

WYNANTSKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
January 21, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Gardner-Dickinson School Media Center
Minutes

1.0 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 PM by Mr. Lanese.

1.1 Record of Attendance

Mrs. Castle	Present
Mr. Hirokawa	Absent
Mr. Lanese	Present
Mrs. Mack	Present
Mr. Strang	Present

1.2 Review of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

Mr. Lanese and Dr. Yodis reviewed the agenda.

1.3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. December 17, 2020

Mr. Strang made a motion to approve the December 17, 2020 regular meeting minutes.

Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

1.4 Acceptance of Financial Reports

- a. Internal Claims Auditor's Report (December 2020)
- b. Monthly Treasurer's Report with Budget Transfers
- c. Quarterly Extra Classroom Report as of 12/31/20
- d. Quarterly Revenue Report as of 12/31/20

Mrs. Castle made a motion to approve the December 17, 2020 regular meeting minutes.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

1.5 Visitors and Communication

- a. Communications to the Board of Education
 - i. Email from QUESTAR III.
- b. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

2.0 Reports to the Board of Education

2.1 Board of Education Reports & Updates

- a. Mrs. Hallock shared information on the Questar III Budget Vote April 20, 2021.

2.2 District / Superintendent Program Report

Dr. Yodis is thrilled that Gardner-Dickinson is still fully operational offering in person learning, despite the high level of COVID-19 cases in the region. Even with the post holiday spikes, our numbers remain low, to date we have been notified of only eight positive tests from individuals that would affect our building-six students and two staff. Three of the six students tested positive over the December/January break so they did not affect operations in the building. As a result of the three student cases that were discovered during school, there was potential for 106 students and 15 staff members who could have been infected. Dr. Yodis is proud to report that there was no spread amongst those individuals, and recognizes the staff, students, and families for their ongoing efforts to follow safety protocols to limit potential spread. She is grateful for their efforts to help keep our doors open five days a week.

Kayla Thorsey, communications specialist, shared a Powerpoint, *Wynantskill UFSD Amid the Pandemic Survey*, questions and results.

- 74% of families surveyed were happy with how remote learning was going. The remainder were neutral.
- 95.3% were happy with drop off and pick up procedures.
- 98% were satisfied with communication on COVID-19.
- 79.8 % feel their child is safe at school during the pandemic. We are working tirelessly to change this.
- 81.6 believe the school is leading the district effectively through the pandemic.

Mrs. Thorsey & Dr. Yodis thanked everyone who completed the survey for offering feedback in effort to aid the district in making the Gardner-Dickinson better for students, staff, and families during the pandemic.

Mr. Strang asked if anything stuck out in the comments about safety. Dr. Yodis reported that they were generally expressions by people who needed clarification on miscommunication and misinformation, there wasn't anything that could lead us to change current building protocols.

Dr. Yodis reported on the Budget planning for the 2021-2022 school year. There are still many unknowns on the projections as a result of response to COVID-19. In regards to the School Aide runs, it is too early to say how it will play out. The Comptroller's Office announced this week that the allowable tax levy growth factor will be 1.23% for 2021-22 school budget. Comparatively, last year's rate was 1.81%. This is the lowest percentage since it was 0.12% for the 2016-17 budget. This is coupled with the 21/22 tax base growth factor, from the NYS

Office of Real Property Tax Services, which is .48% This is a bit higher than last year's at .38% . The District Treasurer ran the formula calculations and found that we can only raise the tax levy \$95,533 this year. Last year we were able to raise it by \$119,682 creating a shortfall of \$24,149. It is too early to tell how this will all play out in our 2021-22 school budget. Dr. Yodis thanked district treasurer, Mary Ellen Angrisano, for helping sort out the differences between this year and last year's aide runs.

