

**WYNANTSKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**

**January 20, 2022 @ 7:00 PM**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87082600652?pwd=QnZXTW84eWpUei9OZFZ4MFJ5T3d2Zz09>

**Meeting ID: 870 8260 0652**

**Passcode: 717964**

**One tap mobile**

**+16465588656,,87082600652#,,,,\*717964# US (New York)**

**+13017158592,,87082600652#,,,,\*717964# US (Washington DC)**

**Dial by your location**

**+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**

**+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)**

**+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**

**+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)**

**+1 720 707 2699 US (Denver)**

**+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**

**Meeting ID: 870 8260 0652**

**Passcode: 717964**

**Draft Minutes**

**1.0 Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 PM by Mr. Lanese.

**1.1 Record of Attendance**

Mrs. Castle	Present
Mr. Hirokawa	Present
Mr. Lanese	Present
Mrs. Mack	Present
Mr. Strang	Present

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

**1.3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

a. December 16, 2021

Mrs. Castle made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2021, regular Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5/0.

**1.4 Acceptance of Financial Reports**

- a. Internal Claims Auditor's Report (December 2021)
- b. Monthly Treasurer's Report with Budget Transfers
- c. Quarterly Extra Classroom Report (12/31/21)
- d. Quarterly Revenue Report (12/31/21)

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

Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5/0.

#### 1.5 Visitors and Communication

##### a. Communications to the Board of Education

i. Extension of Authority to Conduct Public Meetings Remotely

ii. QUESTAR Regional Board Workshop

iii. Emails from parents regarding programming and communications during COVID.

##### b. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

There were no comments from the public.

## 2.0 Reports to the Board of Education

### 2.1 Board of Education Reports & Updates

There were no reports or updates to the Board of Education.

### 2.2 District / Superintendent Program Report

Dr. Yodis reported on the new configuration for the Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation Departments. She followed with an update on COVID management in the school.

We have recently seen the elimination of Contact Tracing from NYS and County Departments of Health. Guidance on January 14, 2022, indicates that schools can stop contact tracing. Gardner-Dickinson will continue to identify close contacts and let families know to follow the recommendations from the CDC/NYSDOH. We hope to work with families to cut down on the number of students in quarantine by testing known exposures at home and in school during what would be the 5 day quarantine period, allowing asymptomatic children to stay in school. Board members inquired about current quarantine contact tracing procedures and how new guidance would change what is currently in place. Dr. Yodis explained how a positive case is traced, taking into consideration that masking and social distancing are expected within the school setting. We first look to see who sits with the student on the bus, what activities the student participates in outside the regular classroom, and who they may have had prolonged exposure to. With the recent spike in positive cases, we have not seen a clear connection to COVID spread taking place in the classroom setting yet. The Board inquired about how information on COVID is shared out within the school, and with the community. The nurses' office and superintendent's office work together with the classroom and homeroom teachers to identify potential in-school exposure. The superintendent's office reports COVID information daily to the State Education COVID dashboard and the NYS DOH. All other COVID-related communication is sent out through the service with QUESTAR. The District website, text alert system, and social media are all managed through a contracted service with QUESTAR. We experienced quite a bit of turnover with that position this year, and it has been vacant for some time. We anticipate having a new communications person assigned to the district on February 15, 2022. The Board suggested transitioning to a weekly COVID case round-up instead of daily alerts.

The Board of Education is wondering how to improve our communications with the community so more people can be aware of the activities happening during the school day. Dr. Yodis will

look into what can be done to increase communications until the Questar vacancy is filled.

The Board is in support of bringing back some of the more COVID-safe traditions that were done in the past.

### 2.3 Principal's Report

Principal Cornell shared a GD Monthly Activity Calander for the 2021-2022 school year, highlighting some of the great work the staff have done to engage students during the first half of the year. She noted several activities we are looking forward to participating in during the remainder of the school year. Principal Cornell suggested that she could include a newsletter in the next run of report cards to help increase awareness of in-school activities. Board members asked if the Book Fair could be moved back into the school from the Town Hall. Dr. Yodis will talk to the PTA to see what they have scheduled and see if we can accommodate it. Mrs. Mack inquired about allowing an additional parent or family member to attend the remaining basketball games. Mr. Disotto has been monitoring the attendance at the games, Dr. Yodis will discuss it with him to see if it is feasible. The general consensus from the Board is that they would like to see more activities return that have been on hold as a result of the pandemic. Dr. Yodis suggested the creation of some focus groups to determine what we can do to begin opening things back up.

