

**WYNANTSKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**  
**September 15, 2016**  
**Veterans' Tax Exemption Public Hearing @ 6:30 PM**  
**Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM**  
**Gardner-Dickinson School Media Center**  
[Audio of Meeting](#)  
**Minutes**

1.0 Call to Order the public hearing and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The public hearing for the Veterans Tax Exemption was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mr. Lanesey.

1.1 Record of Attendance

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| Mrs. Castle | Present |
| Mrs. Dinan  | Present |
| Ms. Gray    | Absent  |
| Mr. Lanesey | Present |
| Mrs. Mack   | Present |

1.2 Discussion: Dr. Reardon and Mrs. Angrisano will discuss the Veterans' Tax Exemption.

Dr. Reardon discussed the three levels of participation in detail, giving examples of the tax increase to the remaining tax payers. Dr. Reardon explained that the Veterans must apply for the exemption and that the exemption would not be automatically given by the school district.

a. Board Discussion:

Dr. Reardon asked for comments from the Board of Education:

Participation, yes or no / what level:

|             |     |  |
|-------------|-----|--|
| Mrs. Castle | Yes | Mrs. Castle would like to look at the numbers and what effect it would have on the general tax payer. Mrs. Castle asked if they agreed on Level B mid level or section, could they change it. Mrs. Castle would like to see what the impact is for Non-Veterans.<br>Dr. Reardon indicated that the Board of Education could come back to the table and adjust as they see fit. |
| Mrs. Dinan  | Yes | Mrs. Dinan has no preference, as to which level.   |
| Mr. Lanesey | Yes | Basic Highest Level.   |
| Mrs. Mack   | Yes | Level B.   |

Dr. Reardon stated that at the October meeting there will be a resolution for the Veterans Tax Exemption Level B. October 20, 2016 as a result of the Board dialog.

b. Public Comment

Karl Yager: Mr. Yager had questions for the Board of Education on why they have not voted the exemption in and the voting process.

Mr. Lanesey explained the process of the non-binding vote in May and the reasoning for the public hearing.

Dr. Reardon clarified the discussions around the non-binding vote and its purpose.

Mr. Devery: Mr. Devery gave voting scenarios for the Board to Education to respond to.

Mr. Lanese and Mrs. Mack explained the voting process and the majority of the five.

Mr. Devery: Mr. Devery had questions on the increase of tax dollars to Non-Veteran tax payers.

Mrs. Angrisano explained the tax equalization rates and what the numbers were based on.

Mr. Devery: Mr. Devery would like the Board of Education to put together a resolution for next month.

Mr. Lanese stated that yes there would be a resolution next month.

Female in attendance: Stated she was not a Veteran and would not benefit from the exemption. She would like to see the highest amount given to our local Veterans.

Female in attendance was thanked by the Veterans in attendance.

Mrs. Dinan added that the vote showed that the community supports the Veterans Tax Exemption. Mrs. Dinan stated that she would benefit from the Veterans Tax Exemption at every level.

Male in attendance: Stated he did not understand the levels. When he signed up to go in the military, he was ready to do whatever he had to do. His fellow veterans are his brothers. The gentleman described his experience in the military.

Karl Yager: Mr. Yager wanted to make sure the entire Board of Education was in attendance for the Veterans Tax Exemption.

Mrs. Dinan stated that she read in the NYSSBA updates that the Governor added Cold War Veterans to the exemption. Mrs. Dinan asked how this affects the numbers.

Dr. Reardon replied that the application is very detailed and that he thought the Cold War Veterans were included.

Mr. Lanese asked Dr. Reardon if he knew if a Veteran had already applied, do they need to reapply for the exemption.

Dr. Reardon replied he was not sure, but thought that each person needed to reapply.

Mrs. Castle asked if Dr. Reardon could find out the process.

Dr. Reardon replied: He would find out.

### 1.3 Close the Public Hearing

The public hearing for the Veterans Tax Exemption was closed at 6:56 p.m.

### 1.4 Call to Order the Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mr. Lanese.

### 1.5 Record of Attendance

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| Mrs. Castle | Present |
| Mrs. Dinan  | Present |
| Ms. Gray    | Absent  |

Mr. Lanesey Present  
Mrs. Mack Present

1.6 Executive Session

Mrs. Mack made a motion to enter into executive session for the purposes of discussing the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation at 7:03 p.m.  
Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 4/0.

1.7 Return to Open Session

Mrs. Castle made a motion to return to open session at 7:31 p.m.  
Mrs. Dinan seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 4/0.

1.8 Review of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

Dr. Reardon reviewed the agenda.

- a. Mrs. Dinan requested to add an agenda item:  
Mrs. Dinan tendered her resignation effective immediately.
- b. Accept the resignation of Katrina Dinan as Board of Education member effective 9/15/2016.

Mrs. Mack made a motion to approve the resignation of Katrina Dinan as Board of Education member effective 9/15/2016.  
Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 3/0.

1.9 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. August 25, 2016

Mrs. Castle made a motion to approve the August 25, 2016 regular meeting minutes.  
Mrs. Mack seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 3/0.

