

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL  
DISTRICT  
MORRISDALE, PA

DATE: March 14, 2012

The special meeting of the West Branch Area School District Board of Directors was held March 13, 2012 at 7:05 p.m.

**MBRS  
PRESENT** Joe Kovalcin, Don Yontosh, Melvin Smeal, Tim Kephart, Larry Allen, Robert Seprish, Gerald Coble, Chad Diviney

**MBRS  
ABSENT** Gary Miller

**OTHERS  
PRESENT** Michael Panek, Superintendent; Tyler Kolesar, Jason McMillen, Business Manager; Lori Bell, Holly Petriskey, Kirsten Maguire, Holly Walker, Daniel Betts, Anne Vroman, Helen Turner, Terri Reed, Tom Reed, Georgette Eirich, Crystal Parks, Amanda Moore, Cheri Cantolina, Jeremy Kephart, Peter Alexander, Diane Alexander, Wendy Timblin, Angela Howe, Cindy Michaels, Brandy O'Hare

**PERSONNELL** Larry Allen motioned, Don Yontosh seconded, to approve the meeting minutes from February 27, 2012. Motion carried.

Don Yontosh motioned, Robert Seprish seconded, to approve the resignation of William Etchison as the Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, with this, all positions in the boy's basketball program will be opened. Mr. Williamson will advertise immediately. Motion carried.

Gerald Coble motioned, Melvin Smeal seconded, to approve the following motions:

Approve Angela Rosselli to complete coursework "School & Community Relations" thru Edinboro University.

Approve Angela Rosselli to complete coursework "Aspects of Educational Leadership" thru Edinboro University.

Motions carried.

Don Yontosh motioned, Larry Allen seconded, to approve the following motions:

Approve Student Government to go to Baltimore Aquarium on June 2, 2012. Approximately 40 students will be attending the trip. There is no cost to the district and cost to the student is \$25.

Approve 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Learning Support to go Shaver's Creek on May 8, 2012. Approximately 18 students will be attending the trip. The cost to the district is gas money for vans. There is no cost to the student.

Motions carried.

Tim Kephart motioned, Melvin Smeal seconded, to approve the activity account for February. Motion carried.

Don Yontosh motioned, Larry Allen seconded, to approve the 2012-2013 school calendar. Motion carried.

Robert Seprish motioned, Melvin Smeal seconded, to accept the resignation of Macey Hamm as Junior Varsity Cheerleading Advisor. Motion carried.

Gerald Coble motioned, Robert Seprish seconded, to approve Patti Wood as Elementary Specials Department Head, pay will be pro-rated for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year. Motion carried.

Tim Kephart motioned, Melvin Smeal seconded, to approve the following motions:

Approve Barb Spencer to attend Step-By-Step Model Drawing on May 15, 2012 at Altoona, PA. Registration fee is \$199; Meal fee is \$10; Mileage fee is \$36; Sub cost is \$85. Total cost is \$330 paid for by ACCESS funds.

Approve the Secondary Life Skills class to go to Moshannon Valley Super Bowl on April 26, 2012. Approximately 25 students will be attending the trip. Cost to the district is \$85 for a sub and there is no cost to the student.

Motions carried.

Gerald Coble motioned, Melvin Smeal seconded, to approve Kevin Hubler as JV Baseball Coach. Motion carried.

## **VISITORS**

Kirsten Maguire is concerned about the book content Julia of the Wolves. She does not agree with the book as part of education due to it containing abusive relationships. She said she would volunteer to read and research books and that the books should be rated.

Tim Kephart asked if she has discussed this with the teacher. Ms. Maguire talked to Mr. Wechtenhiser and told him her son will not read anymore.

Mr. Panek stated that if we aren't here for the kids, we shouldn't be here. We need to kick it up a notch. He told Ms. Maguire we need to go the extra mile.

Amanda Moore also discussed the reading program. She said the kids do not like reading and there is no consistency and they change every 9 weeks. Parents are not told about changes and teachers go from one level to another.

Kirsten Maguire also stated that WB does not go around to colleges and find out what the expectations are. Statistics regarding graduation and how they do after. She spoke to Mr. Wechtenhiser and Mr. Holenichik in September about her concerns.

Mr. Panek commented that PDE now allows us to track STS using PPID.

Mr. Kovalcin said the lines of communication are to be kept open, discuss with the administration and board, not the students.

Mr. Panek also said administration talks to local reps. regarding PSSA's.

Amanda Moore asked if the books will still be used. Mr. Kovalcin replied that Mr. Wechtenhiser needs to look into this.

Mr. Kephart said there should be a committee with administration, teachers and parents to develop and screen contents. But screening needs to be careful and not be subjective. It seems as everyone wants to improve SFA and the goal of SFA is to improve student reading, the staff needs to implement fully. Those that do not feel like it need to re-evaluate their position.

Helen Turner commented that if a child fails a book they have to read it again. This makes a child feel bad about themselves. When the students are at the top, where do they go?

Daniel Betts researched SFA about the problem with the content and sent e-mails. He is also in the process of reviewing books and said if kids never take books home it is difficult for the parents to know what is going on. He also stated that students may be able to read words but do not understand concepts, not condoning program for the "N" word but it does need looked at. He spoke to other districts and suggested a change in series.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ADJOURN**

Don Yontosh motioned, Larry Allen seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Wendy Fernburg and typed by Kasi Woodring.

Kasi Woodring

Board Secretary