

WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SESSION

FEBRUARY 22, 2021

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

Members Absent: Bob Seprish, Larry Allen

Other:

Media Present: Tyler Kolesar, The Progress News

Administration Present: Michelle Dutrow, Erick Johnston, David Williamson, Mark Mitchell, JR Holenchik

Others Present: Holly Petriskey

**OPENING EXERCISES**

President Chad Diviney called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. All present were asked to Stand and pledge allegiance to the American Flag.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the meeting minutes from January 25, 2021. Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Allison Koleno, Elementary Principal:

- Budget Process
- Kindergarten Transition Meetings
- Read Across America Week

Mark Mitchell, Middle School Principal:

- Budgeting Process
- FID Days
- Interviews
- PSSA Prep
- A-TSI

Joseph Holenchik, High School Principal:

- Scheduling for 2021 – 2022 School Year
- Budget Process

Erick Johnston, Business Manager:

- Stadium Project (Spending Update)
- COVID-19 Spending

David Williamson, Pupil Services:

- Attendance Comparison

David Catherman, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds:

- McClure Contract

Tiffany English, Food Service Director:

- District Lunch Counts

CIU:

- Mr. Carr shared that the CIU is reviewing policies and had personnel changes

CCCTC:

- CTC is pursuing college credits for other classes

PSBA:

- State Level:
  - EPA Lead and Copper Testing in School Water
  - Pending Charter School Legislation
- Federal Level:
  - Possible Funding for School Districts to Implement Coronavirus Testing
  - Discussion of USAC - Erate funding of Redundant - Second Source of District Internet
- State & Federal Level
  - CDC recommendation of Operational Strategies for School Districts

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An executive session was held from 7:09 p.m. to 7:18 p.m. for personnel matters.

## **PERSONNEL**

- |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A. Wilson<br>Resignation | Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the resignation of Alice Wilson, Middle School English Teacher, effective February 16, 2021. Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| MOA Emp.<br>#525         | Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the MOA between the West Branch Education Association and West Branch Area School District regarding retirement provisions for Employee #525 as presented. Mr. Don Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| K. Eboch<br>FT Hours     | <p>Mr. Carr questioned why language wasn't included indicating the MOA wasn't precedent setting. Attorney Consiglio indicated that the language was included. Mrs. Dutrow located the language in question and stated that Mr. Carr's request had been included.</p> <p>Mr. Mel Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Kim Eboch, Attendance Secretary, to work full-time hours for the remainder of the 2020 – 2021 school year due to COVID-19 attendance tracking requirements. (Funding ESSER II Grant Budget). Mr. Don Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.</p> |
| PT<br>Custodian          | Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to create a part-time custodial position to address increased COVID-19 cleaning and sanitizing requirements. (5 hours per day) (Funding ESSER II Grant Budget). Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

FFRCA  
Resolution

Mr. Veres asked if this was a permanent part-time position. Mrs. Dutrow stated that the position was designed at this time to be for two years while COVID-19 funding was available and any extension would require future board approval.

Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFRCA) Resolution as presented and revised through April 26, 2021. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

## **EDUCATION**

Charter School  
Legislation  
Reform

Mr. Mel Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Resolution Calling for Charter School Legislation Reform by the Board of Directors of the Centre County, Clearfield Count and Clinton County School Districts as presented. Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Emigh asked if it was appropriate to engage in politics through such resolutions. Mrs. Dutrow stated that as elected officials, board members represented the taxpayers and as such can and should advocate for legislature changes impacting the spending of local funds.

## **POLICY**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the first readings of the following policies:

- Policy 325 – Dress and Grooming
- Safe2Say Something Procedures

Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-1-0. Voice Roll Call: Mr. Carr – yes; Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Smeal – yes; Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Emigh – yes; Mr. Veres – no; Mr. Diviney – yes. 6 – yes; 1 – no.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the second readings of the following policies:

- Policy 103 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
- Policy 103 – Attachment 1: Report Form
- Policy 103 – Attachment 2: Discrimination Complaint Procedures
- Policy 103 – Attachment 3: Grievance Process for Formal Complaints
- Policy 103 – Attachment 4: Confidentiality Letter
- Policy 113.1 – Discipline of Students with Disabilities
- Policy 113.2 – Behavior Support
- Policy 113.4 – Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information
- Policy 122 – Extracurricular Activities
- Policy 123 – Interscholastic Athletics
- Policy 123.2 – Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- Policy 218.3 – Discipline of Student Convicted /Adjudicated of Sexual Assault
- Policy 252 – Dating Violence

Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

## **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

Surplus

Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve advancing the following items surplus:

- Milk Cooler, Powers, Model: 780 S/S, Serial: BO90980 – 115 Volt/134A, Not Working
- Milk Cooler, Powers, Model: 569 S/S, Serial: D977553 – 115 Volt/134A, Not Working

Mr. Don Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

**TRANSPORTATION & ATHLETICS**

- D. Betts Head V. SB Coach      Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Dan Betts as the Head Varsity Softball Coach. Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.
  
- T. Reed Asst. V. SB Coach      Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Tom Reed as the Assistant Varsity Softball Coach. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.
  
- T. Smeal H. JH SB Coach      Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Terry Smeal as the Head Jr. High Softball Coach. Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.
  
- J. Moore Asst. JH SB Coach      Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Joe Moore as the Assistant Jr. High Softball Coach. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.
  
- Res. M. Koleno JH VB Coach      Mr. Mel Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the resignation of Mariah Koleno, Jr. High Head Volleyball Coach, effective February 5, 2021. Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.
  
- Res. P. Wood Track      Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the resignation of Patty Wood, Assistant Track & Field Coach, effective February 8, 2021. Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.
  
- Spring Athletic Volunteers      Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the following Spring Athletic Volunteers:
  - **Baseball:** Jim Emigh, Eddie Kyler
  - **Softball:** Ryan Bone, Tim Wesesky
  - **Track & Field:** Patty Wood, Mike Wood

Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0. Mr. Emigh abstained from voting due to being a volunteer to the baseball program.
  
- MOU DuBois & WB      Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the MOU between the DuBois Area School District and West Branch Area School District for Special Needs Transportation as presented. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.
  
- Mrs. Veres asked for the explanation regarding this transportation. Mr. Williamson and Mr. Johnston provided an overview.

**FINANCE & PURCHASE**

- Disburse-ments      Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the following motion:
  - Disbursements from January / February 2021:
  - \$44,350.98      Cafeteria Account      checks 4498 through 4500
  - \$767,993.22      General Account      checks 54796 through 54931  
(not including checks 54805, 54840, 54866)
  - \$812,344.20      **GRAND TOTAL**

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Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the following motion:

Disbursements from January / February 2021:

\$7,380.72 General Account checks 54805, 54840, 54866

\$7,380.72 **GRAND TOTAL**

Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 6-0-1. Mr. Carr abstained from voting due to vendor being a sibling.

Treasurers  
Report

Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Treasurers Report for January 2021. Mr. Don Yontosh seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Activity  
Acct.

Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Activity Account for January 2021. Mr. Don Yontosh seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

### **OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Mr. Veres asked if meals were being offered free to West Branch students. Mrs. Dutrow confirmed that the USDA provision for free meals was still in place with the only charges being for ala carte items.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to adjourn the meeting 7:52 p.m. Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Respectively Submitted,

Kasi Martin  
Secretary to the Board of Education