

**WYNANTSKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**  
**May 20, 2021 @ 7:00 PM**  
**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://zoom.us/j/99614414226?pwd=V1lmYldHVfJLNWY3U0d3eXNmGQyUT09>  
**Meeting ID: 996 1441 4226 Passcode: 791207**  
**One tap mobile +16465588656,,99614414226#,,,,,0#,,791207#**

**Draft 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 p.m. by Mr. Lanesey.

1.1 Record of Attendance

Mrs. Castle-Present

Mr. Hirokawa-Present via-Zoo, joined at 7:04 p.m., left during Executive Session

Mr. Lanesey-Present

Mrs. Mack-Present

Mr. Strang-Present

1.2 Review of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

Dr. Yodis gave a review of the agenda. Congratulations and appreciation were give to soon to be retirees Jean-Marie Steffek and Michelle Nicklas

1.3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a. April 15, 2021

b. April 20, 2021

Mr. Strang made a motion to approve the April 15, 2021 regular meeting minutes & the April 20, 2021 QUESTAR election meeting minutes.

Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.

Motion carried: 4/0

1.4 Acceptance of Financial Reports

a. Internal Claims Auditor's Report (April 2021)

b. Monthly Treasurer's Report with Budget Transfers

Mrs. Castle made a motion to approve the District Treasurer's Financial Reports.

Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.

Motion carried: 4/0

1.5 Visitors and Communication

a. Communications to the Board of Education

Mr. Lanesey acknowledged the communications to the Board of Education.

Email from Anker Family re: Potential Development

Email regarding graduation awards.

b. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

No one made the request to be heard via the Zoom chat.

## 2.0 Reports to the Board of Education

### 2.1 Board of Education Reports & Updates

No reports to updates were given

### 2.2 District / Superintendent Program Report

#### a. Transportation Update

Dr. Yodis gave the attached slide presentation on transportation offering special thanks to the transportation department for their years of dedication transporting students. Dr.

Yodis' report covered:

- Agreement with Mulson Garage for storage of our fleet of 20 school busses.
- Number of Students Transported Daily- 526
- Number of North Greenbush students transported-147
- Number of schools we to in addition to Gardner Dickinson-19
- Appreciation to our amazing transportation department.
  - Transportation Consultant- Mike Goyer
  - Senior Bus Driver - Jim Worthington
  - 14 Bus Drivers-Mark Ahern, Neal Benassi, Anthony Ciampolillo, Mario Ciprioni, Chuck Claus, Bob Cushing, Debbie Hayes, Karen Keegan, Lance Maxon, Joe Miller, Ralph Roberts, Nancy Ruffinen, Bob See and Allison Smith
  - Bus Aide- Joyce Lanese

Transportation Consultant Mike Goyer joined the presentation highlighting the challenges of finding and retaining bus drivers. Obtaining proper licensing to drive a bus is challenging. The problem is not unique to Wynantskill, but it is complicated by the fact that we offer a low, average wage at a time when many organizations are trying to hire. The goal is to not have to incur the high cost of contracting with area bussing companies by continuing to build and support our own transportation department. Hopefully making some arrival and dismissal adjustments to the Gardner Dickinson school day will allow for greater flexibility in transporting to all of the other schools students are attending.

Mr. Strang asked for verification about our requirement to transport to so many schools. Dr. Yodis and Mike Goyer confirmed that we were transporting students as required by the law to private/charter schools. The only area we could potentially cut to help the situation would be high school choice and offering of transportation services for neighboring districts.

Dr. Yodis and Mr. Goyer hope that by slightly adjusting the hours of the school day we can continue to offer the current level of transportation services. If we can't recruit and maintain drivers we may need to consider making cuts in the number of high school choices, service offered to North Greenbush, or farming out bus service.

Dr. Yodis gave a brief statement about enrollment and continued COVID protocols for next year. Some adjustments will need to be made in the teacher placements to continue to meet the protocols based on enrollment. She is hopeful that through the efforts of a regional school advocacy group, districts will no longer be required to staff remote instruction, and have less rigid cafeteria and bus restrictions. Questar is hosting a virtual

event:

**Learning from the Past, Reimagining the Future: A Regional School Community Forum**

**WHAT:** A virtual forum to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on our schools and advocate for a full reopening in September

**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 2 at 7:30-9:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Live streamed via [www.egcsd.org](http://www.egcsd.org) and [www.questar.org](http://www.questar.org)

Mr. Lanese asked about the potential for more Kindergarten students enrolling over the summer, and how that would affect teacher placement for next year. Dr. Yodis stated that we have staff available if we needed to add another section of Kindergarten, but projections for enrollment have been low. We have seen a marked decline in projected Pre-K and Kindergarten enrollment.

