

WYNANTSKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

February 17, 2022, @ 7:00 PM

Join Via Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 870 8260 0652

Passcode: 717964

One tap mobile

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Draft 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 7:03 PM, by Mr. Lanesey.

1.1 Record of Attendance

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

1.2 Review of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

Dr. Yodis reviewed the agenda welcoming with enthusiasm a new building maintenance worker, noting the obsolete equipment to be disposed of, and expressing gratitude for those who have provided input on how the District can move forward as we begin to pivot away from COVID.

1.3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. January 20, 2022

Mrs. Castle made a motion to approve the January 20, 2022, Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion Carried: 5/0

1.4 Acceptance of Financial Reports

a. Internal Claims Auditor's Report (January 2022)

b. Monthly Treasurer's Report with Budget Transfers

Mrs. Mack made a motion to approve Financial Reports.

Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.

Motion Carried: 5/0

1.5 Visitors and Communication

a. Discussion on Masks

Mr. Lanese made a statement to clarify that at the moment we do not have a say on the masking policy. We are currently required to continue to mask and will make a decision on masking when we are given an option to do so. The protocols are evolving and we expect new guidance early next month. Mrs. Castle wanted to clarify that it is not our choice, and we are hopeful that it will become optional, allowing those who wish to continue to mask to do so.

b. Communications to the Board of Education

i. BOCES Annual Meeting Invitation

ii. Extension of Executive Order to meet virtually through March 16, 2022

c. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

There were no requests made from the public.

2.0 Reports to the Board of Education

2.1 Board of Education Reports & Updates

There were no reports or updates from the Board of Education

2.2 District / Superintendent Program Report

Dr. Yodis thanked everyone who came out to provide input for January's Town Hall Meetings, reached out via email, and filled out the Town Hall survey. Everyone's input was much appreciated. Moving forward we are focusing on:

- Increased Communication- Gretchen Ingersol from QUESTAR III BOCES will fill the communications vacancy this week.
- Moving Away From COVID: Loosening COVID restrictions and protocols (Masks, physical distancing, bringing back more activities, and opening up the school to families again)
- Social and Emotional Supports for our Students
- Middle School (curriculum, supports, scheduling, academic offerings, sports)

COVID numbers continue to drop! We will send every child home with test kits to use before coming back from the winter break, as we hope to keep the numbers down.

Along with the PTA, we are meeting with all faculty and staff members to brainstorm and begin to plan for many supports, activities, and family events both in and out of school in the next month: ice skating, book fair, basketball night out, Builder's Club Pre-K-5 Play Day, MS dance, Chorus Club for MS, After School support/tutoring sessions for MS, Elementary Science Club, Spring concerts, etc...., the list continues to grow. There will be a Modified Sports Focus Group on March 1st at 6:00 PM, to discuss strengthening our sports program and investigating sports options with other districts.

Dr. Yodis followed with a slideshow presentation on the Budget Outlook for 2022-2023. We are planning with the hope that we can pivot away from COVID. We are not planning for a need for

the additional teachers added to grades 3,5, and 7 to accommodate for social distancing protocols. We don't anticipate needing additional PPE and hope to require less additional staffing throughout the building to manage COVID protocols.

The Comptroller's Office announced that the allowable **tax levy growth factor** for the 2022-23 school budget is **2.00%**. Comparatively, last year's rate was 1.23%. This is the highest percentage in years, and also the maximum allowable percentage. This is then coupled with the 2022-23 **tax base growth factor**, set from the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services, which is **.10%** (lower than last year's at .48%). After running the formula calculations, we find we can **raise the tax levy \$119,037 this year which is a 2.10% increase on the tax levy**. Last year we were only able to raise it by \$95,533, so this is an increase. Dr. Yodis went on to review the New York State 2022-2023 Executive Budget Proposal estimated aide runs, and rollover runs.

The plan moving forward is to remain fiscally conservative working toward the BOE goals with a focus on :

- Maintaining a safe environment that keeps our kids in school 5 days per week by creating and following effective safety protocols.
- Improving the school climate in Wynantskill through deliberate work to multiply the intelligence and capabilities of every employee and student as well as cultivating strong mentors and peer supports for all students and staff (known to us at GD as "Multipliers & Marigolds").
- Providing support and mentoring for our new principal, Mrs. Cornell.
- Analyzing current staffing to identify areas in need of improvement to optimize district operations.
- Completing a Transportation Study.
- Completing a 5-year Budget Outlook Study

Mr. Lanese asked about next year's plan for the part-time position of School Social Worker. Dr. Yodis is currently planning to continue with the School Social Worker position as part-time. The SEL team has seen a lot of changes this year. We will have a clearer picture of needs as we approach the end of the school year.

