

WYNANTSKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
October 21, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Gardner Dickinson Conference Room
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87082600652?pwd=OnZXTW84eWpUei9OZFZ4MEJ5T3d2Zz09>
Meeting ID: 870 8260 0652
Passcode: 717964

Agenda

1.0 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Lanesey at 7:02 pm.

1.1 Record of Attendance

Mrs. Castle	Present
Mr. Hirokawa	Absent
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 Meetings a. September 23, 2021

Mrs. Castle made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2021, Board of Education Meeting.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0.

1.4 Acceptance of Financial Reports a. Internal Claims Auditor's Report (September 2021) b. Monthly Treasurer's Report with Budget Transfers c. Extra Classroom Report d. Appropriation Status Detail Report

Mr. Strang made a motion to approve the Financial Reports.

Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

1.5 Visitors and Communication

a. Scott Preusser, External Claims Auditor

Mr. Preusser gave a summary of the External Audit Reports. Mr. Preusser offered appreciation to the business office for putting the financials together citing the good work they do throughout the year. He recognized the challenge of a smaller school meeting the same regulations and requirements of larger schools. He highlighted the importance of planning ahead, and using reserves for larger projects that arise down the road. He reviewed the revenues, expenditures, imcomberances, and state aid initiatives, then made some planning recommendations for unassigned funds.

b. Communications to the Board of Education

i. Letter from the WTA

Mrs. Mack communicated that the letter would be discussed during the executive session as it is connected to a personnel issue.

ii. Letter from Lynne Denny

See agenda item 3.6

c. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

Two parents, Angela Stang and Erica Quinn, requested that the basketball program be reinstated this year.

2.0 Board of Education Reports & Updates

The External Audit reports were provided to the Board of Education by Scott Preusser.

Mrs. Castle shared that she was able to attend the memorial service for retired teacher, Kevin Dowd. Former teachers and board members were present for the service, which was a nice tribute to Mr. Dowd.

2.2 District / Superintendent Program Report

Dr. Yodis recognized *School Board of Education Recognition Week* and thanked the school board members for all they do for the District. This is a volunteer job

that demands hours and hours of time, commitment, and dedication. The guidance and support of the Board is very much appreciated.

She offered thanks to the PTA and to all of our families who took part in all of the fundraisers and events that raised the money which was recently donated to our school. The PTA just submitted a payment of \$25,000.00 to have the playground enhanced. With this very generous purchase, we are getting 5 new picnic tables that will sit on concrete slabs, 3 Buddy Benches in the proground area, a significant amount of mulch required for safety compliance, and removal of existing equipment/poles that were causing many student accidents. Gardner Dickinson is appreciative of the generous contribution and the ongoing support for our students.

In line with the District's goals, a transportation study and a 5-year budget outlook study were initiated. Those studies are in full swing and should be completed in the next month. Another area of focus was that we would identify any and all areas in need of district improvement to optimize our District's operations and organizational structure. In many respects this work will come out of the data collected in the transportation and budget studies. John Yagielski, a distinguished and well respected retired school superintendent, is going to assist us in analyzing all of this data. Mr. Yagielski will be assisting us in an efficiency study of District administration and staff by taking a close look at our organizational structure to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our school community.

The first basketball games are scheduled for December 9th. Dan DiSotto would look to start tryouts on November 15th. That would give 15 practice days before the first game and a little wiggle room in case of snow late November/early December.

The Rensselaer County Department of Health has made it clear that they will not be directing whether or not school districts should cancel winter sports or allow only vaccinated players to play. Other DOH's have made those decisions for the Districts, however Rensselaer County is charging the school districts/school boards to make that decision.

It appears that Districts within our Questar III region are mixed with some allowing both vaccinated and unvaccinated players in the team with testing measures while some are only allowing vaccinated players on the teams.

A lengthy discussion ensued amongst the Board, Dr. Yodis, and Athletic Director Disotto regarding the language of the current CDC guidance, and Rensselaer County Department of Health's interpretation of the language. Based on the current vaccination status of our students eligible to play it would not be likely that enough eligible players would complete their vaccination in time for the season. Hesitation was expressed in regards to imposing a vaccination requirement for athletics. Concern was raised that having unvaccinated players would prohibit Wynantskill from playing teams which were requiring vaccinations. The general consensus was that Wynantskill move forward with the basketball season without requiring players to be vaccinated but keep the weekly screening and indoor mask requirements in place. Board member Darcy Mack requested that a motion be made for a resolution. See resolution 3.14 below.

