

.WYNANTSKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

February 25, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99614414226?pwd=V1lmYldHVfJLNWY3U0d3eXNmcGQyUT09>

Meeting ID: 996 1441 4226 Passcode: 791207

One tap mobile +16465588656,,99614414226#,,,,,0#,,791207#

Minutes

1.0 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mr. Lanesey. Mr. Lanesey asked for a Moment of Silence in remembrance of Mr. Kevin Dowd, retired teacher.

1.1 Record of Attendance

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

1.2 Review of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

Dr. Yodis reviewed the agenda.

1.3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. January 21, 2021

Mr. Strang made a motion to approve the January 21, 2021, regular meeting minutes. Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4/0

1.4 Acceptance of Financial Reports

- a. Internal Claims Auditor's Report (January 2021)
- b. Monthly Treasurer's Report with Budget Transfers

Mr. Strang made a motion to approve the District Treasurer's Financial Report. Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4/0

1.5 Visitors and Communication

- a. Communications to the Board of Education
 - i. Assemblymember John T. McDonald III

Assemblyman McDonald shared information on current initiatives before the State Assembly, and how they might affect tax levy and school budgets. He highlighted funding from the federal government and how it would affect State level initiatives. He explained the potential changes to the STAR exemption, and how that affects budget planning and spending caps. He explained the complications with economic development PILOTs, and tax cap formulas for school districts. He gave April 1st as an anticipated date for actual budget numbers from the State.

- ii. Letter from the Family of Kevin Dowd

Mr. Lanesey shared a letter from the family of Kevin Dowd requesting the Board Consider approving an annual award in the memory of former teacher Kevin Dowd to benefit a graduating 8th grade student.

The District will be working with the family to accept funding for the award in Mr. Dowd's name and setting the criteria for the annual award.

ii. BOCES Annual Meeting Zoom Link

Meeting URL: <https://questar-org.zoom.us/j/95235940025?pwd=cWpVcHVpTGxIZEpCdFBCb1pOUVRwZz09&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 952 3594 0025

Passcode: 052413

Join by Telephone

For higher quality, dial a number based on your current location.

Dial: US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 952 3594 0025

Passcode: 052413

iii. Communication on Spring Sports

Mr. Lanesey noted that the Board has received communication from parents regarding Spring sports, and asked Dr. Yodis to give a report on the status of sports. At this time there are no options at Gardner Dickinson as the sports currently in session do not coincide with those we typically run (wrestling/Football). Varsity and JV Fall II sports will run through April. She noted that the sports of interest, softball & baseball would not begin until the Fall II delayed season is complete at the end of April. We hope our positivity numbers remain low, and we have permissions from the Rens. County DOH to run baseball and softball in the late Spring when the condensed season starts. The Baseball season starts on April 28th and Softball the 1st week in May. The District will be in communication with the state and county DOH over the next couple of weeks, as we watch the numbers and work out the necessary requirements to be able to run the programs. Dr. Yodis attends weekly updates on sports, and will be discussing further options with the Board of Education for Wynantskill. Communication will be made with the community when there is sufficient data to solidify a program, and permission is granted from the DOH. Interest surveys will come out soon.

b. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

There were no requests to comment from the public we entered in the Zoom Chat.

2.0 Reports to the Board of Education

2.1 Board of Education Reports & Updates

a. Questar III Budget Vote April 20, 2021@6:30 pm via Zoom

2.2 District / Superintendent Program Report

Dr. Yodis shared a PowerPoint Presentation on the Budget Outlook. Pandemic uncertainty makes forecasting expenses challenging. The budget has been and will continue to be stressed as a result of the pandemic. We are currently planning for the 21-22 academic year as though we are still facing the pandemic, and budgeting for the necessary protocols. She offered gratitude to MaryEllen Angrisano for all of her help preparing and forecasting expenses for next year. See attached PowerPoint for details.

Anthony Vescio gave an update on the Smartschools Bond Act, highlighting the building structure and technology upgrades. These upgrades include an updated phone system, security enhancements, and extended wifi range.

Boardmember Eric Strang inquired about how the laptops were holding up with the daily use during the pandemic. Mr. Vescio reported that we have seen a small percentage of breakage, mostly in devices that were entering their 4th year of use by students. He offered thanks to Principal, Suzann Cornell working with staff to put together committees to develop policies and procedures for maintaining inventory, and keeping equipment up to date.

