

WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SESSION

APRIL 28, 2014

Members Present: Joseph M. Kovalcin, Larry Allen, Gerald Coble, Robert Seprish, Paul Carr, Don Yontosh, Melvin Smeal, Christina Brown, Chad Diviney

Members Absent: None

Student Representatives: None

Media Present: Tyler Kolesar, The Progress News

Administration Present: Joseph Holenchik, Wendy Fernburg, Jason McMillen, Michelle Dutrow, David Williamson, Dave Nelson, Nik Bisko

Others Present: Kasi Woodring, Board Secretary; David Consiglio, Solicitor; Greg Modzel, RJ Callahan, Traci Callahan, Ashley Denochick, Ron Mollura, Karen Bosak, Monica Simcisko, Holly Petriskey, Shari Buck, Karen Williams, Phillip Williams, Deb Liegey, Brenda Holt, Erling Anderson, Holly Walker, Allison Koleno

**OPENING EXERCISES**

President Joseph Kovalcin called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. All present were asked to stand and pledge allegiance to the American Flag.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended board approval to the minutes of the March 24, 2014 of the Regular Session meeting, with the correction of the motion for the Youth Football Shed. The motion was carried 9-0-0 not 8-0-0. Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a vote of 9-0-0.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Ronald Mollura read a letter he received from the District.

Pat Shive asked the board to consider not raising taxes when passing the budget for the 2014—2015 school year.

Deb Leigey informed the board that the Cheerleaders held a Marianna hoagie sale to raise funds for Aiden’s Army, they will also be at Kylertown Marketplace on May 10, 2014, collection donations for Aiden.

Traci Callahan read a Letter to the Editor article that she had previously submitted to The Progress newspaper.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Mark Mitchell, Elementary Principal—**

- Mr. Mitchell was not present due to his attendance at the Federal Programs Conference.

**Joseph Holenchik, Secondary Principal—**

- The West Branch Area High School yearbook, *The Warrior*, has been recognized for excellence and featured in the 2014 Jostens *Look Book*, celebrating the best-of-the-best in yearbook design and coverage for the second year in a row. The Jostens *Look Book* is a collection of spreads and photos from outstanding yearbooks and their creative themes, cool covers, dazzling designs, relevant coverage, storytelling copy and action-packed photography. Along with design excellence, the annually published *Look Book* honors the important role well-crafted yearbooks play in helping schools chronicle the experiences, stories and achievements most relevant to students and that academic year. Our yearbook students are to be commended.
- Teacher Jennifer Sproull was the recent recipient of the Ethel LeFrak Outstanding Student Scholar of the Holocaust Award from Seton Hill University. Her student paper best demonstrated a keen and advanced understanding of the lessons of the Holocaust.
- Mr. Matson's students completed their second issue of *The Warrior Pride* newsletter. The latest issue included student profiles, winter sports, and relevant news stories.
- PSSA testing is complete for math, reading, and writing. Science testing for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be finished this week. Keystone Exams are scheduled for May.

**Wendy Fernburg, Supervisor of Special Education—**

- Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Lute, Miss Graboski and I have met with Children's Clinical Home, formerly the School Based Behavior Health Agency, to prepare for an implementation of the behavioral program in August.
- Our high school life skills class attended Kent's Fest at Lock Haven University on Friday where they performed the song Dead or Alive by Bon Jovi; I hear they did a great job!
- I offered a Transition Training, presented by Mr. Jeff Holter of CIU 10, to parents this evening, although attendance was low those who were present were provided valuable information regarding preparing their children for life after high school.

**Jason McMillen, Business Manager—**

- Exploring options to finance the pending Technology Wireless Project.

**Dave Williamson, Athletic Director / Student Registrar—**

- Spring Athletic season has been rough, Baseball and Softball senior nights are being held next week.
- Attendance Update: High School—2012-2013 rate as of 151 days of school—93%; 2013-2014 rate as of 150 days of school—94%. Elementary School—2012-2013 rate as of 151 days of school—94.23%; 2013-2014 rate as of 150 days of school—95.01%.

