

# WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-5958

## Minutes February 22, 2021

The regular meeting with committee reports of the Board of School Directors convened at 6:01 p.m. via Zoom with Mrs. Maria Ziolkowski, Board President, presiding.

### CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, Mrs. Ziolkowski asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. Mr. Arnst indicated he would be recording the meeting.

Board Members Present  
Via Zoom:

Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, and Mrs. Ziolkowski

Board Members Absent:

None.

Administrative Staff  
Present:

Mr. Scoboria, Dr. Woodard, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Arnst

Attendees:

Members of the public attended via Zoom.

### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Committee of the Whole Meeting – March 8, 2021, 4:45 p.m., JSHS Library
- School Board Business Meeting – March 22, 2021, 6:00 p.m., JSHS Library

Mrs. Ziolkowski announced an Executive Session was held prior to tonight's Board meeting and another would be held immediately following tonight's Board meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

### LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Report – Mrs. Taylor reported they met Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Highlights were the proposed budget by the Governor which contained an increased percentage to education, including \$128.7 million to Berks County School Districts. The budget also contains Charter School funding reform and proposes a cap on what charter schools can charge per student for tuition. The Board will meet again March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Berks Career & Technology Report – Mr. Pottieger reported they met a couple of weeks ago, and the main point was the proposed budget of 1.35% which would be the lowest budget from the last 10 years.
- C. Berks EIT Report – Mr. Boyer reported they have not met and next meeting will be March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Wyomissing Area Education Foundation – Mr. McCaffrey reported they met via zoom February 8<sup>th</sup>, and reviewed the normal Treasurer's Report and Executive Director's Report. He reported on

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the passing of former Board Member Joanne McCready, saying a lot of donations were coming in and it was great to see. He spoke about the annual campaign going on and stated the focus is turning to the *Toast* and dates will be coming soon. Mr. McCaffrey shared there were a lot of scholarship applications coming in as it is that time of year. The Student Committee Report from Camille Croft spoke about Senior Day, Parade of Graduates, across all three campuses. Lastly, he said to look for more information on the website regarding the Blue/White party that will be held May 8, 2021.

- E. Legislative Report – Mrs. Harenza reported, at the federal level the Biden Administration is investing \$650 million to help schools test for COVID more efficiently by creating regional coordinating centers to boost our lab capacity. Public health experts are hoping rapid tests can be processed without lab equipment to help get kids back in school. She said the Federal Energy and Commerce Committee allocated \$7 billion to emergency broadband services and are holding hearings directed at the homework gap for students with less access to Wi-Fi. Mrs. Harenza reported, the CDC has issued new operational strategies to handle the COVID issue. At the state legislative level PSBA has warned of a fast track voucher proposal that is being drafted and introduced to the senate committee. PSBA feels this is an attempt to undermine public education and will update more soon. Mrs. Harenza said Democrats are asking for prioritization for crumbling school infrastructure from new proposed Covid stimulus package. Those grants for asbestos and lead remediation could be something we could use for our upcoming construction. Mrs. Harenza stated the Spring advisory day for PSBA is on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and she will attend. She shared that Mr. Scoboria had provided good information about local advocacy coordinated through the BCIU related to special education funding and charter school reform. Lastly, Mrs. Harenza shared WASD has a great stake in advocating for fair school funding to proceed and WASD is one of the most underfunded districts in the state.
  
- F. PTA – Mrs. Phillips reported the PTA is currently working on staff appreciation for the month of May, and it will be slightly different this year. On Wednesdays in the month of May, they will be doing something at each campus and possibly a virtual walk.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Ziolkowski acknowledged the Board has received some correspondence from parents inquiring about the plan for increasing in-person instruction for students. Mrs. Ziolkowski summarized a communication the Board received for parent/family email

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correspondence on this topic and shared the Board had received a petition referencing open communication and clear reopening plan for WASD.

Mrs. Ziolkowski said she appreciated community input and welcomed all to the meeting. She stated, reopening schools safely is a daily focus of Administration and she realizes the general public is not privy to all conversations and Board discussions which are confidential. Mrs. Ziolkowski said, it was stated in the petition, “lack of communication results in the speculation of lack of action”, and that is not the case. Mrs. Ziolkowski said Administration has been focused on returning safely to in person learning for the past month and she has asked Mr. Scoboria to provide a summary update on the COVID Climate.

