

WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REORGANIZATION SESSION

DECEMBER 5, 2024

Members Present: Christina Brown, Chad Diviney, Jeremiah Dobo, James Emigh, Jessica Maines (via phone), Norman Parks, Jason Porter, Donald Yontosh

Members Absent: Melvin Smeal

Media Present: Tyler Kolesar, The Progress

Administration Present: Mark Mitchell, Jesse Husted, Ashley Nunley, Angela Lucas, Branden Evans, Leslie Stott, David Williamson

Others Present: Justin O'Connor, Joseph Wilson, Stephanie MacTavish, Glenn MacTavish, Sherri Laurusevage (via zoom), Adam Kerr (via zoom), John Hayden (via Zoom), Aimee Willett, Stacey Guenot

OPENING EXERCISES

President Chad Diviney called the meeting to order at 7:47 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. Donald Yontosh nominated Mr. Norman Parks as Temporary President. The motion was carried by a vote of 8-0-0. Voice Roll Call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Diviney – yes; Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Porter – yes; Mr. Dobo – yes; Mr. Emigh – yes; Mrs. Maines – yes; Mr. Parks – yes. 8 – yes; 0 – no.

Method of nomination was determined for Board President and Vice President. Mr. Jeremiah Dobo motioned to nominate Board President and Vice-President from the floor. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Nominations were received for Board President. Mr. Donald Yontosh nominated Mr. Chad Diviney for Board President.

Mr. James Emigh motioned to close nominations, and it was seconded by Mr. Donald Yontosh. The motion carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Mr. Donald Yontosh motioned to elect Mr. Chad Diviney as Board President. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0. Voice Roll Call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Diviney – yes; Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Porter – yes; Mr. Dobo – yes; Mr. Emigh – yes; Mrs. Maines – yes; Mr. Parks – yes. 8 – yes; 0 – no.

Nominations were received for Board Vice-President. Mr. Donald Yontosh nominated Mrs. Christina Brown for Board Vice-President.

Mr. James Emigh motioned to close nominations, and this was seconded by Mr. Donald Yontosh. The motion carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Mr. Donald Yontosh motioned to elect Mrs. Christina Brown as Board Vice-President. Mr. James Emigh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0. Voice Roll Call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Diviney – yes; Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Porter – yes; Mr. Dobo – yes; Mr. Emigh – yes; Mrs. Maines – yes; Mr. Parks – yes. 8 – yes; 0 – no.

Mr. Chad Diviney took over the meeting as Board President.

Nominations were received for CIU #10 Representative. Mr. Donald Yontosh nominated Mr. Norman Parks to serve as CIU #10 Representative.

Mrs. Christina Brown motioned to close nominations, and it was seconded by Mr. Jeremiah Dobo. The motion carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Mrs. Christina Brown motioned to appoint Mr. Norman Parks as the CIU #10 representative for 2025. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Nominations were received for CCCTC Representative. Mr. Donald Yontosh nominated Mr. Jeremiah Dobo. Mr. Jeremiah Dobo declined the nomination. Mr. Jeremiah Dobo nominated Mr. Jason Porter.

Mr. Donald Yontosh motioned to close nominations, and it was seconded by Mr. Norman Parks. The motion carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Mr. Donald Yontosh motioned to appoint Mr. Jason Porter as CCCTC Representative for 2025. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Nominations were received for CCCTC Alternative Representative. Mrs. Christina Brown nominated Mr. Jeremiah Dobo to serve as CCCTC Alternative Representative.

Mrs. Christina Brown motioned to close nominations, and it was seconded by Mr. Donald Yontosh. The motion carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Mrs. Christina Brown motioned to appoint Mr. Jeremiah Dobo as CCCTC Alternate Representative for 2025. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Nominations were received for PSBA Liaison. Mr. Donald Yontosh nominated Mr. Chad Diviney.

Mr. James Emigh motioned to close nominations, and it was seconded by Mr. Donald Yontosh. The motion carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Mrs. Christina Brown motioned to appoint Mr. Chad Diviney as PSBA Liaison Representative for 2025. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

BOARD

2025
Meeting
Calendar

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the 2025 School Board Meeting Calendar. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried by a vote of 8-0-0.

Aimee
Willett
Solicitor

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to appoint Aimee Willett Law Office as Solicitor to the District for the 2025 year. Mrs. Christina Brown 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 8:02 p.m. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

The Board then moved to the regular voting session.

WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SESSION

DECEMBER 5, 2024

Members Present: Christina Brown, Chad Diviney, Jeremiah Dobo, James Emigh, Jessica Maines (via phone), Norman Parks, Jason Porter, Donald Yontosh

Members Absent: Melvin Smeal

Media Present: Tyler Kolesar, The Progress

Administration Present: Mark Mitchell, Jesse Husted, Ashley Nunley, Angela Lucas, Branden Evans, Leslie Stott, David Williamson

Others Present: Justin O'Connor, Joseph Wilson, Stephanie MacTavish, Glenn MacTavish, Sherri Laurusevage (via zoom), Adam Kerr (via zoom), John Hayden (via Zoom), Aimee Willett, Stacey Guenot

OPENING EXERCISES

President Chad Diviney called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the meeting minutes from November 18, 2024. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held from 8:04 p.m. until 8:31 p.m. for litigation and personnel purposes.

PERSONNEL

WBEA
Contract

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve and adopt the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the West Branch Area School District and the West Branch Education Association effective July 1, 2025—June 30, 2030. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0. Voice Roll Call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Diviney – yes; Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Porter – yes; Mr. Dobo – yes; Mr. Emigh – yes; Mrs. Maines – yes; Mr. Parks – yes. 8 – yes; 0 – no.

T. Bickel
Resignation

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to accept the resignation of Tina Bickel, Learning Support and Gifted Support Teacher, no later than January 30, 2025. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0. The Board conveyed that Mrs. Bickel will be missed and thanked her for her years at West Branch.

MS/HS Café
Monitor/Para

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Lisa Green as Middle/High School Cafeteria Monitor/Instructional paraprofessional, tentative start date is December 9, 2024, pending receipt of clearance paperwork. Mr. James Emigh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Elem Café
Monitor/Para

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Bethany Trude as Elementary School Cafeteria Monitor/Instructional Paraprofessional, start date pending receipt of clearance paperwork. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

MOU WBEA

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the West Branch Area School District and the West Branch Education Association related to supplemental pay for extra duties (Junior High Baseball & Weight Room Supervisor). Mr. James Emigh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

EDUCATION

Amended
Calendar
2024-2025

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the amended School Calendar as presented for the 2024 – 2025 school year. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0. Mr. Parks asked that Mr. Mitchell closely monitors staff attendance for the amended calendar days to determine if this option should continue moving forward. Mr. Mitchell will keep the Board updated.

Field Trips

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Middle and High School Life Skills class shopping trip to State College during the week of December 9, 2024. Cost to the District: van transportation; Cost to the Student: none. (Funding – MS/HS Budgets) (Information Only: 7 students will be attending. Chaperones are Erin Liegey, Rhonda Bailor, Kim Chelton, Ashlee Porter, Sue Maguire, Ryenne Burns, Amanda Harris, Danielle Gregory, and Angela Lucas.) 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 Elementary, Middle, and High School Life Skills class trips to the Clearfield YMCA on the third Friday of every month. Cost to the District: transportation; Cost to the Student: none. (Funding – MS/HS Budgets) (Information Only: 19 students will be attending. Chaperones are Erin Liegey, Mark Norris, Rhonda Bailor, Kim Chelton, Ashlee Porter, Sue Maguire, Lindsey Koleno, Corrinna Gunter, Ryenne Burns, Taylor Maney, and Jamie McCracken.) 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 8th Grade Guidance trip to the Clearfield County Career and Technology Center (CCCTC) on March 18, 2025. Cost to the District: transportation; Cost to the Student: none. (Funding – MS Budget) (Information Only: 67 students will be attending. Chaperones are Shayne McCusker, Ashley Nines, Brande Plyler, Dan Socash, and Joe Matson.) 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 Middle and High School Gifted Support trip to Philipsburg-Osceola, Curwensville, and Bald Eagle Area School Districts on December 16-17, 2024. Cost to the District: van transportation; Cost to the Student: money for lunch. (Funding – MS/HS Budgets) (Information Only: 20 students will be attending. Chaperone is Tina Bickel.) Mr. James Emigh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Propane Bid

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to accept the bid from JJ Powell, Inc., in the amount of \$1.399 per gallon for the first 10,000 gallons of propane and \$1.499 per gallon for up to an additional 10,000 gallons of propane. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0. Voice Roll Call: Mrs. Brown – abstained; Mr. Diviney – yes; Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Porter – yes; Mr. Dobo – yes; Mr. Emigh – yes; Mrs. Maines – yes; Mr. Parks – yes. 7 – yes; 0 – no.

