

WYNANTSKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
September 23, 2021
Meeting @ 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 7:07 PM by Mr. Lanesey.

1.1 Record of Attendance

Mrs. Castle	Present
Mr. Hirokawa	Absent
Mr. Lanesey	Present
Mrs. Mack	Present-Arrived@7:11 PM
Mr. Strang	Present

1.2 Review of Agenda/Additions to Agenda
Dr. Yodis reviewed the agenda.

1.3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
a. August 12, 2021
b. August 23, 2021

Mrs. Castle made a motion to approve the August 12, 2021, and August 23, 2021, meeting minutes.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3/0.

1.4 Acceptance of Financial Reports
a. Internal Claims Auditor's Report August 2021
b. Monthly Treasurer's Report with Budget Transfers
(July, August 2021)
c. Final Revenue Report 6/30/21

Mrs. Castle made a motion to accept the financial reports.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3/0.

Discussion: Mr. Lanesey asked that the reports be provided sooner.

1.5 Visitors and Communication
a. Communications to the Board of Education

Community organizations have been inquiring about use of the building and grounds. At this time the building and grounds remain closed to the public due to COVID-19. The Board Clerk will notify any organizations seeking permission to use the facilities of the closure to the public.

b. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

There were no requests made from the public to be heard.

2.0 Reports to the Board of Education

2.1 Board of Education Board Discussion / Reports

The Board of Education had a brief discussion about using the *Zoom* platform again for meetings. Mrs. Mack asked about holding the meeting in person with the option to *Zoom* for anyone who wishes to attend remotely. Teacher, Laura Horacek, expressed concern about the sound quality of past *Zoom* meetings. Mrs. Castle explained that the sound issues had been worked out by shutting down the overhead ventilation system and the purchase of better microphones. The Board of Education agreed to move the next meeting, October 21, 2021 to the downstairs conference room so that those who wish to attend in person or remotely can participate. A *Zoom* link will be provided on the BOE section of the District webpage.

2.2 District / Superintendent Program Report

Dr. Yodis discussed District Goals/Areas of Focus (Attached Slides)

Gardner-Dickinson started the 2021-22 school year for our faculty and staff with three full days of training. We worked together as a team to solidify our safety procedures and new protocols for the school year; then moved into how to best support our students' social and emotional well-being while continuously supporting their academic growth.

Health screenings are submitted weekly this year with Ed Vista screening platform. Parents are attesting that they are checking daily for COVID symptoms and only sending their children to school symptom free. If children have a fever or symptoms they are to stay out of school and see a doctor, or seek a COVID test. Temperature checks are conducted daily and increased hand sanitizing protocols in place. Physical distancing at a distance of six feet remains in the classrooms, hallways and lunchroom. Recess is 45 minutes for everyone. As soon as students are done eating they are encouraged to get outside and play.

Heidi Hallock's position is increased to a full time position as she is going to assume COVID coordinator duties. Rensselaer County Department of Health is providing funding for all districts to create a .4 COVID coordinator to assist with contact tracing, coordination of the new screening requirements and submitting the COVID data to the state each day.

2.3 Principal's Report

Gardner Dickinson just completed our 12th day of school. Students are settling into their routines and are especially enjoying moving throughout the building to special area classes and the cafeteria. Our hallways are filling up with student artwork and writing and there is a happy buzz throughout the school.

Student assessments have begun and our Academic Interventionists began working with students this week in reading and math. They provide in-classroom support along with small group sessions.

We have many teacher and staff committees this year including Wellness, PBIS, Social Emotional Learning, Technology, Arts in Education, and Professional Development. The Wellness Committee is planning activities for staff including meditation, a walking group, and yoga. Our Social Emotional Learning Committee is planning to implement a school-wide approach to mental health education which will be very beneficial for our students during the COVID Pandemic.

The teachers are planning for the first field trips for students in over a year. All grade levels from Kindergarten to Eighth grade will be included. Ideas so far include Bowman's Apple Orchard, Ellms Family Farm, and an Adventure Course for middle school. We are grateful for the PTAs allotment of funds for each child to participate.