2.3 Principal's Report

Principal Cornell reported on two assemblies on school-wide positive behavior; at the elementary level they focused on a "bee hive" theme-with these positive behavior traits: Be safe, Be respectful, Be responsible. Students are earning *Bee Bucks* which can be turned in at the end of the week for prizes. The middle school students are earning *Royal Dollars* towards a drawing each Friday. Professional development through QUESTAR continues for staff in the areas of math and ELA. North Rivers provided a social-emotional wellbeing online workshop during the monthly staff meeting. Data from NWEA assessments is being used to understand the needs of all students in the areas of ELA and Math.

2.4 PTA / SEPTA Update

PTA- See attached report.

SEPTA-Mrs. Mack reported that SEPTA has 30 members. They recently participated in a fun fundraiser at Franny's Farm House. She encouraged people to look at the SEPTA Facebook page.

3.0 Appointments and Authorizations

Consent agenda 3.1 – 3.13

3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations as per attached.

3.2 Approve the District-Wide Safety Plan.

3.3 Approve Contract for Professional Services between the Wynantskill UFSD and Susan Stoya, Professional Consultant to conduct teacher observations under the direction of Dr. Mary Yodis, Superintendent, and Mrs. Suzann Cornell, Principal. Services will be provided during the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of \$60.00/hour, not to exceed a total of \$4,400 by June 30, 2022.

- 3.4 Approve Service Agreement with R.G Timbs Inc. for Financial Advisor Services at \$150.00/hr. as needed for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 3.5 Accept the resignation of Robert Hurd, part-time Teacher Aide, for the purpose of retirement, effective 10/08/2021.
- 3.6 Approve leave of absence for Lynne Denny from Teacher Aide position to fulfill a classroom teacher leave of absence, @ Step 1 as per the WTA contract, effective 10/28/2021. End date to be determined.
- 3.7 Appoint Bob Rowe as a part-time Teacher Aide, for 2.5 hours a day at a rate of \$16.33/hr. for the 2021-2022 school year, retroactive 9/01/2021.
- 3.8 Appoint Stephanie Ryan to a 1-year term as a full-time, Teacher/Nurse Aide at a rate of \$16.33/hr. for the 2021-2022 school year, retroactive 9/01/21.
- 3.9 Brenda Alderman, as a probationary Bus Driver, at the base new hire rate of \$19.00/hr., retroactive September 11, 2021.
- 3.10 Appoint Nichole Hurbanek to the Audit Committee for the 2021-2022 school Year.
- 3.11 Appoint Gary Nicoll as a full-time bus driver at a rate of \$20.00/hr. for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 3.12 Appoint Substitutes for the 2021-2022 school year.

Non- Certified Building Substitute at a rate of \$92/day Substitute Teachers Aide/Non-Certified Teacher, Clerical, Recess, and Kitchen
Thomas Carney
Samantha Cossart
Jody Pomato

Certified Teacher Substitute at a rate of \$102/day.
Jean Marie Steffek
Sherri Sheri Sidor

- 3.13 Accept the 2020-2021 External Audit Report.

Mrs. Castle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items 3.1-3.13.
 Mr. Strang seconded the motion.
 Motion carried 4/0.

- 3.14 RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wynantskill Union Free School

District, after careful consideration, hereby determines that vaccinations shall not be mandatory as a condition for participation in the interscholastic athletics. This resolution shall continue unless and until it is rescinded by a future resolution of the board or superseded by state or local law or guidance issued by the Rensselaer County Department of Health.

Mrs. Mack made a motion to approve Agenda Item 3.14.

Mr. Castle seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0

4.0 Informational

4.1 Regular BOE Meeting November 18, 2021, @ 7 pm.

4.2 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

Paul Konikwa encouraged families with middle and high school students in Rensselaer County to consider participation in the regional mountain bike program.. NICA is the National Interscholastic Mountain Bike Association. Mr. Konikwa and John Slyer are completing training to run the regional program in the spring.

Angela Stang asked that the BOE consider allowing at least 1 spectator per child at basketball game.

5.0 Request for Executive Session

Mr. Strang made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 8:09 pm.

Mrs. Mack second 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 made a motion to return to open session at 9:18 pm.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0.

7.0 Adjournment

Mrs. Castle made a motion to adjourn at 9:19 pm.

Mr. Strang seconded 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.