2.3 Principal's Report

Principal, Suzann Cornell, reported on the ongoing professional development. Heidi Bromley, math specialist from Questar has been able to complete a second round of curriculum mapping professional development with the teacher teams. Teachers have given positive feedback about the support she is providing. A social emotional learning professional development also occurred for all building staff. Questar trainer, Christine Wilmurt, met remotely for 20-30 minutes with every member of the building staff on self care during the pandemic. She followed up by sharing a self care newsletter with the staff. It was well received by staff. She will facilitate a follow-up professional development later in the Spring.

In preparation for the NYS assessments, a dry run of computer based assessments ran for 45 minutes without a hitch. With the assistance of technology coordinator, Anthony Vescio, Principal Cornell administered the trial assessment to 250 students from grades 3-8. The State is currently requiring testing for in person students. To date they are not requiring remote students to participate in testing. Dr. Yodis offered appreciation to Anthony Vescio for securing the necessary equipment and preparing the technology to support the online assessment.

Mrs. Cornell gave an update on the administration of the *Fountas and Pinnell* leveled reading evaluations that are in progress.

A NWEA benchmark evaluation is administered in Fall, Winter, and Spring. The Winter ELA and Math testing will occur in each grade level next week.

During the first week in February Principal Cornell will hold a data day with each grade level to assess student progress and inform instruction for the remainder of the year.

2.4 PTA / SEPTA Update

Mrs. Hurbanek provided the PTA report for the Board of Education. She reported PTA signup day is on, 2/10/21, for anyone who would like to sign up. There are currently 95 members.

PTA Book Fair will be March 3-21, 2021.

Krause's Candy fundraiser will be coming soon.

Anticipate a mid-May booster event.

PTA funds have been used for:

- Replacement earbuds
- Protective covers for chromebooks.
- Yoga Mats

- Lanyards
- Maki
- Umbrellas
- Storage Baskets
- Milk and Cookies in December for the holidays.

PTA will be using Memberhub to replace the current room/parent communication system.

PTA will be hosting a student note and drawing drive for Van Rensselaer Manor residents as a community service project for February.

Mrs. Mack provided the SEPTA report. SEPTA has 27 members. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2021. They will be putting together committees, to address by-laws and other organizational business.

3.0 Appointments and Authorizations

Consent agenda 3.1 – 3.3

- 3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations as per attached.
- 3.2 Accept the donation of \$200.00 from an anonymous donor to be used for Price Chopper gift cards for families in need.
- 3.3 Appoint Substitute
 - a. Delany Long, Substitute Non-Certified Teacher/Teacher Aide \$90/ Day

Dr. Yodis expressed gratitude to the anonymous donor who allowed us to purchase holiday meals for families in need.

Mrs. Mack made a motion to approve the consent agenda item 3.1-3.3.

Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

4.0 Informational

4.1 Regular BOE Meeting February 25, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

4.2 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

5.0 Request for Executive Session

A motion for Executive Session was made by Mr. Laney at 7:36 PM.

Mrs. Mack seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0.

Recommended Action: That the Board of Education adjourns into Executive Session, if needed, for the purpose of discussing one or more of the following subjects:

1. _____ Matters that will imperil the public safety if disclosed.
2. _____ Any matter that may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer.
3. _____ Information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed.
4. _____ Discussion involving proposed, pending, or current litigation.

5. _____ Collective negotiations pursuant to article 14 of the Civil Service Law.
6. X 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.
7. _____ The preparation, grading, or administration of exams.
8. _____ The proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition, sale, or exchange of securities, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value of these things (Pub. Off. Law § 105(a-h)).

6.0 Return to Open Session

Mrs. Mack motioned to return to open session at 9:36 PM.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0.

7.0 Adjournment

Mrs. Castle made the motion to adjourn at 9:37 PM.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Hallock

Heidi Hallock
Clerk of the Board

The mission of our community-based school is to create a safe, compassionate, progressive learning environment that recognizes individual needs and encourages all students to strive for personal and educational excellence.
As a small, suburban school district, rich with pride, we believe that by working together we can: create a dynamic program based on character, tolerance and diversity; provide opportunities for all to reach their fullest potential; empower all to achieve personal excellence and encourage a life-long love of learning.