Mr. Scoboria thanked Mrs. Ziolkowski and said he would share information and updates related to the ongoing work being done by District staff over recent weeks, and next steps related to the District Health and Safety Plan and educational model. Mr. Scoboria reviewed the events and actions that resulted in the current WASD Health and Safety Plan and educational model. He highlighted the Board and District commitment to follow the health and safety guidelines recommended by the Department of Health and the CDC as well as the creation of the District COVID Dashboard on the website and the many informational communications sent to WASD parents/guardians in recent weeks.

Mr. Scoboria highlighted the current downward trend in incidence and positivity rates and hopes that Berks County will move out of the substantial category and into the moderate category in the upcoming weeks. He shared the District received positive feedback as we continue to consult with our local medical providers on our safety plan. Mr. Scoboria said teachers were continuing to expand connections with students and he commended the flexibility of teachers during the challenging weather and building closures. He highlighted the flexibility offered to parents to choose a change for their student model; from Hybrid to WAVE and most recently, more requests to move from WAVE to Hybrid which he said is a good sign.

Mr. Scoboria thanked Tower Health and Dr. Menon from Reading Pediatrics as well as Mr. Eric Esterbrook and Esterbrook Pharmacy for stepping forward to offer vaccines for our staff that qualify in the current Phase 1A designation.

Mr. Scoboria shared that a survey will be sent in the next two days to all professional staff members and parents/guardians as an opportunity for

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everyone to provide feedback. Those results will be shared on the website.

Results will be reviewed and administration will present recommendations and next steps to the Board at the March 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Mr. Scoboria highlighted the tools and indicators the District will use in making decisions. Mr. Scoboria acknowledged the difficult school year 2020/21 has been with COVID-19 and the snowy winter. He thanked the Board, students, staff, parents, and community members for working together to keep our schools open and safe. Based on recent information that is heading in a positive direction, he is looking forward to recommending an increased opportunity for learning for our students.

Mrs. Ziolkowski welcomed public comment.

Megan Lynch – 1310 Parkside Drive South, Wyomissing  
Ms. Lynch shared a letter and requested more frequent, detailed and more transparent communication regarding full reopening of all three schools. She shared parents' concerns of quality of education, lack of socialization and mental stress in the Hybrid Model. Would like a plan of how and when 5-day learning can resume, what steps District is taking, what criteria is being used and what is District exploring. She would like more or weekly updates on the Dashboard beyond mandates, and parents want confidence that children's needs are being met. Would like the opportunity to be informed and heard.

Kara Daly – 1633 Cleveland Ave, Wyomissing  
Ms. Daly requests clarity on reference to substantial category for some of the action plan that Wyomissing has. If that substantial category is through the county of Berks, how does that play a role in us staying open if other school districts in Berks county are allowed to be in school more often than we are?

Kate Cirulli 1437 Cleveland Avenue, Wyomissing  
Ms. Cirulli felt speech did not address what is being done to get our kids back to school. What innovative ways are being looked at to get kids back in school. Highlighted negative effects of Hybrid. Some schools are going to 3ft apart and she is curious to know why WYO is not adopting that same format. Consider mental and physical health and get children back in classrooms where they need to be. Children should be number one priority and she feels that is not the case.

Nicole Wentzel – 1501 Cleveland Ave, Wyomissing  
Ms. Wentzel spoke about the possibility of moving to moderate in coming weeks, and wants be sure there is a plan for the first day in the

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moderate zone. Would like to know what the plan is so we know what to expect when we get to that point in time when our cases are lower. Focus on moving forward, what are we looking at for mental health as kids are struggling and for kids who are not in the best situation. Suggesting for elementary the possibility to have students in classes next year with the same students as this year. Cases are not spreading between the classes. Teachers are going above and beyond and extra effort. Teachers want kids back in class.

Amanda Schwendeman -1829 Squire Court, Wyomissing  
Ms. Schwendeman reiterated what others have said. Daughter's math level has fallen. Shared concerns about classroom time and mental health impact on children.

