

WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL VOTING SESSION

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

Members Present: Chad Diviney, Jeremiah Dobo, Jessica Maines (via phone), Norman Parks, Melvin Smeal, Donald Yontosh

Members Absent: Christina Brown, James Emigh, Robert Seprish

Other:

Media Present:

Administration Present: Mark Mitchell

Others Present: Aimee Willett, Stacey Guenot

OPENING EXERCISES

President Chad Diviney called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All present were asked to stand and pledge allegiance to the American Flag.

MINUTES

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the meeting minutes from August 15, 2023. Mr. Melvin Smeal seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Mitchell provided a brief update regarding the recent "Change in Age of Eligibility for Free and Appropriate Public Education" (FAPE) issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). More information will be shared as it becomes available.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held from 6:36 p.m. – 8:36 p.m. for the purposes of personnel.

BOARD

PSBA Officers Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, authorized the Board secretary to cast a unanimous vote of the PSBA officers for the open positions with the only candidates running. Mr. Jeremiah Dobo seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

PERSONNEL

Amend Act 93 Contract Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to amend the current Act 93 Contract. Mr. Melvin Smeal seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0. Voice Roll Call: Mr. Smeal - yes; Mr. Diviney - yes; Mr. Yontosh - yes; Mr. Dobo - yes; Mrs. Maines - yes; Mr. Parks - yes.

Volunteer Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Howard McGonigal as a volunteer to the District. All paperwork has been received. Mr. Melvin Smeal seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

TRANSPORTATION & ATHLETICS

JH Baseball Team Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the addition of a Junior High Baseball Team, effective with the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Melvin Smeal seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0. Mr. Mitchell added that a lease will be drawn up very soon to partner with Kylertown Baseball. There will be no cost to the District.

Booster Organizations Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the recognition of booster organizations for the 2023-24 school year (all booster organizations completed the required annual orientation and financial review).

- West Branch Boys Basketball Booster Club
- West Branch Lady Warrior Soccer Booster Club
- West Branch Volleyball Booster Club
- West Branch Girls Basketball Booster Club
- West Branch Football Booster Club
- West Branch Baseball Booster Club
- Warrior Mat Club
- West Branch Softball Booster Club
- West Branch Drama Booster Club
- West Branch Cross Country Booster Club

Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

FINANCE & PURCHASE

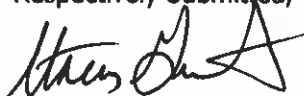
Kindercare Program Mr. Norman Parks, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the partnership between the West Branch Area School District and Kindercare (Champion Program), effective September 12, 2023. Mr. Melvin Smeal seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0. Mr. Mitchell remarked that the District will now start the recruitment process for this program. There is no cost to the District. Mr. Yontosh asked what impact the program may have on the existing program at Gethsemane Church. Mr. Mitchell feels the impact would be minimal as the Gethsemane Program is open to a larger age range of children.

Sapphire Software Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the contract between the West Branch Area School District and Sapphire Software, effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2029. Mr. Jeremiah Dobo seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0. Mr. Parks asked for more details regarding this program. Mr. Mitchell explained that Sapphire will replace PowerSchool. In addition, Sapphire will eliminate some of the other programs the District currently utilizes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Melvin Smeal seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

Respectively Submitted,



Stacey Guenot
Secretary to the Board of Education