

WYNANTSKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Organizational / Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
July 6, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Gardner-Dickinson School Library/Media Center
Meeting Minutes

- 1.0 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Board Clerk Heidi Hallock.
- 1.1 Record of Attendance
- Mrs. Castle- Present
Mr. Hirokawa- Present
Mr. Lanesey- Present
Mrs. Mack- Present
Mr. Strang- Present
- 1.2 Annual Organizational Meeting
See attached minutes.
- 1.3 Review of Agenda/Additions to Agenda
- 1.4 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
- a. June 10, 2021
Mr. Hiorkawa made a motion to approve the June 10, 2021 meeting minutes.
Mr. Strang seconded the motion.
Motion carried: 5/0
- 1.5 Visitors and Communication
- a. Communications to the Board of Education
- Correspondence regarding Kindergarten end of the year celebrations
Mr. Lanesey and Dr. Yodis reviewed the inquiries about Kindergarten end of the year celebrations, and their response. Principal Cornell and the Kindergarten teachers were able to put together a nice program, which included both remote and in person students. The teachers did a great job preparing the students for the program on short notice.
- b. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard
There were no requests to be heard from the public.
- 2.0 Reports to the Board of Education
- 2.1 Board of Education Reports & Updates
- 2.2 District / Superintendent Program Report

Dr. Yodis gave a slide presentation, set to music, highlighting the resilience of the entire Gardner Dickinson community through the pandemic. Students, faculty and staff could be seen engaged in learning, and enjoying activities throughout the school; year despite the COVID 19 restrictions and protocols. She reflected on the year, highlighting how far the students and staff have come from where they started at the beginning of the pandemic in the Spring of 2020 and throughout the 2020-2021 academic year.. Mr. Lanesey inquired about whether or not remote learning would be available in the Fall.

Dr. Yodis reported that there was pushback from NYSULT on providing both kinds of instruction. It is likely that students interested in remote learning could take it through a regionally sponsored program rather than through Gardner-Dickinson. Dr. Yodis is awaiting specific guidance before announcing specific program details. She noted that transportation and spacing in the cafeteria still present challenges under the current guidance.

Dr. Yodis gave a summary of proposed use of federal funds for the 2021-2022 school year driven by Principal Cornell's presentation on NWEA scores and student performance. The proposal is summarized below:

The Wynantskill UFSD has been awarded \$676,254 from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). After much consideration of our students' needs as well as the needs to update our district's resources, we would like to use these funds in the following ways:

- Increase Academic Achievement in ELA & Math
- Literacy Instruction and Professional Development:
 - Purchase a new ELA curriculum in grades Pre-K-8 that is aligned to the incoming next generation learning standards

 - Provide intensive professional development that will be needed to support the initiative both from the program itself and the senior ELA specialist from Questar III
- Math Instruction and Professional Development:
 - Add Pre-K math modules

 - Professional development that will be needed to support the new curriculum in Pre-K as well as grades K-8 (senior math specialist from Questar III)
- IXL Software:

-Provide students in Pre-K-8 grades a research-based online learning platform aligned with the NYS Learning Standards (ELA, Math and Science)

- Additional Staffing for One Year (2021-22 school year):
 - Hire additional staffing for one year, in order to keep small class sizes (due to COVID related/physical distancing restraints) which allows us to provide intensive academic intervention services in a more traditional manner

- Technology

Student Computers:

- Upgrade Chromebook computers for all students K-8
- Provide computers for Pre-K students

Promethean Boards in Every Classroom:

- Replace SmartBoards with Promethean Digital Displays in every classroom

- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Resources:
 - Seek support and resources from an outside agency/social worker to work with students and families for the next school year
 - Obtain new Curriculum/Instruction/Resources to support SEL A needsassessment survey will be posted to the community for feedback on the proposal.

2.3 Principal's Report

Principal Cornell reviewed the NWEA results highlighting how well Gardner Dickinson students had done in spite of the loss of classroom time last year when the pandemic hit. She demonstrated which areas of math and reading performance would benefit from some targeted interventions, with a plan to boost professional development and invest in curriculum materials for those areas. The number of students needing AIS is significantly lower than in previous years due to use of research-based interventions and digging deeper into areas that need improvement. With continued professional development and targeted program development our goal is to continue to see a drop in students requiring AIS.

Mr. Strang asked what could be done within the areas where we have seen the least amount of growth. Principal Cornell noted that the plan was for curriculum and program updates with more targeted instruction on the standards where students fall short. She also noted that the plan was to increase and repeat professional development in those areas and update curricular materials in a targeted manner. We are transitioning from an older Journeys language arts program to a workshop model. The middle school is piloting a research-based, Teachers College curriculum this fall.

