyerly motioned, Mary Ann Couteret seconded, to approve the following workshop with the understanding that the motel will not be paid and the school vehicle must be used if available:

From Disruptive to Self-Disciplined: Harrisburg, PA; February 28, 2006

Van Johnson: Reg. fee – 179.00; meals – 20.00. Total cost: \$199.00

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Robert Smith motioned, Tim Eyerly seconded, to approve the following workshop:

PA School Counselors Association Conf.: Lancaster, PA; March 2 – 4, 2006

Van Johnson: Reg. fee–265.00; motel–197.58; mileage–170.10. Total cost: \$632.68 (2 prof. days)

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Tim Eyerly motioned, Robert Smith seconded, to approve the following workshop:

PANA's Free State-wide Satellite Update: CIU #10, West Decatur, PA; January 24, 2006

Stefanie Sattesahn: Sub – 66.00. Total cost: \$66.00

Patricia Wood: Sub – 85.00. Total cost: \$85.00

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Tim Eyerly motioned, Robert Smith seconded to approve the following field trip request:

10th Grade: Clearfield County Career and Technology Center; Feb. 3, 2006

Cost to district: 2 subs ½ day: 85.00 and three (3) buses

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Buildings and Grounds:

Robert Smith motioned, Tim Eyerly seconded, to approve the following motion:

YMCA
WALKING
PROGRAM

1. Propose the Board approve the YMCA Walking Program in the high school from January through March, on Monday through Thursday, on school days.

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Athletics and Transportation:

A discussion was held on reinstating Item II on page 6 of the athletic policy. Larry Allen and Tim Eyerly would like the policy reinstated for this school year and then form a committee to study the policy. Mary Ann Couteret would also like to see a committee formed to study the policy. Ron Mollura suggested that the coaches should be professional enough to handle athlete when the student comes out after the season has started and should know when the student is ready to play.

Tim Eyerly motioned, Larry Allen seconded, to approve the following motion:

MOTION
FAILED

1. Propose the Board reinstate Item 11 on page 6 of the West Branch Area Junior Senior High School Coaches Athletics Handbook, which would not permit a player to be added to a team roster after the end of the first week of pre-season tryouts. Individual roll call: Ron Mollura – no; Tom Veres – no; Mary Ann Couteret – no; Tim Eyerly – yes; Larry Cowder – no; Larry Allen – yes; Robert Smith – no; Erling Anderson – no; Anna Mae Pezzulla – no. 2 yes, 7 no. Motion failed.

Robert Smith motioned, Tim Eyerly seconded, to approve the following motion:

- HALEY
WHITE
CONGRAT
2. Propose the Board congratulate Haley White for being named Small School All-State in Girls Volleyball.

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Ron Mollura motioned, Mary Ann Couteret seconded, to approve the following motion:

- G.WHITE /
BB COACH
3. Propose the Board approve Gerald White as Head Baseball Coach effective with the beginning of the 2005 – 2006 season at the contract rate.

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Robert Smith motioned, Ron Mollura seconded, to approve the following motion:

- G MANDEL
TICKET
TAKER/SLR
4. Propose the Board approve George Mandel as a ticket taker / seller pending the receipt of all necessary paperwork.

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Robert Smith motioned, Tim Eyerly seconded, to approve the following motion:

- VOLUNTEER
COACHES
5. Propose the Board approve the following volunteer coaches pending receipt of all necessary paperwork:

Lisa Smeal – Cheerleading
Jarrod Hendricks – Football

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Ron Mollura motioned, Tim Eyerly seconded, to approve the following motion:

- FIELD
USAGE FEE
6. Propose the Board approve a field use fee of \$25.00 to be paid when the use of another athletic field is necessary unless under another contract.

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Robert Smith motioned, Tim Eyerly seconded, to approve the following motion:

- BB UNFRMS
PURCHASED
7. Propose the Board approve the purchase of baseball uniforms from Jim's Sports Center at a cost of \$3,000.00. (lowest quote)

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Policy:

MOTION
FAILED

Tim Eyerly motioned to approve the first reading of the following policy:

No. 011 – Board Governance Standards / Code of Conduct

Motion died for lack of second.

Robert Smith motioned, Larry Cowder seconded, to approve the following first reading:

FRST RDNG
APPRVD

No. 137.1 – Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students

Individual roll call: Mary Ann Couteret – yes; Robert Smith – yes; Erling Anderson – yes; Larry Cowder – yes; Ron Mollura – yes; Larry Allen – yes; Tim Eyerly – no; Tom Veres – yes; Anna Mae Pezzulla – yes. 8 yes, 1 no. Motion carried.