Mr. Strang asked what lessons were learned from the 2020-2021 modified program and what could be done differently next year to address ongoing needs. Dr. Yodis recognized that students definitely need a longer academic day, and more movement and socialization opportunities. We may consider a model where the entire school remediates and enriches instruction at the same time.

2.3 Principal's Report

Principal Cornell gave a report on the Boosterthon Fundraiser put on by the PTA. As of the meeting they raised \$19,000.00. She offered thanks to all of the families for their donations, and the PTA and their committee members, Kyle Belokopitsky, Sue Czubek, Kate Mercado, Jennie Brown for organizing this important work. Coach Akots and Bateman did an amazing job creating fun and engaging water relays for all students Pre-K-8. The PTA also sponsored the Kona Ice Snow Cone truck. It was a wonderful day and we were able to use this Boosterthon/ Fun Run as our modified end of the year field day event.

This year's 8th grade class advisor, Peter Mesh, has been doing a wonderful job of putting together our graduation ceremony. It will be held outside, in front of the school, on June 24th at 7:00 pm. Students will be wearing royal blue graduation gowns and caps which were purchased by the district. The ceremony will be live-streamed, however each family can have up to 3 guests. The ceremony will include a slideshow, awards; valedictorian and salutatorian speeches and awarding of diplomas. We are looking forward to acknowledging our eighth graders as they prepare for high school.

Mrs. Mack asked that consideration be given to mixed families in regards to the 3 guest limit at graduation, and what the contingency plan was for rain.

Dr. Yodis and Principal Cornell stated that the 3 guest limit could be modified for those circumstances, and that tents had been reserved in the event of inclement weather.

2.4 PTA / SEPTA Update

PTA see attached update.

SEPTA has wrapped up their activities for the year finishing with the election of officers,

their reorganizational meeting, and a trip to June Farms.

### **3.0 Appointments and Authorizations** **Consent agenda 3.1 – 3.9**

- 3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations as per attached.
- 3.2 Approve the PTECH program at HVCC, offered through Questar, as an additional high school choice for district students grade 9-12.
- 3.3 Approve Nicole Manzer Substitute Aide at the rate of \$90/Day.
- 3.4 Accept the resignation of Thomas Schmidt, Bus Driver, effective April 30, 2021.
- 3.5 Accept the resignation of Rebecca Davis, School Psychologist/CSE Chairperson, effective June 30, 2021.
- 3.6 Accept the resignation of Kristin Gordon, Music Teacher, effective June 30, 2021.
- 3.7 Accept the resignation of Jean-Marie Seffek for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2021, per the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Wynantskill Union Free School District and the Wynantskill Teacher's Association for the 2020-2021 school year approved April 15, 2021.
- 3.8 Accept the resignation of Michelle Nicklas for the purpose of retirement effective January 5, 2022, per the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Wynantskill Union Free School District and the Wynantskill Teacher's Association for the 2020-2021 school year approved April 15, 2021.
- 3.9 Certification of the Budget Vote, Bus Proposition, & Board Election Results.

Mrs. Mack made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda 3.1-3.9.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0.

#### **3.10 Policy Updates- First Readings**

- 0101 Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity
- 0115 Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- 0115-R Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Regulation
- 8130 School Safety Plans and Teams
- 8131 Pandemic Planning

### **4.0 Informational**

- 4.1 Regular BOE Meeting June 10, 2021 @ 7 pm
- 4.2 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

### **5.0 Request for Executive Session**

Mrs. Castle made the motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose 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.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0.

### **6.0 Return to Open Session**

Mrs. Castle made a motion to return to open session at 10:01 pm.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0.

### **7.0 Adjournment**

Mr. Strang made a motion to adjourn at 10:02 pm.

Mrs. Castle second the motion.

Motion carried 4/0.

Respectfully submitted,

*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.