### 2.4 PTA / SEPTA Update

Paul Koniowka, PTA president, provided the following message via chat:

*Krause's Candy sale will start Feb 11th. Packets are due March 1st, with an ETA of delivery of April 4-8th. The Bookfair will be Wednesday, March 16th, and Thursday the 17th at the North Greenbush Town Hall from 2:30 to 8:00 PM on both nights.*

*The PTA would love to hold the book fair at school if possible but have the plans in place if we couldn't. The town hall did wave the rental fee so we would like to that the town board for their support.*

*The PTA also would like to help plan to offer moral booster and mental support for our middle school students and have formed a committee to look into ideas. To bring back to the board.*

*The next meeting will be on March 22th at 7:00 PM. If we can host in person at school in the evening it would be nice, but we have plans in place to stay virtual over zoom.*

*The WPTA, would like to thank Dr. Yodis and Principal Cornell, and the Board of Ed for all the support.*

SEPTA-Mrs. Mack reported that the SEPTA hopes to get some in-person activities up and running soon.

## 3.0 Appointments and Authorizations

### Consent agenda 3.1 – 3.11

3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE recommendations as per attached.

3.2 Approve a contract addendum for Susan Stoya, to add 11 additional hours for work on

teacher observations, written evaluations, and post-observation meetings at a rate of \$660.00 above the existing contract of \$4,300.00.

- 3.3 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wynantskill Union Free School District hereby appoints Rocco Mazzarello to the position of Head of Building, Grounds, and Transportation, effective January 10, 2022, subject to the rules of the Rensselaer County Civil Service Commission. Mr. Mazzarello's salary shall be \$70,000 for the 2021-22 school year, prorated to reflect his start date.
- 3.4 Abolish the position of Working Supervisor in the Building and Grounds Department effective 1/20/22.
- 3.5 Accept the resignation of Robert Rowe from the position of part-time Teacher Aide effective 1/14/2022.
- 3.6 Accept the resignation of Mario Ciprioni from the position of Bus Driver effective 1/26/22.
- 3.7 Accept the resignation of Patricia Rowe from the position of part-time Teacher Aide effective 1/21/2022.
- 3.8 Acceptance of the Corrective Action Plan for Audited Financial Statements ending June 30, 2021.
- 3.9 Appoint Substitutes for the 2021-2022 school year.

<b>Non-Certified Teacher Substitute at a rate of \$92/day.</b>
Renna Poulin
Maria Malatesta

<b>Substitute Bus Driver at a rate of \$18/hr.</b>
Nancy Osborne

3.10 Surplus Buses

Bus #- Year, Make, Capacity, VIN#
# 64- 2009 International, 66 passenger (VIN#4DRBAUUN39B661869)
# 67- 2001 International, 30 passenger (VIN # 674DRAPSKK3BB343978)

3.11 Addition of Impartial Hearing Officers to District Specific Rotational List

Sebastian Weiss
David Gronbach
Israel Wahrman
Ellen Cutler-Igoe

3.12 Policy Update- First Reading

0101 Gender Neutral Single -Occupancy Bathrooms
1230 Public Comment at Board Meeting
1230-E Public Comment at Board Meeting Exhibit
2342 Agenda Preparation and Dissemination

The resignees and retirees we offered gratitude for their service and wished well in their future endeavors. Robert and Patrica Rowe were appreciated for their continued service with the transportation department, and Rocco Mazarello was welcomed to the new Head of Building, Grounds, and Transportation position.

Policy updates were moved from Item 3.11 to Item 3.12, as the first readings for policies do not require Board approval. The addition of Impartial Hearing Officers to the District Specific Rotational List became Item 3.11. CSE report was amended to strike report from 1/21/21 from the Consent Agenda.

Mrs. Castle made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as corrected above.  
Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 5/0.

**4.0 Informational**

4.1 Regular BOE Meeting February 17, 2022, @ 7 PM

Mr. Lanesy noted that the Board hopes to meet in person, and that ZOOM is always an option for those who would like to watch.

4.2 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

Mrs. Mack made a motion to enter into executive session for purpose number 6.  
Mr. Strang 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 the following subject:

- 6.  The medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters.

Mr. Hirokawa left the meeting at 9:00 PM.

## **6.0 Return to Open Session**

Mrs. Mack made a motion to return to open session at 9:02 PM

Mr. Strang Seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0.

## **7.0 Adjournment**

Mrs. Castle made the motion to adjourn at 9:03 PM

Mrs. Mack 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.