- 2.4 PTA Update
Mrs. Hallock read the report provided to the Board of Education from PTA president Paul Koniowka. (Refer to Document Section)

3.0 Appointments and Authorizations

- 3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations as per attached.
- 3.2 Accept the resignation of Lance Maxon from the position of Bus Driver effective September 1, 2021.
- 3.3 Accept the resignation of Samantha Swart from the position of Elementary Education Teacher effective August 30, 2021.
- 3.4 Accept the resignation of Erin Pytell from the position of Teacher Aide effective September 16, 2021.
- 3.5 Appoint John Lantz for a four-year probationary term as a full-time Elementary Education Teacher effective September 1, 2021 @ Step 2 as per the WTA Contract.
- 3.6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wynantskill Union Free School District hereby appoints and employs Haley Quinn to a term position as a Fifth Grade Teacher, for a term not to exceed September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, @ Step1. This is a term appointment and is not a probationary appointment. It is specifically acknowledged that Haley Quinn has agreed to waive any rights she may have to a probationary appointment and consideration for tenure and such agreement is evidenced by a writing signed by both parties.
- 3.7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wynantskill Union Free School District hereby appoints and employs Colleen Burke to a term

position as a Special Education Teacher, for a term not to exceed September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, @ Step 1. This is a term appointment and is not a probationary appointment. It is specifically acknowledged that Colleen Burke has agreed to waive any rights she may have to a probationary appointment and consideration for tenure and such agreement is evidenced by a writing signed by both parties.

- 3.8 Appoint Mary Bond as a part-time .4 School Social Worker at Step 4 for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 3.9 Appoint Allison Smith as a part-time Teacher Aide, for 2.5 hours a day at the rate of \$16.33/hr. for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 3.10 Appoint Hannah Godson as a full-time Teacher Aide at a rate of \$16.33/hr. for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 3.11 Appoint Heidi Hallock as full-time Superintendent's Secretary at a rate of \$20.60/hr. for the 2021-2022 school year, assuming the role of COVID Coordinator, effective 9/24/21.
- 3.12 Appoint substitutes for the 2021-2022

Non- Certified Building Substitute at a rate of \$92/day Substitute Teacher/Aide, Clerical, Recess, and Kitchen
Mary Allison D'Amico
William Ronan

Certified Building Substitute at a rate of \$102/day Substitute Teacher
Emily Hogan

Building Substitute at a rate of \$92/day (pro-rated for hourly) Cleaner
James McCarthy

- 3.13 Approve a rate of \$24/hr. for field trip bus drivers.

The Board of Education chose to approve Items 31.-3.13 as a consent agenda.
Mrs. Castle made a motion to approve items 3.1-3.13.
Mr. Strang seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4/0

4.0 Informational

- 4.1 Regular BOE Meeting October 21, 2021 @ 7 pm

4.2 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

Grade 5 Teacher, Laura Horacek, expressed gratitude to the administration, Dr. Yodis and Principal Cornell. She recognized their tireless efforts to keep the students and staff happy and safe. Guidance Counselor, Amy Murphy, agreed expressing that although everyone is fatigued with the stressors of the ongoing COVID crisis, they remain positive about returning the next day due to the efforts of Dr. Yodis and Principal Cornell. They recognize the Administration's daily efforts to solve problems as they arise, making sure everyone feels heard and respected. School Board Member, Cathy Castle, thanked the faculty for recognizing the efforts of the Administration. She added that as a grandparent she appreciates the effort it takes to keep the school operating for the students.

5.0 Request for Executive Session

Mrs. Castle made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:00 PM, for recommended action Item 6.

Mr. Strang 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. 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. Castle made the motion to return to open session at 9:41 PM.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0.

7.0 Adjournment

Mrs. Castle made the motion to return to open session at 9:42 PM.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Heidi Hallock

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.