Mr. Norman Parks, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Resolution for West Branch Elementary School Alterations and Additions. Details are as follows: BE IT RESOLVED that the West Branch Area School District hereby authorizes to approve and award the following public bids for the project known as West Branch Elementary School Alterations and Additions, indicating the acceptance of the responsible low-bid contracts and approved alternate bid items, to award the following construction contract for the project known as West Branch Elementary School Alterations and Additions, contingent upon receipt of bonds, insurance, and necessary agency approvals.

General Trades – (J.C. Orr & Son, Inc.) accept Base Bid of \$14,749,809.00 and accept the Alternates:
G-1 Remove and Replace Existing Entrance Canopy for an addition of \$300,000.00
G-2 New Canopies at Pre-School and Bus Drop-off Entrances for an addition of \$420,000.00
G-15 Existing Storefront Filler Panel Replacement for an addition of \$6,700.00
Rejecting all other alternates, for a final contract price of \$15,476,509.00
TOTAL PUBLIC BID CONSTRUCTION COST - \$15,476,509.00

Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0. Voice Roll Call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Diviney – yes; Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Porter – yes; Mr. Dobo – yes; Mr. Emigh – yes; Mrs. Maines – yes; Mr. Parks – yes. 8 – yes; 0 – no. Mr. Yontosh asked Mr. Mitchell if he is happy with the figures. Mr. Mitchell added that after much work he is confident that the district will get the project that was asked for. The tentative start date will be after the first of the year.

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to reject the Resolution for West Branch Elementary School Alterations and Additions. Details below: BE IT RESOLVED that the West Branch Area School District hereby authorizes to reject the Fire Protection public bid for the project known as West Branch Elementary School Alterations and Additions.

Fire Protection – (Triangle Fire Protection, Inc.) reject Base Bid of \$728,870.00 with no alternates. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0. Voice Roll Call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Diviney – yes; Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Porter – yes; Mr. Dobo – yes; Mr. Emigh – yes; Mrs. Maines – yes; Mr. Parks – yes. 8 – yes; 0 – no. Mr. Mitchell noted that he consulted with all involved and this quote was unreasonably high.

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve and accept a Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement (GESA) – Amendment 1 between Quandel Energy Solutions and the West Branch Area School District, not to exceed the lump sum cost of \$13,300,000. Scope of work in the GESA project includes select upgrades to the West Branch Area School District Elementary School and includes complete Plumbing, HVAC, and Electrical renovations/upgrades to the school. Mrs. Christina Brown the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Voice Roll Call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Diviney – yes; Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Porter – yes; Mr. Dobo – yes; Mr. Emigh – yes; Mrs. Maines – yes; Mr. Parks – yes. 8 – yes; 0 – no. Mr. Diviney thanked Mr. Mitchell, EI Associates, and Quandel Energy Solutions for all their work to get this project realized.

TRANSPORTATION AND ATHLETICS

- Driver Sones Mr. Norman Parks, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Robert Michaels as driver for Sones Transportation, Inc., retroactive to December 4, 2024. All paperwork has been received. Mr. James Emigh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.
- JH Baseball Coach Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Josh Lannen as Head Junior High Baseball Coach. Mr. James Emigh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.
- Asst JH Baseball Coach Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Isaac Knepp as Assistant Junior High Baseball Coach. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.
- JH Soccer Co-Op Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the agreement between the West Branch Area School District and the Philipsburg-Osceola Area School District for the cooperative sponsorship of the sport of Junior High Girls Soccer beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

FINANCE AND PURCHASE

- Disbursements Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the following Disbursements:

\$ 361,720.57	General Account (11/14/24 - 12/6/24)	Checks 60961 through 61008
\$ 361,720.57	Grand Total	

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

- Fin. Analytics Quote Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the financial planning analytics subscription quote from Frontline Education in the amount of \$5,157.81. The quote covers the period of February 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

- Bank Accounts Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the redistribution of the bank accounts reaching maturity. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0. Mrs. Stott provided further explanation to the Board concerning the accounts in question.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Joseph Wilson was present for the Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mr. Wilson demonstrated a metal detector option to the Board. There was further discussion as to the options for metal detectors. Mr. Mitchell added that regardless of the detector selected, the district is looking at utilizing Camera AI Technology in conjunction with metal detectors. In addition, there is a possibility that PCCD grant funds could help with the pricing of the units. More details will be forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Respectively Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Guenot", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stacey Guenot
Secretary to the Board of Education

