

WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REORGANIZATION SESSION

DECEMBER 5, 2019

Members Present: Bob Seprish, Paul Carr via phone, Melvin Smeal, Don Yontosh, Chad Diviney, Tom Veres, Christina Brown

Members Absent:

Media Present: Tyler Kolesar, The Progress News

Administration Present: Michelle Dutrow, Nik Bisko, David Catherman, Erick Johnston, Allison Koleno, David Williamson

Others Present: Holly Petriskey, Kasi Woodring, Jim Emigh, Ron Mollura, Karen Krise, Adam Carr, Holly Petriskey, Jerry Bankovich

**OPENING EXERCISES**

President Chad Diviney called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. All present were asked to Stand and pledge allegiance to the American Flag.

**REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

Nominations were received for Temporary President. Mr. Yontosh nominated Mr. Diviney as Temporary President. Mrs. Brown nominated Mr. Veres as Temporary President.

Mr. Yontosh motioned to close nominations and this was seconded by Mr. Seprish. Voice Roll Call was taken for the position of Temporary President. Mrs. Brown – Veres; Mr. Smeal – Veres; Mr. Diviney – Veres; Mr. Yontosh – Diviney; Mr. Veres – Veres; Mr. Seprish – Diviney; Mr. Carr – Veres. Motion carried 5 votes for Mr. Veres and 2 votes for Mr. Diviney. Mr. Veres took over the meeting as Temporary President.

Mr. Veres administered the Oath by asking Mr. Yontosh, Mr. Emigh, Mr. Seprish and Mrs. Brown to hold up their right hand and agree to solemnly swear that they will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United State and Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that they will discharge the duties of their office with fidelity. Mr. Yontosh, Mr. Emigh, Mr. Seprish and Mrs. Brown responded with saying I do. Mr. Yontosh, Mr. Emigh, Mr. Seprish and Mrs. Brown were then seated at the table.

Ms. Woodring read the names for the record of the eight Board Members who are currently holding seats. Mr. Diviney, Mrs. Brown. Mr. Smeal, Mr. Seprish, Mr. Yontosh, Mr. Veres, Mr. Carr and Mr. Emigh.

Nominations were received for Board President. Mr. Yontosh nominated Mr. Diviney for Board President and Mr. Smeal nominated Mr. Carr for Board President.

Mr. Seprish motioned to close nominations and this was seconded by Mr. Yontosh. Voice Roll Call was taken for the position of Board President. Mrs. Brown – Diviney; Mr. Smeal – Carr; Mr. Diviney – Diviney; Mr. Yontosh – Diviney; Mr. Veres – Carr; Mr. Seprish – Diviney; Mr. Carr – Carr; Mr. Emigh - Diviney. Motion carried 5 votes for Mr. Diviney and 3 votes for Mr. Carr. Mr. Diviney took over the meeting as Board President.

Nominations were received for Board Vice President. Mr. Yontosh nominated Mrs. Brown for Board Vice President and Mr. Carr nominated Mr. Smeal for Board Vice President.

Mr. Seprish motioned to close nominations and this was seconded by Mr. Yontosh. Voice Roll Call was taken for the position of Board Vice President. Mrs. Brown – Brown; Mr. Smeal – Smeal; Mr. Diviney – Brown; Mr. Yontosh – Brown; Mr. Veres – Smeal; Mr. Seprish – Smeal; Mr. Carr – Smeal; Mr. Emigh - Brown. Motion failed 4 votes for Mrs. Brown and 4 votes for Mr. Carr.

Mr. Yontosh nominated Mrs. Brown for Board Vice President and Mr. Carr nominated Mr. Veres for Board Vice President. Voice Roll Call was taken for the position of Board Vice President. Mrs. Brown – Brown; Mr. Smeal – Veres; Mr. Diviney – Brown; Mr. Yontosh – Brown; Mr. Veres – Veres; Mr. Seprish – Brown; Mr. Carr – Veres; Mr. Emigh - Brown. Motion carried 5 votes for Mrs. Brown and 3 votes for Mr. Veres.

