

WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SESSION  
OCTOBER 28, 2024

Members Present: Christina Brown, Chad Diviney, Jeremiah Dobo, James Emigh, Norman Parks, Jason Porter, Melvin Smeal, Donald Yontosh

Members Absent: Jessica Maines

Other:

Media Present:

Administration Present: Mark Mitchell, Kevin Hubler, Jesse Husted, Ashley Nunley, Angela Lucas, Branden Evans, Leslie Stott, David Catherman, Tiffany English

Others Present: John Hayden, Sherri Laurusevage, Adam Kerr, Greg Hoover, Aimee Willett, Stacey Guenot

**OPENING EXERCISES**

President Chad Diviney called the meeting to order at 6:42 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 October 16, 2024. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Mr. Kevin Hubler, Middle/High School Principal:

- High School Climate Incentives
- No Vape November
- Veteran's Day Breakfast

Mr. Jesse Husted, Assistant Principal:

- Discipline Update

Mrs. Ashley Nunley, Elementary Principal: no report this month

Ms. Angela Lucas, Special Education Supervisor/Interim Elementary Principal:

- In-Service Training
- Picture Retake Day
- Life Skills Chili Sale
- Canned Food Drive for the YMCA

Mr. Branden Evans, Technology Coordinator:

- Sentinel One Software
- 3D Printers
- Final Marking Period Grades

Mrs. Leslie Stott, Business Manager:

- Raymond James Update
- Linq ERP Transition
- Transportation Software Update

Mr. David Williamson, Athletic Director: (Absent)

- Report Provided

Mr. David Catherman, Supervisor of Building and Grounds:

- Freezer Installation
- Fire Alarm Completion
- Boiler Project Update
- Renovation Continuing

Mrs. Tiffany English, Food Service Director:

- Numbers Across the Cafeteria
- Elementary Munchables
- National School Lunch Week
- Veteran's Breakfast

CIU: (Mr. Norman Parks)

- New Site Search
- Lease Possibility

CCCTC: (Mr. Jeremiah Dobo)

- Acting Director – Mr. Ron Matchock
- New Executive Director – Ms. Melissa Mowery

PSBA: (Mr. Chad Diviney) no report this month

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Representatives from both EI Associates and Quandel Energy Solutions were on hand to answer questions about the Elementary Renovation Project. The representatives continue to work with the District to find solutions to bring the cost of the building project to an agreeable amount. Current proposed costs are higher than anticipated. Discussion continues around added scope and the possibility of simpler systems that are still functional to alleviate costs.

## **PERSONNEL**

Revised Act  
93 Contract

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the revised Act 93 Contract as presented, effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026. Mr. Melvin Smeal seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

D. Caldwell  
Resignation

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to accept the resignation of David Caldwell, Middle School Guidance Counselor, no later than December 16, 2024. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Volunteer

Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Kara Force to the volunteer list; all paperwork has been received. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

## **EDUCATION**

Name Change Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve a name change for the West Branch Middle School Reading Team to the West Branch Reading Team. The club will now include both middle and high school students. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Field Trips Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Chief science Officers (CSO) Program field trip to the Pennsylvania State University in State College, PA on November 5, 2024. Cost to the District: transportation and one substitute; Cost to the Student: none. (Funding – HS Budget). (Information Only: 9 students will be attending; Chaperone is Crystal Gay.) Mr. James Emigh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Chief Science Officers (CSO) Program field trip to the Flight 93 Memorial and Visitor Center in Stoystown, PA on January 29, 2025. Cost to the District: transportation and one substitute; Cost to the Student: none. (Funding – HS Budget). (Information Only: 9 students will be attending; Chaperone is Crystal Gay.) Mr. James Emigh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve seniors to attend the Alternatives to College Fair at the Philipsburg YMCA on November 19, 2024. Cost to the District: transportation; Cost to the Student: none. (Funding – HS Budget). (Information Only: 12 students will be attending; Chaperones are Jennifer Porter and Kevin Hubler.) Mr. James Emigh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the WB Reading Team field trip to the PO Middle School on November 13, 2024. Cost to the District: transportation; Cost to the Student: none. (Funding – MS/HS Budgets). (Information Only: 10 students will be attending; Chaperone is Stacy Ricciotti and 2 parent volunteers with clearances.) Mr. James Emigh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

## **POLICY**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the following policies:

- Policy 113.1: Discipline of Students with Disabilities
- Policy 113.2: Behavior Support
- Policy 236.1: Threat Assessment
- Policy 254: Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- Policy 202: Eligibility of Nonresident Students
- Policy 607: Tuition Income
- Policy 805.2: School Security Personnel

Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the following policies:

- Policy 234: Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students

- Policy 247: Hazing
- Policy 249: Bullying/Cyberbullying
- Policy 252: Dating Violence
- Policy 317.1: Educator Misconduct
- Policy 336: Personal Necessity Leave
- Policy 339: Uncompensated Leave
- Policy 824: Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries
- Policy 807: Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays

Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

**Speed Ordinance** Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the ordinance between the West Branch Area School District and Morris Township establishing a special school zone speed limitation along the Allport Cutoff in front of the West Branch Area School District. Mr. Melvin Smeal seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

**Walking Program** Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve using the High School facility for a Community Walking program, effective November 4, 2024, through April 24, 2025 (Monday to Thursday 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion. After some discussion, noting that moving forward with the walking program could be a safety risk with the pending elementary renovation, Mr. Yontosh withdrew his original motion. Mr. Parks did not withdraw his motion. Without a second to the motion by Mr. Parks, the motion failed.

