

**WYNANTSKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**  
**December 16, 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**

**Unapproved Meeting 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 7:04 PM by Mr. Lanesey.

**1.1 Record of Attendance**

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| <b>Mrs. Castle</b>  | Present |
| <b>Mr. Hirokawa</b> | Present |
| <b>Mr. Lanesey</b>  | Present |
| <b>Mrs. Mack</b>    | Present |
| <b>Mr. Strang</b>   | Present |

**1.2 Review of Agenda/Additions to Agenda**

Dr. Yodis reviewed the agenda, highlighting newly created positions, created as a result of recent organizational studies. Mrs. Castle offered condolences to the family of Mr. Yaeger, a community member with a long-standing attendance at the Board of Education meetings.

**1.3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

a. November 18, 2021

Mrs. Mack made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2021, regular meeting. Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0.

**1.4 Acceptance of Financial Reports**

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

Mrs. Mack made a motion to accept the financial reports. Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0.

**1.5 Visitors and Communication**

- a. Communications to the Board of Education  
Notice of QUESTAR III Annual Meeting & Vote

The Questar III BOCES Annual Meeting will take place Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

The Board of Education will meet via Zoom at 8:30 AM to vote on the QUESTAR ballot. The link for Board of Education Zoom meetings is available on the district website.

The Board of Education received several thank you notes from the staff for the pizza luncheon held on Tuesday, December 14, 2021.

b. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

No public was in attendance. There were no requests from Zoom participants.

## **2.0 Reports to the Board of Education**

### **2.1 Board of Education Reports & Updates**

Mr. Lanese asked Heidi Hallock, District Clerk to report on the use of Board Docs as a tool to manage Board of Education documents. The license pricing for the light version is \$3000/annually or 11,000/annually for the PRO version. The expense qualifies for BOCES aid. Mrs. Hallock will forward information to the Board for their consideration.

### **2.2 District / Superintendent Program Report**

Dr. Yodis gave an update on COVID cases within the District. There have been 27 positive cases reported, 5 staff, and 22 students. The newly amended bus quarantine guidelines have reduced the number of students we need to quarantine with a positive student case. We are currently screening unvaccinated student-athletes and staff weekly with rapid tests. No positive cases have been detected to date with this screening. We haven't received enough tests for point of care testing for all unvaccinated students yet but have been able to use the machine for screening of individuals showing symptoms at school.

Basketball season is underway. We have come up with a solution that allows us to open up games to spectators. We have split the attendance of girls and boys teams in the building during games, this allows additional space for players to have a spectator attend the game.

We are pleased to be able to host a band concert this year to showcase the practice and preparation of our student musicians. Mrs. Van Maastricht has prepared the 7th and 8th-grade band members for a performance on Wednesday, 12/22/2021. Parents of band members will be invited to attend at 2:00 PM. We hope to be able to offer a program in the Spring as well.

The District has been notified of a national school security threat spurred by a Tik Tok challenge. Teachers are on heightened alert, students are encouraged to tell an adult if they hear anything in the building relating to the challenge. We have been in contact with the North Greenbush Police, in response to this, they are increasing their surveillance on the building.

### **2.3 Principal's Report**

Principal Cornell gave a slide show highlighting the fabulous work of the following

committees:

- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- Technology Steering Committee
- Professional Development Committee
- Annual Professional Performance APPR Review Committee
- Arts in Education Committee
- Ed Planning Committee
- Wellness Committee
- Social-Emotional Learning Committee

- 2.4 PTA / SEPTA Update  
Mr. Lanese read the PTA report submitted by Paul Konikwa.  
SEPTA does not meet in December.