Nominations were received for CIU #10 Representative. Mrs. Brown nominated Mr. Carr.

Mr. Yontosh motioned to close nominations and this was seconded by Mr. Veres. Voice Roll Call was taken for the position of CIU #10 Representative. Mrs. Brown – Carr; Mr. Smeal – Carr; Mr. Diviney – Carr; Mr. Yontosh – Carr; Mr. Veres – Carr; Mr. Seprish – Carr; Mr. Carr – Carr; Mr. Emigh - Carr. Motion carried 8 votes for Mr. Carr. Mr. Carr accepted the position of CIU #10 Representative.

Nominations were received for CCCTC Representative. Mrs. Brown nominated Mr. Veres and Mr. Yontosh nominated Mr. Smeal.

Mr. Yontosh motioned to close nominations and this was seconded by Mr. Seprish. Voice Roll Call was taken for the position of CCCTC Representative. Mrs. Brown – Veres; Mr. Smeal – Veres; Mr. Diviney – Smeal; Mr. Yontosh – Veres; Mr. Veres – Smeal; Mr. Seprish – Veres; Mr. Carr – Veres; Mr. Emigh - Veres. Motion carried 6 votes for Mr. Veres and 2 votes for Mr. Smeal. Mr. Veres accepted the position of CCCTC Representative.

Nominations were received for CCCTC Alternate Representative. Mr. Yontosh nominated Mr. Smeal.

Mr. Yontosh motioned to close nominations and this was seconded by Mrs. Brown. Voice Roll Call was taken for the position of CCCTC Alternate Representative. Mrs. Brown – Smeal; Mr. Smeal – no; Mr. Diviney – Smeal; Mr. Yontosh – Smeal; Mr. Veres – Smeal; Mr. Seprish – Smeal; Mr. Carr – Smeal; Mr. Emigh - Smeal. Motion carried 7 votes for Mr. Smeal and Mr. Smeal voted against. Mr. Smeal accepted the position of CCCTC Alternate Representative.

Nominations were received for PSBA Liaison Mr. Smeal nominated Mr. Diviney.

Mrs. Brown motioned to close nominations and this was seconded by Mr. Yontosh. Voice Roll Call was taken for the position of PSBA Liaison Representative. Mrs. Brown – Diviney; Mr. Smeal – Diviney; Mr. Diviney – Diviney; Mr. Yontosh – Diviney; Mr. Veres – Diviney; Mr. Seprish – Diviney; Mr. Carr – Diviney; Mr. Emigh - Diviney. Motion carried 8 votes for Mr. Diviney. Mr. Diviney accepted the position of PSBA Liaison Representative.

## **BOARD**

2020  
Meeting  
Calendar

Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the 2020 School Board Meeting Calendar. Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it was carried by a vote of 8-0-0.

D. Consiglio  
Solicitor

Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to appoint David Consiglio as Solicitor to the District for the 2020 year. Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to adjourn the meeting 6:50 p.m. Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

### WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### REGULAR SESSION

DECEMBER 5, 2019

Members Present: Bob Seprish, Paul Carr via phone, Melvin Smeal, Don Yontosh, Chad Diviney, Tom Veres, Christina Brown, Jim Emigh

Members Absent:

Media Present: Tyler Kolesar, The Progress News

Administration Present: Michelle Dutrow, Nik Bisko, David Catherman, Erick Johnston, Allison Koleno, David Williamson

Others Present: Holly Petriskey, Kasi Woodring, Jim Emigh, Ron Mollura, Karen Krise, Adam Carr, Holly Petriskey, Jerry Bankovich

## **OPENING EXERCISES**

President Chad Diviney called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m.

## **BOARD**

Audit Report Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the West Branch Area School District Performance Audit report completed by the Department of the Auditor General and the District's required Corrective Action Plan response. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion and it was carried by a vote of 8-0-0.

