

WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SESSION

NOVEMBER 21, 2019

Members Present: Bob Seprish, Paul Carr, Melvin Smeal, Don Yontosh, Larry Allen, Chad Diviney, Tom Veres

Members Absent: Christina Brown

Media Present:

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

Others Present: Holly Petriskey, Kasi Woodring, Jane Prestash, Jim Emigh, Ron Mollura, Karen Krise, Kevin Hubler, Adam Carr, Dave Learish, Holly Petriskey

OPENING EXERCISES

President Chad Diviney called the meeting to order at 7:34 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 October 28, 2019. Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Ron Mollura asked for clarification for a letter he received in the mail regarding his actions at the last Board meeting he attended. He further initiated comments regarding deficit budgets.

REPORTS

Allison Koleno, Elementary Principal:

- Kindergarten: Transition meetings February 4 and 6
- Child Count: Preparing for the December 1 Special Education Count
- Conference Night: Huge success and participation

Mark Mitchell, Middle School Principal:

- Mr. Mitchell was unable to attend the meeting, he provided the Board with his report

JR Holenchik, High School Principal

- Veteran's Breakfast: Thanked Veteran's for attending the breakfast, 2nd Grade for performing, The Nutrition Group for preparing the meal and students for helping serve the meal.

Erick Johnston, Business Manager

- Audits: Performance Audit completed, and Financial Audit commenced

David Williamson, Athletic Director

- Attendance: Discussed comparison reports
- Athletes: Preparing for upcoming winter season
- Girls Soccer: Won first ever District 6 Championship

David Catherman, Supervisor of Building and Grounds

- Interior: Windows installed on doors
- Sidewalk: Completed and under budget

Nik Bisko, Technology Coordinator

- Backup Solutions: Looking into backup solutions with fellow districts

Tiffany English, Food Service Director

- Pizza Hut Day: Lunches up from 235 to 300
- Up 200 lunches, down 500 breakfast (due to later start time), up \$3,500 a la carte
- Tasty Bites: Special items to try for students

CIU:

- Director Search: Contracted with IU11 to conduct search for new Director
- Staffing – Hired staff to fill vacancies due to resignations and retirements
- Policies: Reviewed / approved second readings of policies

CCCTC:

- Principal: Hired Principal from Moshannon Valley
- Open House: Fall Open House was held
- Motorcycle Safety: Will be holding motorcycle safety classes and will be able to test at CTC

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board held an executive session from 7:53 p.m. – 8:13 p.m. for negotiations and litigation.

BOARD

Certificate
Larry Allen Mrs. Dutrow presented Mr. Allen with a Certification of Appreciation for the many years he dedicated his time to the Students, Staff and Community of the West Branch Area School District.

PERSONNEL

D. Coudriet
Drama Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Dee Coudriet as Drama Advisor, effective November 21, 2019, at a stipend of \$1,619 (as per the WBEA current contract). (Mrs. Coudriet will be replacing Samantha Kephart, due to resignation, August 19, 2019 Board Agenda, addendum #2). Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Volunteers Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Ashley Evans as volunteers to the District, all paperwork has been received. Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

B. Fry
Resignation
Warrior
Watch Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the resignation of Betty Fry, Warrior Watch Co-adviser, effective November 1, 2019. Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

J. Levonick
Warrior
Watch Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Jessica Levonick as Warrior Watch Co-adviser, effective November 1, 2019. (Mrs. Levonick will be replacing Betty Fry, due to resignation, November 21, 2019 Board Agenda, personnel #3). Mr. Robert Seprish seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Spec. Ed.
Settlement Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Special Education Settlement Agreement between the West Branch Area School District and the parents

of student number 8167957594. Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

EDUCATION

Field Trips Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Warrior Watch / Journalism group to go to Curwensville HS to consult about podcasting on November 22, 2019. Cost to the District: Two substitutes. Cost to the Student: None. (Information Only: 8 students will be attending. Chaperones are Carrie Peterson and Jessica Levonick). Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

POLICY

2nd Reading Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the second reading of the following policies:

- Policy 209: Health Examinations / Screenings
- Policy 333: Professional Development
- Policy 705: Facilities and Workplace Safety
- Policy 709: Building Security
- Policy 805: Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Policy 805.1: Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
- Policy 805.2: School Security Personnel
- Policy 808: Food Services

Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

TRANSPORTATION AND ATHLETICS

K. Trude Asst. Basketball Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Kody Trude as Assistant Jr. High Basketball Coach, effective November 21, 2019. Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Winter Volunteers Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the following volunteers for the winter sports programs:

- Wrestling – JR Holenchik

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

FINANCE & PURCHASE

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

Disbursements from October / November 2019:

\$86,079.70	Cafeteria Account	checks 4388 through 4393
\$396.90	Maintenance Account	check 0008
\$363,210.49	General Account	checks 52945 through 52964 checks 52966 through 52972 checks 52974 through 52983 checks 52985 through 52991 checks 52993 through 53038
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\$449,687.09	GRAND TOTAL	

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 August / September 2019:

\$4,184.46	General Account	checks 52965, 59273, 52984, 52992
\$4,184.46	GRAND TOTAL	

Mr. Mel Smeal 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 / Activity Acct. Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Treasurers Report for October 2019. 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 Activity Account for October 2019. Mr. Robert Seprish seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Payment of Bills Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the payment of bills through December 2019. Mr. Robert Seprish seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Van Strien Consulting Mr. Paul Carr, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the consulting agreement with Van Strien Consulting, LLC for e-rate services at a cost of \$3,000 for the 2020 - 2021 funding year. Mr. Don Yontosh seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Secondary Wrestling Facility Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Secondary Agreement with Greg and Shelly Denochick for the use of their wrestling facilities at Denochick Logging and Clearing until the new facility is officially approved for occupancy. Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Veres asked if we had to have additional liability insurance. Mr. Johnston replied that purchase of additional liability insurance is not needed. Mr. Veres also asked if transportation is being provided for the students. Mr. Williamson replied that practice starts around two hours after school is dismissed so transportation is a parent responsibility. In the rare case a student is still at the school for another school activity / event, the District will use a school van to transport.

Mr. Carr asked if we are responsible for the maintenance on the building as stated in the agreement. Mrs. Dutrow replied that we are responsible for maintenance items such as cleaning and sanitizing the mats when practice is over, picking up trash and such. Mr. Diviney asked if it would be appropriate to change the language in the lease from maintenance to housekeeping? Mr. Consiglio stated that maintenance is not a defined term and is fine as used.

ESS Dedicated Subs Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve extension of the three dedicated substitute teacher positions to five days per week – for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year effective January 6, 2020 through ESS (Education Staffing Solution - Formerly Source4Teachers). Mr. Mel Smeal seconded the motion and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Smeal asked if all Board Members were able to attend the December meeting since it was for reorganizational. Mr. Carr replied that he is unable to attend. Mr. Smeal asked if the date could be changed. Mr. Diviney replied that neither he nor Mrs. Brown are available any other day that week. Ms.

Woodring reminded the group that the District is closed Monday and Tuesday due to hunting season. Mr. Diviney stated the meeting will be held as scheduled.

Mr. Mollura continued his comments by stating that since Mrs. Dutrow's tenure with the District, Administration hasn't presented a balance budget. He further stated that the Jr. / Sr. High is in the lower 15% of schools in the state according to Wikipedia and PennLive has West Branch listed as the one of the 50 worst schools. Mrs. Dutrow responded that while Mr. Mollura is correct in his statement that she has routinely presented the Board with a deficit budget in June with many unknown variables, the more important point to make that is during her tenure, this Administration has grown the fund balance by approximately 2.3 million dollars. Mrs. Dutrow further indicated that she strongly believes that our parents and community members would see that as a positive. As it relates to student achievement, Mrs. Dutrow stated that Administration has always been forthcoming about our displeasure and concern over our achievement scores. However, the data which Mr. Mollura quoted is not valid or reliable as it is skewed with option data. Mrs. Dutrow shared that PDE evaluates school district performance by looking at both achievement and growth measures and while we have had our struggles with select achievement subtests, the District has also had very positive growth indicators.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to adjourn the meeting 8:23 p.m. Mr. Larry Allen seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Respectively Submitted,

Kasi Woodring
Secretary to the Board of Education