### **3.0 Appointments and Authorizations** **Consent agenda 3.1 – 3.14 (3.15 tabled)**

- 3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations as per attached.
- 3.2 Accept the resignation of Kohle Deguire from the position of Custodial Worker effective December 24, 2021.
- 3.3 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 Jeffery Palmer, effective retroactive to December 7, 2021.
- 3.4 Abolish 2 custodial worker positions effective December 24, 2021.
- 3.5 Approve the creation of new position Head of Buildings/Grounds/Transportation.
- 3.6 Approve the creation of a special transportation assignment for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, for a stipend of \$8,000.00, retroactive July 1, 2021. The position is 12 months-185 school calendar days plus 35 summer days. Position may require up to an additional 3.5 hours per day ( Total 7.25 hours per day).
- 3.7 Appoint Nancy Ruffinen to fulfill the special transportation assignment for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, retroactive July 1, 2021.
- 3.8 Appoint Lori Hotaling to a four-year probationary term as a School Psychologist effective January 3, 2021, @ Step 9 prorated as per WTA Contract.
- 3.9 Appoint Lori Hotaling as Chair of the Committee of Special Education (CSE) effective January 3, 2021, @ a stipend of \$4,346.00, prorated as Per WTA Contract.
- 3.10 Appoint Caila Eichin to the position of substitute Special Education Teacher intern for the remainder of the 2021- 2022 school year, effective December 8, 2021, at Step 1 as per the WTA contract. (To fulfill a leave of absence)
- 3.11 Appoint Kristen Martone to the position of Teacher's Aide at a rate of \$16.33/hr. for the

remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, retroactive December 6, 2021. (To fulfill a leave of absence)

3.12 Appoint Substitutes for the 2021-2022 school year.

|   |
|---|
| <b>Certified Teacher Substitute at a rate of \$102/day.</b> |
| Devon Tomson  |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Non-Certified Teacher Substitute at a rate of \$92/day.</b> |
| Vincent Petitti  |

3.13 Approve a contract for Evening Custodial Services with Building Care Systems for the 2021-2022 school year @ \$8,031.67/month. Services to begin December 17, 2021.

3.14 Set rates for substitutes:

|                               |
|-------------------------------|
| Snow Removal-\$20.00 per hour |
| Painter-\$20.00 per hour      |

Dr. Yodis reviewed the new hires and is excited to fill the vacant positions. Mr. Lanese asked about the Building, Grounds, and Transportation position. Dr. Yodis along with Mike Goyer, Mary Ellen Angrisano, and John Yagelski will be conducting the first round of interviews for the position on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Mrs. Castle asked about the contract for custodial services. Dr. Yodis is prepared to welcome the cleaners into the building on Friday, December 17, 2021.

Mr. Hirokawa asked to pull Policy 5300 from the consent agenda. Item 3.15 as a whole was pulled from the consent agenda.

Mr. Lanese asked for the roll to be called for approval of consent agenda 3.1-3.14. Consent Agenda approved 5/0.

3.15 Policy Update- First Reading-**Tabled**

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| 0101 Gender Neutral Single -Occupancy Bathrooms |
| 1230 Public Comment at Board Meeting            |
| 1230-E Public Comment at Board Meeting Exhibit  |

|   |
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| 2342 Agenda Preparation and Dissemination |
| 5300 Code of Conduct                      |

Mrs. Castle asked about Policy 0101 as it was recently updated, and new signage was installed. Newer guidance has been provided from NYSSBA regarding the use of active rather than passive wheelchair icons on the signage, since our update earlier in the year. After a discussion about the dress code portion of the Code of Conduct, and board review of suggested edits to the other policies it was decided that the recommended updates go out to committees and be brought back to the Board of Education next month for a first read of the policies. Approval of agenda item 3.15 was tabled until next month.

Mrs. Castle recommended reinstating a policy committee with parents and board members, as done in the past, to address incoming policies.

#### 4.0 Informational

- 4.1 Regular BOE Meeting January 20, 2022, @ 7 pm.
- 4.2 Questar III BOCES Annual Meeting Wednesday, April 13, 2022
- 4.3 Questar III BOCES Budget Vote & Election: Tuesday, April 26, 2022
- 4.4 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

Mrs. Mack made a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0.

#### 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 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**

Mr. Hirokawa motioned to return to the open session at 8:52 PM. Mrs. Mack seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0.

## **7.0 Adjournment**

Mrs. Castle made a motion to adjourn at 8:53 PM. Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0.

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.