Mr. James Emigh, in the form of a motion, recommended to suspend the Community Walking Program in the High School Facility until the elementary renovation project has reached completion. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-2-0. Voice Roll Call: Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Dobo – yes; Mr. Port – yes; Mr. Diviney – yes; Mr. Parks – no; Mr. Smeal – no; Mr. Emigh – yes; Mrs. Brown – yes; 6 – yes; 2 – no.

## **TRANSPORTATION & ATHLETICS**

**Driver Sones** Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve moving Terry Pritchard to the active driver list for Sones Transportation, Inc. Mr. Pritchard was a previously active driver, and all paperwork is up to date. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

**Booster Organization** Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the recognition of booster organizations for the 2024-25 school year (all booster organizations completed the required annual orientation and financial review).

- West Branch Boys Basketball Booster Club

Mr. James Emigh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

**Girls Basketball Coach** Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Madison Otto as the Varsity Girls Basketball Coach. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

**Asst. Varsity Girls Softball Coach** Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the transfer Kyle Eyerly to Assistant Varsity Girls Softball Coach. (Mr. Eyerly was previously the

Head Junior High Softball Coach.) Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

**P. Bumbarger Resignation** Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to accept the resignation of Parker Bumbarger, Assistant Junior High Head Wrestling Coach, effective October 9, 2024. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

**T. McDowell Resignation** Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to accept the resignation of Travis McDowell, Head Junior High Baseball Coach, effective October 9, 2024. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

**M. Dixon Resignation** Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to accept the resignation of Michael Dixon, Assistant Junior High Softball Coach, effective September 23, 2024. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

**Winter Volunteers** Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the following winter athletic volunteers, all paperwork has been received:

- Boys Basketball: Eric McCracken, Chad Koleno, Kody Trude
- Wrestling: Steve Sudik, Ronnie Garbinsky, Kaleb Quick, Parker Bumbarger, George Yingling, Gary Yingling, Landon Bainey
- Girls Basketball: Katelyn Ward, Mariah Koleno, and Terry Smeal, III, Justin Koleno

Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

## **FINANCE AND PURCHASE**

**Disbursements** Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the following Disbursements:

\$ 73,106.07	Cafeteria Fund Bills Dated 10/29/24	Checks 4748 through 4753
\$ 13,925.82	Visa 9/30/24 Invoices	
\$ 2,042,663.30	General Account (9/18/24 - 10/29/24)	Checks 60694 through 60858
\$ 2,129,695.19	<b>Grand Total</b>	

Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

**Treasurer's Report** Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Treasurer's Report for September 2024. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

**Activity Acct.** Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Activity Accounts for July 2024 (corrected) and September 2024. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

**Reading Service Contract** Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Reading Service Contract as presented between the West Branch Elementary School and Rene Oakman, Orton-Gillingham & EBLI Certified Reading Tutor. Contract to commence on October 29, 2024, through May 30, 2025. Mr. Melvin Smeal seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

**Payment Application** Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve payment application #3 (\$140,219.05) to Quandel Construction Group, LLC for work on

the Boiler Upgrade Project (to be paid out of bond funds). Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Engineering Costs Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve \$167,731.38 for engineering costs from EI Associates for the Renovation Project (to be paid out of bond funds). Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

eRate Funding Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Van Strein Consulting, L.L.C. for the 2025-2026 eRate Funding year at a rate of \$3,000. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Exonerations Mr. Melvin Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the following per capita exonerations (totaling \$310.00):

Township	Number of Exonerations:
Cooper	
Graham	32
Morris	1
Karthus	2
West Keating	

Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

#### **OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Mr. Diviney shared with the Board that the District has received a very generous book donation to the Middle/High School library from Minerva Saggese in memory of the late Ben Saggese. The Board thanks Mrs. Saggese.

Mrs. Brown revisited the District looking into metal detectors for our building. She feels this is the prime time to address this issue. Mr. Mitchell will be visiting neighboring districts to examine their equipment and explore our options. He noted that we want to ensure that we will get a good quality product and will explore getting demonstrations of available products. There may also be grants to help with the purchase of this equipment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Following adjournment, the Board held an executive session to address litigation.

Respectively Submitted,



Stacey Guenot  
Secretary to the Board of Education