**ROUTINE  
APPROVALS**

MEETING MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. McCaffrey, second by Mrs. Phillips, the Board approved the following minutes:

- January 25, 2021 School Board Business Meeting Minutes

Yeas: Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, and Mrs. Ziolkowski.

Absent: None.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S  
REPORT

Upon a motion by Mr. Pottieger, second by Mrs. Taylor the Treasurer's Report for January 2021 were accepted as presented.

Yeas: Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, Mrs. Ziolkowski, and Mrs. Harenza.

Absent: None.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Upon a motion by Mr. Redner second by Mrs. Harenza, payment of bills for the month of January 2021 were accepted as presented.

Yeas: Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, Mrs. Ziolkowski, Mrs. Harenza and Mrs. McAvoy.

Absent: None.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

**A. CURRICULUM/  
TECHNOLOGY**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Waxler, and second by Mrs. McAvoy, the following Curriculum and Technology Item was approved:

1. Approve 2021-22 School Calendar.

Yeas: Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, Mrs. Ziolkowski, Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy and Mr. McCaffrey.

Absent: None.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**B. FINANCE/  
FACILITIES**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Harenza and second by Mr. McCaffrey, the following Finance and Facilities Items were approved:

1. Approve Budget Transfers in the amount of \$5,050.
2. Approve submission of delinquent real estate tax to ENM Law Group in the amount of \$682,675.40.
3. Approve donation from WAEF in the amount of \$474.60 for Giving Hope Book Purchase grant.
4. Approve donation from Wyomissing Area Baseball Boosters in the amount of \$3,415.94 to purchase a Hack Attach Pitching Machine
5. Approve BCIU Budget for 2021-22. Background information: BCIU budget reflects a 0% increase over the 2020-21 budget.

Yeas: Mr. Pottieger, Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, Mrs. Ziolkowski, Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, and Mrs. Phillips.

Absent: None.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**C. PERSONNEL/  
POLICY**

Upon a motion by Mr. Pottieger, second by Mrs. Waxler, the following Personnel and Policy items were approved and ratified:

1. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS
  - a. Hourly Support Staff

# WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-5964

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- 1) **Donna Bottiglieri**, Full-time Paraprofessional, WHEC, retirement effective last day worked June 4, 2021.
  - 2) **Kayla Rosario**, Full-time Paraprofessional, JSHS, resignation effective last day worked February 5, 2021.
2. APPROVED THE LEAVES OF ABSENCE PER ATTACHED.
3. POSITION/TITLE/LOCATION CHANGE
- a. Hourly Support Staff
    - 1) **Kelly Jo Vogel**, Part-time Food Service Worker, WREC, 4 hours/day to Part-time Food Service Worker, WREC, 5 hours/day, no change in wage rate, ratification effective January 19, 2021.  
*Background Information: This position was originally 5 hours/day and was reduced due to a COVID-19 clerical error.*
4. TEACHER MENTORS  
Request approval of the following Teacher Mentor for the 2020-21 school year per assignment below:
- | <u>Mentor Teacher</u> | <u>Inductee</u>          | <u>Assignment</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Kara Highdich         | Kristen Quimby-Paskowski | Spec. Ed. LT      | \$250.00*      |
- \*Background Information: This mentorship reflects an effective date of January 22, 2021.*
5. REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR SPRING COACHES AND ASSOCIATED STIPENDS PER ATTACHED.
6. SUBSTITUTES
- a. Support Staff (Additions)
    - 1) **Christina Seyfert**, Aide and Cafeteria Monitor
  - b. Support Staff (Additions)
    - 1) **Audrey Hamm**, Aide
7. VOLUNTEERS

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8. POLICIES

First Reading of the following policy:

011 Principles for Governance and Leadership

Yeas: Mr. Redner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Waxler, Mrs. Ziolkowski, Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips, and Mr. Pottieger.

Absent: None.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS** None.

**NEW BUSINESS** None.

**RIGHT TO KNOW  
REQUEST** None.

**UPDATES FROM  
ORGANIZATIONS** None.

**ADJOURNMENT** During discussion Mrs. Waxler acknowledged the passing of Eve Pardo, saying she worked in the District for many, many years, was loved by all and will be dearly missed.

A motion was made by Mr. Redner, second by Mr. McCaffrey, to adjourn at 6:48 p.m.

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Board Secretary