Board President, Andrew Lanese asked if there would be a traditionally wired line in the event the internet phone system went down. A. Vescio reported that the new system is not a VOIP system, and could still access a traditional landline. Building employees could also use cell service in the event the internet portion of the phone system went down.

2.3 Principal's Report

Principal Suzann Cornell gave an update on the completion of the data meetings with faculty. As a result RTI plans have been updated as necessary with the guidance of School Psychologist/CSE Chairperson Rebecca Davis. Individual plans will be updated and put in place for additional support where necessary. Letters to inform parents are scheduled to go home tomorrow. Principal Cornell reports that at the mid-year check in with teachers the general consensus is the teachers feel fortunate to be able to provide in person instruction.

2.4 PTA / SEPTA Update

Nichole Hurbanek provided the PTA report. During the recent membership drive the PTA picked up 21 members. Krause's Candy fundraiser closed today. Chromebook covers and luggage tags should ship in March. Book Fair will run from March 15th to April 2nd. The new communication portal is in use for the PTA.

Darcy Mack provided a SEPTA Update. During the membership drive they gained 40 members. Moving the membership from 20 to 60. They approved their by-laws and formed a nominating committee. They recently hosted an online drawing activity. An outing to June Farms is planned for May.

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 \$50.00 from an anonymous donor to be used for a family in need.

3.3 Appoint Substitutes

a. JoyAnne Lemka Caola, Certified Substitute Teacher \$100/ Day.

b. Molly C. Byron, Certified Substitute Teacher \$100/ Day.

c. Karina Baranski, Substitute Non-Certified Teacher/Teacher Aide \$90/ Day.

d. Sarah Flagg, Substitute Non-Certified Teacher/Teacher Aide \$90/ Day.

Mr. Strang made a motion to approve consent agenda 3.1-3.3. Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

3.4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wynantskill Union Free School District hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to terminate the employment of Yenni Schwartz, effective retroactive to February 9th, 2021.

Mrs. Mack made a motion to terminate the employment of Yenni Schwartz, item 3.4. Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

3.5 Approve Alicia Travis, as Classroom Aide effective February 10th, 2021

Mr. Strang made a motion to approve the appointment of Alicia Travis as Classroom Aide, item 3.5. Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

3.6 Adopt new schedule LGS-1 to Replace schedule ED-1

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Education of the Wynantskill Union Free School District that Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records, is hereby adopted for use by all officers in legally disposing of valueless records listed therein. FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Article 57-A: (a) only those records will be disposed of that are described in Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), after they have met the minimum retention periods described therein; (b) only those records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal, or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods.

Mr. Strang made a motion to adopt new schedule LGS-1 to Replace schedule ED-1, item 3.6.

Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

3.7 Technical Corrections to Board of Education Policies:

- a. 0115-R, Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Regulation (or you may have policy and regulation 0115.1 instead)
- b. 1120, School District Records
- c. 5500, Student Records
- d. 5500-R, Student Records Regulation
- e. 5710, Violent and Disruptive Incidents
- f. 8414.4, Video Cameras on School Buses
- g. 8635-R, Information and Data Privacy, Security, Breach and Notification Regulation

Mr. Strang made a motion to approve Technical Corrections to the Board of Education Policies, item 3.7, based on the approval to adopt item 3.6.

Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

3.8 First Reading of Board of Education Policy

- a. 0101 Gender Neutral Single Occupancy Bathrooms, New Policy

3.9 Approve 2021-2022 School District Calendar

Mrs. Mack made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 School District Calendar, item 3.9.

Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

4.0 Informational

4.1 Regular BOE Meeting March 18, 2021 @ 7 pm

4.2 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

There were concerns from Zoom participants regarding cancellation of Spring Sports. Mr. Lanese and Dr. Yodis reiterated that it was the intent to try to run softball and baseball but there is much that needs to occur in advance of an official announcement from the District.

A Zoom participant asked about the graduation ceremony. Dr. Yodis explained that she participates in weekly regional meetings regarding all things COVID. Regional schools are awaiting specific guidance on proms and graduations. It is just too early to say what will occur months in advance, as the COVID rates and directives are fluid. The ultimate say on the type of graduation ceremony we can hold comes from the County DOH.

5.0 Request for Executive Session

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. X 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)).

Mrs. Mack made the motion to enter the executive session for the purpose of discussing collective negotiations pursuant to article 14 of the Civil Service Law, and 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.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

6.0 Return to Open Session

Mr. Hirokawa made the motion to return to open session at 9:50 pm.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

7.0 Adjournment

Mr. Hirokawa made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 pm.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

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.