

WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SESSION

MAY 19, 2025

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

Members Absent: Jeremiah Dobo, James Emigh, Jessica Maines

Media Present:

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

Others Present: Greg Hoover, Blaise Steadman, Michele Erculiani, Shannon Albert, Chantelle Carns, Katelyn Ward, Jeff Popadines, Dan Socash, Jess Popadines, Aimee Willett, Stacey Guenot

OPENING EXERCISES

President Chad Diviney called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. All present were asked to stand and pledge allegiance to the American Flag.

STUDENT REPORTS/RECOGNITION

Mrs. Shannon Albert (Elementary Counselor), along with some 4th and 5th grade students shared the "Bully Busters" skit that the students presented to their peers. These students also attended a conference on the subject. The Board expressed that it was a terrific presentation and thanked Mrs. Albert and the students.

Mr. Dan Socash, Teacher, visited the meeting to update the Board on the accomplishments of the Envirothon Team. They have had great success for many years. Mr. Socash noted the students do a great job. The Board appreciated the update.

PRESENTATION

Mr. John Compton and Ms. Rebecca Swales of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, reviewed the Financial Audit for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

MINUTES

Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the meeting minutes from April 28, 2025. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. Kevin Hubler, Middle/High School Principal:

- DUI/Prom Mock Crash Simulation
- A Plus Teachers (D. Swisher)
- State Testing

Mr. Jesse Husted, Assistant Principal:

- Ramifications of Making Threats Assembly (Ryan Sayers/Chrissy Davis)
- DUI/Prom Mock Crash Simulation
- PBIS Altoona Curve Trip

Mrs. Ashley Nunley, Elementary Principal:

- Field Trips
- PTO Updates
- Staff Celebrations
- Renovation Update

Ms. Angela Lucas, Special Education Supervisor:

- Life Skills Field Trip
- Life Skills Plant Sale
- 4th Grade Parker Dam Trip
- Bocce Ball Tournament

Mr. Branden Evans, Technology Coordinator:

- Laptop Collections and Checks
- AI Camera Project
- Xerox Copier Upgrade
- State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

Mrs. Leslie Stott, Business Manager:

- PLGIT Withdrawals Spreadsheet

Mr. David Williamson, Athletic Director:

- Spring Athletic Update
- Attendance Comparison
- Physicals for 2025-26
- PSADA Athletic Director of the Year

Mr. David Catherman, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds:

- Renovation Meetings
- Boiler Project Waiting for Commissioning
- Landscaping
- Boys' Restroom Upgrade
- Carnival, Prom, Graduation

Mrs. Tiffany English, Food Service Director:

- Loaded Potato Bar
- School Lunch Hero Day
- Senior Sunrise Breakfast
- School Cookouts
- Spice It Up Initiative

CIU (Mr. Norman Parks):

- Building Plans
- New Executive Director

CCCTC (Mr. Jason Porter):

- Field Day
- CCCTC Budget

PSBA (Mr. Chad Diviney):

- PSBA Liaison Report
 - Advocating for State Support of School Infrastructure
 - Apply for the Great PA Schools Designation

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Leslie Stott, Business Manager, presented the Preliminary General Fund Budget (2025-2026) to the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held from 8:18 p.m. until 8:48 p.m. for personnel and litigation purposes.