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

Stadium  
Capital  
Project

Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the advancing of the Stadium Capital Project to the Design and Bid Phases with the following parameters:

- Existing Building – Full Renovation
  - Expanded Multi-Purpose Room
  - Home Lockers / Showers / Restrooms
  - Coaches Office / Training Room
  - Officials Room
  - Public Restrooms
  - Ticket Office
  - Storage
- Press Box
- Sprint Track – 6 Lane
- Loop Track – Bituminous

Mr. Don Yontosh seconded the motion and it was carried by a vote of 7-1-0. Voice Roll Call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Smeal – yes; Mr. Diviney – yes; Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Veres – no; Mr. Seprish – yes; Mr. Carr – yes; Mr. Emigh - yes. 7 – yes; 1 – no. Motion carried.

Mr. Yontosh asked for the cost of the loop track and six lane sprint track. Mrs. Dutrow replied that the cost of the two items were approximately \$365,600.

Mr. Emigh asked if the track would be available to the general public for walking. Mrs. Dutrow replied that there hadn't been a conversation regarding that matter but we are open to conversation. Mr. Diviney asked Mrs. Dutrow if she would look into the public being able to use the track for walking. Mrs. Dutrow will look into getting that setup with guidelines as other schools do.

Mr. Smeal asked if the restrooms will also be included in the renovated building and not building new ones. Mr. Bankovich replied that the restrooms in the field house will be updated and will meet all regulations.

Mr. Veres commented that instead of a sprint track, we should use that money elsewhere. Mr. Veres stated that to raise taxes every year and instead of saving the money we are looking to spend all of it. Don Yontosh commented that there was no tax increase last year.

### **OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Mr. Smeal asked about making all board positions "At Large". Mr. Consiglio commented on the process to make all positions "At Large" stating that:

1. Board would need to make a motion to approve.
2. Mr. Consiglio would establish a plan to bring back to the Board to vote on.
3. The plan would need submitted to the court.
4. The court would decide if the Board is required to advertise the plan.
5. A hearing of the court with approval.

Mr. Emigh asked if all positions needed to be "At Large". Mrs. Dutrow and Mr. Carr both shared that and change would allow for a better draw of candidates. Mrs. Dutrow stated that the Board has not filled all of its seats during several of the past elections. Mr. Yontosh is concerned that a majority will be from a certain area instead of spreading out throughout the community. Mr. Yontosh asked if we could gather information with the surrounding county schools to see how their seats are held within regions.

Board Seats  
At Large

Mr. Mel Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Mr. Consiglio to start the process of making all Board seats At Large. Mr. Tom Veres seconded the motion and it failed by a vote of 4-4-0. Voice Roll Call: Mrs. Brown – no; Mr. Smeal – yes; Mr. Diviney – no; Mr. Yontosh – no; Mr. Veres – no; Mr. Seprish – yes; Mr. Carr – yes; Mr. Emigh - no. 4 – yes; 4 – no. Motion failed.

Mr. Jim Emigh, in the form of a motion, recommended to table the final decision to start the process of making all Board seats At Large until the January Board Meeting so the Board can gather more information and decide. Mr. Don Yontosh seconded the motion and it carried by a vote of 8-0-0.

ACT 1 Tax  
Referendum

Mr. Carr asked if the Administration was requesting a vote on the Accelerated Budget Opt Out Resolution Certifying Tax Rate within Inflation Index. He stated that due to early elections in 2020, the Board needs a December vote on the matter. Mr. Johnston state that the Administration doesn't recommend raising taxes above the index, so the item is ok to vote on.

Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Accelerated Budget Opt Out Resolution Certifying Tax Rate within Inflation Index as presented. Mr. Robert Seprish seconded the motion and it carried by a vote of 8-0-0.

Respectively Submitted,

Kasi Woodring  
Secretary to the Board of Education