Robert Smith motioned, Erling Anderson seconded, to approve the following first reading:

FRST RDNG
APPRVD

No. 140.1 – Extracurricular Participation by Charter / Cyber Charter Students

Individual roll call: Larry Cowder – yes; Erling Anderson – yes; Larry Allen – yes; Ron Mollura – yes; Mary Ann Couteret – yes; Robert Smith – yes; Tom Veres – yes; Tim Eyerly – no; Anna Mae Pezzulla – yes. 8 yes, 1 no. Motion carried.

VISITOR
POLICY
REVISED

Robert Smith motioned, Larry Cowder seconded, to approve the following motion with the addition of the following changes to the visitors policy No. 716 – Visitors:

“Visitors shall be defined to include anyone other than a lawfully enrolled student, instructional staff, support staff, administrators and school directors who have obtained Act 34 and 151 Clearances.”

Individual roll call: Larry Allen – yes; Mary Ann Couteret – yes; Robert Smith – yes; Larry Cowder – yes; Tim Eyerly – no; (Tim Eyerly quoted Policy No. 002, Title: Authority and Powers, Section 2: “Individual members or a group of individual members of the Board have no authority over school affairs”. Tom Veres – yes; Erling Anderson – yes; Ron Mollura – yes; Anna Mae Pezzulla – yes. 8 yes, 1 no. Motion carried.

Addendum:

Ron Mollura motioned, Robert Smith seconded, to approve the following motion:

GRIEVANCE
DENIED

1. Propose the Board deny the Grievance submitted by the WBESPA on December 22, 2005.
Individual roll call: Robert Smith – yes; Erling Anderson – yes; Mary Ann Couteret – yes; Larry Cowder – yes; Ron Mollura – yes; Larry Allen – yes; Tom Veres – yes; Tim Eyerly – no (Tim Eyerly quoted Policy No. 002, Title: Authority and Powers, Section 2: “Individual members or a group of individual members of the Board have no authority over school affairs”.); Anna Mae Pezzulla – yes. 8 yes, 1 no. Motion carried.

Robert Smith motioned, Tim Eyerly seconded, to approve the following motion:

S. EWING
EXTENDED
LEAVE

2. Propose the Board approve the extended leave of absence for Sarah Ewing, Special Education Elementary Teacher for the remainder of the 2005 – 2006 school year.

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Robert Smith motioned, Larry Allen seconded, to approve the following workshop request:

WORKSHOP
REQUEST

Kindergarten Conference: Wyndham Harrisburg-Hershey, Harrisburg, PA; March 6 & 7, 2006
Jaimy Buck: Reg. fee: 285.00; motel – 218.00; meals – 45.00; mileage – driver’s ed. car; sub – 170.00. Total cost: \$718.00.

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

Tim Eyerly motioned, Robert Smith seconded, to approve the following motion:

AGRMNT TRUE GREEN Propose the Board approve an agreement with True Green to maintain the football, softball and baseball fields for a period of three (3) years at a cost of \$2,250 per year.

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

BERKHEIMER
EARNED INC
TAX

Ron Mollura motioned, Robert Smith seconded to approve the following motion:

Propose the board approve Berkheimer Associates to collect the Earned Income Tax in West Keating Township at a rate of 3%.

Voice roll call: unanimous approval

NEW BUS

New Business – none

OLD BUS

Old Business: Tim Eyerly inquired as to the status of the memorial message board. Anna Mae Pezzulla is not sure where the board can be placed because of the water hole in the front of the building. The project will be turned over to buildings and grounds and Tim Eyerly will chair the committee.

EXEC SESSION

Executive Session: 10:10 PM for Personnel

Reconvened meeting at 11:05 PM

Telephone call to Larry Allen at 11:05 PM

Robert Smith motioned, Tom Veres seconded, to approve the following motion:

P. CARR
CONTRACT
APPROVED

Propose the Board approve the employment contract between the school district and Paul Carr with specific terms to be clarified between the solicitor and Paul Carr. Individual roll call: Tom Veres – yes; Tim Eyerly – no; Robert Smith – yes; Mary Ann Couteret – yes; Ron Mollura – yes; Erling Anderson – yes; Larry Allen – yes; Larry Cowder – yes; Anna Mae Pezzulla – yes. 8 yes, 1 no. Motion carried.

RECOG OF
VISITORS

Recognition of Visitors:

Joe Kovalcin, President of the WBAEA, took issue with what he felt were derogatory comments made concerning the teachers not following the contract. The education association has always followed the contract.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 11:10 PM

EXEC SESSION

An executive session for Personnel was being held after the meeting and the Board would not be reconvening.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Ennis
Board Secretary