Discussion: Mrs. Hillis asked the Board of Education if they would like the full detailed minutes or the original format of minutes.  
Mrs. Mack commented that the detailed minutes were too much, but would like to see more added to the original format, as well as the audio recording posted.  
Mrs. Castle presented a variety of minute formats of neighboring school districts. Mrs. Castle stated that she liked the Discussion format of the East Greenbush Central School District. Mrs. Castle left sample minutes with Mrs. Hillis to review.  
Mr. Lanesey commented that the public was looking for more detail and that he would like to see the audio posted.

1.10 Acceptance of Financial Reports

- a. Internal Claims Auditor's Report August 2016
- b. Treasurer's Monthly Report with Budget Transfers

- c. Extra Classroom Activity Fund at 6/30/16
- d. Quarterly Revenue Report at 6/30/16

Mrs. Mack made a motion to approve the District Treasurer's Financial Reports.  
 Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.  
 Motion Carried 3/0.

Discussion: Mrs. Castle reported to the Board of Education that she would be meeting with Belle on a refresher of the financial reports.

#### 1.11 Building Use

| Group                  | Time/Dates                                  | Location |
|------------------------|---|----------|
| Girl Scout Troop #1314 | Monday 10/3/16 - 6/19/17<br>5:00 to 7:00 PM | Café     |

Mrs. Mack made a motion to approve the building use request from Girl Scout Troop #1314.  
 Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.  
 Motion Carried 3/0.

#### 1.12 Visitors and Communication

Mr. Lanese reviewed the 6 communications to the Board of Education.

- a. Communications to the Board of Education
  - i. Email from Amanda Rokjer
  - ii. Email from the Zakarka family
  - iii. Email from Lisa Parrottino
  - iv. Email from Jason McCord
  - v. Letter from Keith Akots
  - vi. Letter from Stephanie Carbone
  
- c. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard
  - i. Kyle Belokopitsky: Kyle spoke on her support of Mrs. Yodis' tenure. Kyle mentioned Mrs. Yodis' dedication to the school, Mrs. Yodis' knowledge of the school curriculum, and the unique situation of the large second grade class. Kyle hopes that Mrs. Yodis stays with the district for many years to come.
  - ii. Jill and Tim Flannery: Mr. Flannery spoke on his support for our current leadership. Mr. Flannery gave his thanks to Dr. Reardon and Mrs. Yodis for all that they do for the staff and children. Mrs. Flannery added that they fully support Mrs. Yodis' tenure.
  - iii. Jean Marie Steffek: Mrs. Steffek expressed her extreme gratitude to Mrs. Yodis and all that she has done for this school. Mrs. Steffek spoke on her full support for Mrs. Yodis' tenure. Mrs. Steffek spoke on the support the staff and students receive with Dr. Reardon and Mrs. Yodis.
  - iv. Martha Ryan: Mrs. Ryan spoke about last year being the best year ever since Dr. Reardon has been hired. Mrs. Ryan spoke on positive qualities she sees daily in Mrs. Yodis. Mrs. Ryan stated she feels that Dr. Reardon and Mrs. Yodis make you want to come to work and make you a better person by knowing them.
  - v. Lori Gallagher: Lori spoke on her thoughts of the current administration and how wonderful this place is. The communication and the openness are better than ever.
  - vi. Sue Czubek: Mrs. Czubek spoke on the qualities she sees in Mrs. Yodis,

- and supports the tenure of Mrs. Yodis.
- vii. Karl Yager: Mr. Yager had a couple of questions 1) Why was the board of Education meetings changed to the third Thursday of the month and was the notice placed in the *Advertiser*? 2) Mr. Yager would like the school and town to link their websites together. 3) Mr. Yager asked why did we not send a marching band to the Memorial Day parade 4) He indicated appointments on the board agenda should have a dollar figure. 5) He asked does the bus driver receive a straight salary or medical benefits. 6) He asked that building use time and dates be more specific.
  - viii. Female in attendance: Thank you to Mrs. Yodis for taking care of her son when there was a problem, gave thanks to Mrs. Yodis for her support.
  - ix: Keith Hirokawa: Keith voiced his support for Mrs. Yodis.
  - x. Karl Yager: Mr. Yager would like to see a letter written to Mrs. Dinan for her service to the Board of Education.

## **2.0 Reports to the Board of Education**

- 2.1 Board of Education Reports & Updates
  - a. Ed Anker: Mr. Anker, Ms. Dyer and Mr. Smith were in attendance from CSArch to present a power point presentation with the updates and projections of the capital project. Display boards will be placed around the school for the community to see the progress of the project. The anticipated schedule is as follows: final SED approval on the project September/October, bid project out in January, Construction contracts awarded in February, April ground breaking, and completing the project in August of 2018. Mr. Anker opened up the floor for discussion with the community.
- 2.2 District / Superintendent Program Report
 

Dr. Reardon reported the following:

  - a. Opening days of school: Mrs. Yodis will be putting this in pictures for you.
  - b. District Goals: We are going to proceed with last year's goals.
  - c. Water testing: Neal Benassi, Sam Beardsley and Dr. Reardon will be collecting the water samples for our school district next week; testing for lead is now a New York State requirement.
- 2.3 Principal's Report
 

Mrs. Yodis gave thanks to those who came to the board meeting to show their support her. Mrs. Yodis presented a power point presentation to the Board of Education on the first eight days of school.
- 2.4 PTO Update
 

Sue Czubek presented the PTO report to the Board of Education.