**Dave Nelson, Maintenance Supervisor—**

- Will be meeting with the Band Booster Club in May to discuss details pertaining to their shed at the football field.

**Nik Bisko, Technology Administrator—**

- Finalizing Wireless Project.
- Will be accepting intern applications next month for summer projects.

**OTHER REPORTS****CIU #10—**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

**CCCTC—**  
No report.

**BOARD**

There were no voting items in the Board section of the agenda.

**PERSONNEL**

Volunteers / Subs      Mr. Robert Seprish, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Barb Shirokey and Jeremy Kephart to the Substitute Paraprofessional list; Adrienne Burfield to the Substitute Teacher list and Tom Blasko as a volunteer to the District, all paperwork has been completed. Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion and it carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

Summer Hours      Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve District Summer Hours of Operation using a four (4) day work week, June 16, 2014 to August 15, 2014. The summer staff will increase their daily hours to meet their weekly requirement. Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

B. Bedner Resignation      Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the resignation of Barb Bedner, Café Hall Monitor, effective the end of the 2013—2014 school year. Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

A. Walkowiak Resignation      Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the resignation of Andrea Walkowiak, Secondary English Teacher, effective the end of the 2013—2014 school year. Mr. Robert Seprish seconded the motion and it carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

Burfield Sub / White Leave      Mr. Chad Diviney, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Adrienne Burfield, Substitute Teacher, to fill in for Ashley White, WB Elementary Reading Specialist Teacher, while Ashley is on Leave of Absence, effective April 16, 2014. Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

Summer Staff      Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Summer Staff:  
  
Nurse                      5 days - \$1,196  
Band Director          20 days - \$6,038  
Guidance                20 days each (Graboski - \$4,897; Porter - \$5,362; Hubler - \$6,930)  
Librarian                5 days each (White - \$1,393; Walker - \$1,822)

Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion and it carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

Spec. Ed. Collapse Position      Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the recommendation of the Administration to collapse one Special Education Teacher Position (Learning Support), due to department realignment as a result of student caseload numbers effective at the close of the 2013—2014 school year. Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion and it carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

**EDUCATION**

Field Trips      Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the following field trips:

WB History Club / Gifted Department field trip to Philadelphia, PA on May 2, 2014. Cost to the District is \$340 for chaperones and \$60 cost to the student (depending on fundraising). (Information Only: Approximately 22 students will be attending the trip. Chaperones are Jennifer Brickley, Carrie Peterson, Andrea Walkowiak and Mike Hughes).

Class of 2014 field trip to Cedar Point, Sandusky, OH on June 2, 2014 at a cost to the District of \$170 for Substitutes and \$80 cost to the student (depending on fundraising). (Information Only: Approximately 55 students will be attending the trip. Chaperones are Mark Mitchell, Jennifer Brickley and Kim Hunter).

Teen Court field trip to the Clearfield County Courthouse on May 6, 2014. The cost to the District is \$170 for substitutes plus the cost of bus transportation, there is no cost to the student. (Information Only: Approximately 30 students will be attending the trip. Chaperones are Adam Carr and Joe Matson).

5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Fort Roberdeau on May 21, 2014. There is no cost to the District and \$4 cost to the student. (Information Only: Approximately 60 students will be attending the trip. Chaperones are Dan Betts, Stephanie Kopchik, Vicki Myers, Kris Kolesar, Brandon Williams, Jason Bainey, Laurie Josephson, Dennis McCamley and Jane McDowell).

Elementary Bus Patrol field trip to State College Creamery on May 27, 2014. There is no cost to the student and \$42.50 cost to the District for a sub half day. (Information Only: Approximately 25 students will be attending the trip. Chaperones are Mark Mitchell, Allison Koleno and Andrea Wesesky).

Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it was carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

## **TRANSPORTATION & ATHLETICS**

Softball Volunteer Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Ryan Bone as a volunteer to the Softball program. Mr. Robert Seprish seconded the motion and it was carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

Cross Country Uniforms Mr. Mel Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Sportsmans in the amount of \$1,569.50 for the purchase of cross country uniforms. The cross country program is eligible for uniforms as per the uniform rotation cycle. Mr. Robert Seprish seconded the motion and it carried by a vote of 8-1-0, with Mr. Allen voting no.

Mr. Allen asked how bad the uniforms are, do we need new uniforms? Mr. Williamson replied that Cross Country is in the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the rotation and additional sizes are need for the students.

S. Graboski Head Cheerleading Coach Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Stephanie Graboski as the Head Cheerleading advisor, effective immediately. Mr. Robert Seprish seconded the motion and it carried by a vote of 8-1-0, with Mr. Yontosh voting no.

## **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

There were no voting items in the Board section of the agenda.

## **FINANCE & PURCHASE**

Treasurers Report, Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the following motions:

Disbursements, Activity Acct.	Approve the Treasurer's Report for March.		
	Approve the payment of bills for March / April:		
	\$ 6,220.88	Athletic Account	checks 11695 through 11744
	\$ 93,850.31	Cafeteria Account	checks 3857 through 3877
	\$	Construction Account	checks through
	\$ 1,189,701.44	General Account	checks 43341 through 43541
	\$ 1,289,772.63	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	

Approve the Activity Account for March.

Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 9-0-0.

Nutrition Group Mr. Mel Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the contract with the Nutrition Group as the Food Service Management Company for the 2014—2015 school year, with a guarantee to West Branch for break-even operation. Mr. Larry Allen seconded the motion and it was carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

Mr. Coble asked how much money the cafeteria lost last year and what the cause of the loss was. Mr. McMillen replied that around \$35,000 was lost last year due to salary and food costs. Participation is also low among the students.

Mr. Coble asked if Nutrition Group was going to be in charge of the employees. Mrs. Dutrow said the Food Service Manager will consult with the Administration if a problem should arise. When the Food Service Manager is not on-site, the Administration could also speak with Mrs. Laura Coble, she has extension training, background and experience with issues that may arise within the cafeteria.

YMCA Summer Youth Theater Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the rental agreement for the HS Auditorium with the Moshannon Valley YMCA for the Summer Youth Theater Production at the amount of \$4,000. Mr. Larry Allen seconded the motion and it was carried by a vote of 8-1-0, with Mr. Carr voting no.

Mr. Carr expressed his concerns on the price the YMCA is being charged, that it isn't enough for wear and tear on the Auditorium and the bills that need to be paid. Mr. Carr also wanted to know who will be running the lights and sound equipment. Mr. McMillen replied that former students who were trained on the equipment usually volunteer to help during the play.

Mr. Smeal expressed that a lot of West Branch students participate in the play every year.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no correspondence to present at the meeting.

### **OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday, May 19, 2014, a week early due to the Memorial Day holiday.

There will be an executive session held before the meeting on May 19, 2014 for Litigation and Contractual discussions.

Mrs. Dutrow expressed her gratitude to the four officers of the Cheerleading Booster group that have worked through the awkward situation and putting together fundraisers for the cheerleaders. Mrs. Dutrow stated the District does not have the right to direct the organization how to manage funds nor did the District say they could not provide funds to Aiden's Army. Rather, the District strongly advised

the organization that a parent issued a concern and that the donation could be construed as a fraudulent action since fundraisers were originally held for the purpose of raising funds for the cheerleaders. Mr. McMillen attended the officer meeting to answer questions and help them develop a plan to satisfy the expectation. Mrs. Dutrow thanked the Officers for their willingness to work thru the matter and find another means to raise funds for Aiden's Army.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Mr. Larry Allen seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 9-0-0.

Respectively Submitted,

Kasi Woodring  
Secretary to the Board of Education