PERSONNEL

R. Natalie Retirement	Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to accept the retirement of Ronald Natalie, Custodian, effective August 15, 2025. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0. Mr. Catherman noted that Mr. Natalie is well known by all and has done a wonderful job for the last 27 years. He will be missed.
Sick Day Donations	Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve employee number 003355 to receive up to eighteen and a half (18.5) sick days from other employees for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0. Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve employee number 002402 to receive up to eighteen (18) sick days from other employees for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.
FMLA Leave	Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve FMLA leave for employee number 001546 for May 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 27, & 29, 2025. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.
ESY Teacher	Mr. Melvin Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Mollie Neidrick as Extended School Year Teacher, at the contracted rate of \$25/hr. (June) and \$30/hr. (July) for the 2025 summer program. Mr. Donald Yontoah seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.
ESY Para	Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Janelle Hubler as Extended School Year Classroom Paraprofessional, at the contracted rate, for the 2025 summer program. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.
Sub Student Custodians	Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Dylan Ryder and Dylan McGonigal as substitute student custodians at a rate of \$10/hour. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.
Volunteers	Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Amy Gerhart and William Hayward as volunteers to the District. All paperwork has been received. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

EDUCATION

- Project Rapport** Mr. Melvin Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the ELECT Participation Certification to continue services provided by The Guidance Center's Project RAPPORT program for the grant period July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.
- Field Trips** Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Elementary School to attend a show at the Ritz Theatre in Clearfield on May 28, 2025. Cost to the District: None (Elementary PBIS Fund); Cost to the Student: None; (Information Only: 439 students will be attending. Chaperones will be the Pre-K – Grade 5 Classroom Teachers.) Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.
- 2025 Grad Candidates** Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the list of 2025 Graduation candidates. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

POLICY

- 2nd Reading** Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the second reading of the following policies:
- Policy 103: Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students
 - Policy 103.1 Nondiscrimination-Qualified Students With Disabilities
 - Policy 104: Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff
 - Policy 234: Pregnant/Parenting/Married Parents
- Mr. Melvin Smeal seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- Surplus** Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to declare the following instruments surplus:

Item	Brand	Serial Number	Condition	Quantity
Microphone stand	Turner		Okay	
Hi Hat Stand	Ludwig		Like New	
Hi Hat Cymbals	Sabian		New	
Concert Snare	TKO		Okay	
Clarinet	Bundy	400434	Needs repad	
Clarinet	Bundy	11947	Needs repad	
Clarinet	Vito	31884	Needs repad	
Marching Snare Harness	Pearl		For Parts	3
Empty Clarinet Case			Good	
Clarinet	Bundy	960174	Needs repad	
Trumpet	Alexander		good	
Clarinet	First Act		Like New	
Trumpet	Ambassador		Poor	
Trumpet	King		Poor no case	
Alto Sax	Ambassador		Poor	
Alto Sax	Buescher		Poor	
Empty Sax Case				
Alto Sax	Easter			
Empty Sax Case				
Trombone	Yamaha		Poor	
Trombone	King		Slide Crushed	
F Horn	King			
F Horn	Ambassador			
F Horn	King			
Bell Set	Yamaha		Good	
Baritone	Schaller		Good	
Empty Baritone Case				
14 inc Hi Hat Set	Zildjian		Good	2
Championship 14" Marching Sn: Pearl	White Pearl Wrap with hardshell case		Good	3

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

TRANSPORTATION & ATHLETICS

Drivers – Sones Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Harold Burnett as van driver for Sones Transport, Inc., retroactive to May 1, 2025. All paperwork has been received. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

Mr. Melvin Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Erica Wood as van driver for Sones Transport, Inc. All paperwork has been received. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

CIU 10 Transportation Agreement Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Transportation Services Agreement between the Central Intermediate Unit 10 (CIU 10) and the West Branch Area School District for the 2025-26 school year. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

Asst. Varsity Girls Basketball Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Terry Smeal III as Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball Coach, effective with the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

Head JH Volleyball Coach Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Allison Kephart as Head Junior High Volleyball Coach effective with the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

Asst. JH Volleyball Coach Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Regina Jones as Assistant Junior High Volleyball Coach, effective with the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Norman Parks seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

Winter Head Coaches Mr. Melvin Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the administrative recommendation to retain the Winter Head coaches and their coaching staffs for the 2025 – 2026 school year:

Girls Basketball: Head Coach: Madison Otto, Adriyanna Dale
Wrestling: Head Coach: Jason Baine, David Williamson
Cheerleading: Head Advisor: Mallarie Maines, Alisa Liptak, Deanna Grossi, Tiffany Droll

Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

FINANCE & PURCHASE

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

\$ 67,933.09	Cafeteria Fund Bills Dated 5/20/2025	Check 4767 through 4772
\$ 13,627.81	Visa 4/30/25 Invoice	
\$ 4,944,046.34	General Account Dated 4/16/2025 – 5/20/2025	Checks 61628 through 61793
\$ 5,025,607.24	Grand Total	

Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

Treasurer's Report Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Treasurer's Report for April 2025. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

Activity Acct. Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Activity Account for April 2025. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

AD&D Insurance	Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended the approval of Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance coverage with National Insurance Services for July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, at no rate increase. Current rate per \$1,000 of covered payroll is \$0.13 (Life (\$0.11 and AD&D is \$0.02). Policy is underwritten by Madison Life Insurance Company, Inc. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.
Mail Ballots CCCTC	Mr. Melvin Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to accept the mail ballot method for approving the Clearfield County Career and Technology Center 2025-2026 General Fund Budget. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with vote of 6-0-0.
CCCTC Budget	Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Clearfield County Career and Technology Center General Fund Budget for the 2025-2026 school year. (Roll Call Vote/Complete Individual Ballot). Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0. Voice Roll Call: Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Porter – yes; Mr. Diviney – yes; Mr. Parks – yes; Mr. Smeal – yes; Mrs. Brown – yes. 6 – yes; 0 – no.
Asbestos Abatement	Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the change order for additional abatement in the amount of \$14,400.00 as part of asbestos abatement as it relates to the Elementary Renovation Project. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.
Nutrition Group Contract	Mr. Melvin Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve 2025-2026 renewal contract between the West Branch Area School District and The Nutrition Group to serve as the Food Service Management Company for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.
Payment QES	Mrs. Christina Brown, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve payment application #5 – May 2025 in the amount of \$870,091.49 to Quandel Construction Group, LLC as it relates to the Renovation Project (to be paid out of bond funds as detailed in the GESA Agreement). Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.
New Story Services Agreement	Mr. Melvin Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Services Agreement between the West Branch Area School District and New Story (State College) for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.
Penn State Health Agreement	Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Athletic Team Physician Services Contract between the West Branch Area School District and Penn State Health beginning July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2026. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

Mr. Norman Parks, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Preliminary General Fund Budget for the 2025-2026 school year. Providing a total budgeted revenue of \$22,562,080 and total budget expenditures of \$22,952,524 with a preliminary budget deficit of \$390,444 and implementing the following tax rates:

- 60.9 mills (increase of 1.77 mills) for Clearfield County and 14.76 mills (increase of .43 mills) for Clinton County
- \$5.00 Per Capita (Section 679 School Code)
- \$5.00 Per Capita (Act 511)
- \$10.00 Occupation Tax (Act 511)
- \$10.00 Local Service / Occupational Privilege Tax
- 1.0% Earned Income Tax (shared evenly with municipalities, Act 511)
- 1.0% Real Estate Transfer Tax (shared evenly with municipalities, Act 511)

Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

Voice Roll Call: Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Porter – yes; Mr. Diviney – yes; Mr. Parks – yes; Mr. Smeal – yes; Mrs. Brown – yes. 6 – yes; 0 – no.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Mitchell shared the calendar outlining events of the Warrior Band for the upcoming year.

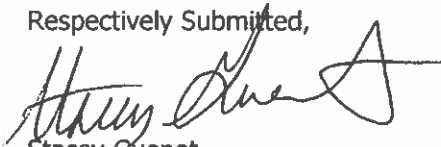
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. Mrs. Christina Brown seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held following adjournment for the purpose of personnel.

Respectively Submitted,



Stacey Guenot
Secretary to the Board of Education