## **3.0 Appointments and Authorizations**

- 3.1 Be It Resolved that pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following be appointed to tenure to the position to which they have served the required probationary period as specified below:
 

Name – Mary Yodis  
 Tenure Area – K-8 Principal  
 Commencement of Tenure Appointment – 01/02/2017  
 Certification Status – Permanent

Mrs. Castle made a motion to approve Mary Yodis tenure area appointment in K-8 Principal as of 1/02/2017.

Mrs. Mack seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3/0.

Discussion: Mr. Lanese asked if there was any discussion. Mr. Lanese indicated there has been plenty of discussion with all the warm wonderful things that people have said about Mary. Mrs. Castle added: Since she has been involved it has been great. Seeing Mary interact with the parents and staff is all a big part of it but to see how the kids care for her is more important.

Consent agenda 3.2 to 3. 5

Mrs. Mack made a motion to approve the consent agenda item numbers 3.2 to 3.5.

Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3/0.

- 3.2 Approve Sarah Sepp for Extra-Curricular appointment (Yearbook) for 2016-2017 school year as per WTA contract.
- 3.3 Approve Lance Maxon as a six month probationary bus driver, 4 hours a day @ \$16.39 hour effective 9/9/16.
- 3.4 Approval of Substitute

|   |
|---|
| <b>Substitute Bus Driver</b><br>Anthony Ciampolillo |
|---|

- 3.5 Approve shared bid with Questar III for the 2016-2017 school year for the following:
  - a. Meat & Grocery Sysco & Ginsberg's
  - b. Paper Products Hill and Markes
  - c. Ice Cream Products Gillette Creamery
  - d. Bread Products Bimbo Foods
  - e. Janitorial Supplies All American Poly, United, EA Morse, Gabriel, Hill and Markes, Interboro Packaging, LJC, Lusco, Unipack

Discussion: Dr. Reardon provided clarification to the Extra-Curricular appointment (Yearbook)

#### **4.0 Old Business**

- a. Minutes format (Was discussed in 1.9)

#### **5.0 New Business**

#### **6.0 Informational**

- 6.1 Regular BOE Meeting October 20, 2016 @ 7 pm
- 6.2 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard
  - i. Kyle Belokopitsky: Kyle spoke on five issues 1) Open Meeting Law, 2) Dignity for All Students Act, 3) Possible Violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act section 504 Office of the Civil Rights Law, 4) Violation of Board Policy numbers 2000, 2100, 2100.1, 2111 and 5) Removal of Board members by a Board of Education. Kyle left materials for the Board of Education to review.
  - ii. Jean Marie Steffek: Jean Marie spoke on how our school is a special place and that people need to realize how lucky we are and to celebrate it. Mrs. Steffek gave thanks to the Board of Education for granting Mary tenure.
  - iii. Dawn Nardacci: Dawn praised the current leadership of Mrs. Yodis and Dr. Reardon.
  - iv. Kathy Fazioli: Kathy would like to see all anonymous correspondences shredded and not acknowledged by the Board of Education.
  - v. James Karam: James expressed his support for Mrs. Yodis and Dr. Reardon. James thanked the Board of Education for their service.
  - vi. Lisa Karam: Lisa expressed her support for Mrs. Yodis and Dr. Reardon. Lisa stated that the faculty is like family to them and thanked them.

- vii. Meredith Gavin: Meredith spoke on Katrina's resignation and Meredith would like to officially request Pat Gray to resign. Meredith spoke on her trust for Dr. Reardon and the decisions he makes for our school. Meredith gave thanks to Kyle Belokopitsky for saying something about the emails and wants no other child to go through this. Meredith fully supports Pat Gray's resignation.
- viii. Micheline Geise: Micheline gave congratulations to Mrs. Yodis.
- ix. Female in attendance: Asked the Board of Education what the process was going to be to fill the open board seat with the resignation of a board member this evening? Mr. Lanesey replied that the Board of Education will get together and decide what the process is going to be.
- x. Ann Malick: Ann spoke on her full support of Dr. Reardon and Mrs. Yodis. Ann spoke to the Board of Education on moving forward and taking action, to not let the school go back to where we were before.
- xi. Female in attendance: Gave thanks to Mrs. Yodis, Dr. Reardon, the Board of Education, the families and staff for doing a great job.

### **7.0 Request for Executive Session**

Mrs. Castle made a motion to enter into executive session for the purposes of discussing the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation at 8:56 p.m.  
Mrs. Mack seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 3/0.

### **8.0 Return to Open Session**

Mrs. Castle made a motion to return to open session at 9:55 p.m.  
Mrs. Mack seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 3/0.

### **9.0 Adjournment**

Mrs. Castle made a motion to adjourn at 9:56 p.m.  
Mrs. Mack seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 3/0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Hillis  
Clerk of the Board