Mr. Lanese noted the impressive Kindergarten reading statistics, and wondered if growing our own preschool could be contributing to the impressive gains in language arts at the primary school level.

District Network System Engineer, Anthony Vescio, gave a presentation of new Promethean Board technology highlighting the reasons for the need to upgrade from the current projector/Smartboard systems in the classrooms. The proposed plan is to use federal funds for the purchase and installation of Promethean Boards with supporting professional development for teachers. Mr. Strang asked about the durability of units and whether they had integrated speakers. Mr. Vescio explained that 5 units would be portable while the rest will be affixed to the wall. They have built in speakers, and can connect wirelessly to additional speakers and devices. They have a 5 year warranty and we have had efficient service on issues in the past.

Mr. Vescio also proposed using additional federal funds to upgrade to more durable laptops for the students, as many of the existing units are at the end of their life cycle. Discussion ensued regarding options for the disposal of the older units. Dr. Yodis offered 3 options: recycling through QUESTAR, recycling through a private company, and/or offering the completely wiped units to district families.

Mr. Strang asked about options for deleting data, and if the companies certified their work wiping the hard drives. Mr. Vescio explained that laptops could be wiped by resetting factory defaults but desktop units would need to have the hard drives removed and destroyed. The district would not be offering tech support for donated technology equipment.

2.4 PTA / SEPTA Update

Incoming PTA President Paul Koniowka offered appreciation to outgoing President Nicole Hurbanak for her dedicated leadership and service to the PTA. SEPTA did not meet this month.

3.0 Appointments and Authorizations

Consent Agenda 3.1-3.12

3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations as per attached

3.2 Accept the resignation of James Worthington, Head Bus Driver, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2021.

3.3 RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Wynantskill Union Free School District hereby waives the years of service requirement to vest in retiree health insurance benefits for Jim Worthington, in consideration of the savings the District will realize by virtue of his retirement, and authorizes the extension of retiree health insurance benefits under the same conditions as if Mr. Worthington had 15 years of service to the Wynantskill Union Free School District. This resolution shall apply solely to the situation at hand and shall not serve as precedent for future employees.

- 3.4 Appoint Marie van Maastricht for a four-year probationary term as a K-8 General Music Teacher effective September 1, 2021 @ Step 11 as per the WTA Contract.
- 3.5 Appoint Bethany Mueller for a four-year probationary term as a School Psychologist effective September 1, 2021 @ Step 4 as per the WTA Contract.
- 3.6 Approve School Psychologist for up to ten days of summer work at daily rate of pay as needed/requested by the District.
- 3.7 Appoint the following Extra Curricular appointments for the 2021-22 school year as per the WTA Contract

Athletic Coordinator	Dan Disotto
Builders Club	Jeanine Mitchell
Dance Chaperones	Tim Flannery, Dan Disotto
Class Advisor 8th Grade	Kaelyn Madelone, Peter Mesh
Yearbook Advisor	Peter Mesh

- 3.8 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wynantskill Union Free School District hereby approves the July 6, 2021 addendum to the employment agreement of Dr. Mary Yodis, extending such contract through June 30, 2026, and authorizes the payment of monies provided therein.
- 3.9 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wynantskill Union Free School District hereby approves the terms and conditions of employment agreement for Suzann Cornell as Principal for the 2021-2022 school year, and authorizes the payment of monies provided therein.
- 3.10 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wynantskill Union Free School District hereby approves the terms and conditions of employment agreement for Anthony Vescio as Network System Engineer for the 2021-2022 school year, and authorizes the payment of monies provided therein.
- 3.11 Approval of the disposal of 708 periodicals from the Gardner-Dickinson Library Collection, effective July 7, 2021.
- 3.12 Approval of the disposal of obsolete technology equipment from the Gardner-Dickinson Technology Department, effective July 7, 2021. (Spreadsheet attached)

Dr. Yodis offered appreciation to the extension of her contract. Mr. Lanese remarked that the extension was a gesture of confidence in her ability as a leader.

4.0 Informational

4.1 Regular BOE Meeting August 12, 2021 @ 7pm

Mr. Hirokawa suggested that we check with the school attorney regarding the ability to hold, and attend meetings via the internet. After seeking guidance, the Board of Education policies on meetings may be reviewed.

4.2 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

There were no comments from the public.

5.0 Request for Executive Session

No request was made to enter into an 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. _____ Collective negotiations pursuant to article 14 of the Civil Service Law.
6. _____ 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

7.0 Adjournment

Mrs. Castle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM

Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Hallock

Clerk of the Board of Education

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.