2.3 Principal's Report

Principal Cornell welcomed guest speaker, QUESTAR III BOCES Social Emotional Learning program specialist, Jodi Sullivan. She reviewed social-emotional initiatives that have been implemented in the district since last year and up to this point in the current school year:

- Discussion and Analysis of NYS SEL Framework done last year, with former program specialist and school psychologist. Transition to the new team with the rollover in staff from last year to this.
- Roles and Responsibilities for SEL "team"
 - School Counselor, School Social Worker, School Psychologist
- Lesson Planning & SEL Framework Alignment-Utilizing the existing Second Step curriculum
- Short-Term and Long-Term Planning

She continued by discussing the ongoing SEL Committee Work which includes:

- Maslow Before Bloom (Pearlman) Book Study
- Communication Plans
- Tier 1 Strategies - Second Step push-in to classrooms.
- Needs Analysis (Committee & Building Work)
- Highlighting / Sharing Best Practice out to the teachers. Leverage strategies that are already working in the building.

Ms. Sullivan is impressed with the enthusiasm of the SEL team and looks forward to continuing SEL initiatives within the district. A question was asked about middle school SEL programs. Ms. Sullivan recognized that the current SEL curriculum focuses on students up to the sixth grade. The committee recognizes the need to address transition for the older students and is focused on continuing those discussions, and offering more programming for grades 7-8.

Principal Cornell followed with an update on NWEA Benchmark Assessments given twice during the academic year. The winter assessments were just completed. The exams are closely aligned with the Common Core Standards and serve as a predictor of how students will perform on the NYS ELA and Math assessments at the end of the year. The NWEA informs planning for instruction. The projection for math is that a little over 30% of the students in grades 3-8 will perform at proficient levels and around 40% at proficient levels in ELA. We see the most success aligned with the early grades as you look at the proficiency range projections. Mrs. Cornell continues to look at the data with the teachers to discuss how it can be used to inform instruction and improve outcomes for students. Literacy expert, Karen Kohler from QUESTAR is working with grades 6-8 as they adopt the new Teacher's College literacy program which is more in line with 21st-century learning skills. An elementary-level committee is comparing 4 different ELA programs to choose a new program to adopt next year. In March, the committee will be visiting schools that have the programs in place to see what they look like when implemented. Once the programs have been completely reviewed, the committee will make a presentation to Dr. Yodis to recommend a purchase for next year.

2.4 PTA / SEPTA Update

Jenny Brown gave the PTA update via ZOOM. The PTA offered their support to Dr. Yodis, Principal Cornell, Kathy Fazioli, the BOE, and all of the GD faculty and staff; thanking them for all they do. The Town Hall last month was a source of positive input that will drive future programming.

Recent PTA events:

- GD Faculty Game Day-Thanks to Anthony Vescio for sharing his musical talent.
- February Valentine's Cards for Van Rensselaer Nursing Facility-A thank you note was received from the facility for all of the thoughtful cards.
- Valentine's Treat distributed to all students

Upcoming PTA events:

- Krause's Candy Fundraiser- February 11th-March 1st.
- Book Fair-March 15th-18th- Volunteers needed

- Builder’s Club-Afterschool Elementary Play Days/ Middle School Dance-Dates TBD
- Bus Driver Appreciation Day-Date TBD

The next PTA meeting will be March 22, @ 7:00 PM. A ZOOM link will be available.

SEPTA

Mrs. Mack reported that SEPTA is planning on a trip to see how maple syrup is made in March.

3.0 Appointments and Authorizations

Consent agenda 3.1 – 3.9

- 3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations as per attached.
- 3.2 Approve 2022-2023 School District Calendar
- 3.3 Approve 2022-2023 Board of Education Calendar
- 3.4 Appoint Rober Koberger to the position of Building Maintenance Worker, retroactive to February 14, 2022, subject to the rules of the Rensselaer County Civil Service Commission. Mr. Koberger’s salary shall be \$50,000 for the 2021-22 school year, prorated to reflect his start date.
- 3.5 Adjust the substitute school nurse rate from \$102/day to \$30/hr.
- 3.6 Approve Extracurricular appointments as per WTA contract.

Modified Softball Coach-Keith Akots
Modified Softball Coach-Jeff Muller
Modified Baseball- Brian Law

3.7 Approve Substitutes

Non-Certified Building Substitute- \$92/day
Jody Rogers-Pending NYSED fingerprint clearance

3.8 Approve the disposal of:

GD TAG	Item
F00041	Epson Ceiling Mount Projector
F00524	Epson Ceiling Mount Projector
F00525	Epson Ceiling Mount Projector
F00253	Epson Ceiling Mount Projector
F00284	Epson Ceiling Mount Projector
F00285	Epson Ceiling Mount Projector
F01216	Epson Ceiling Mount Projector

F01217	Epson Ceiling Mount Projector
F01429	Epson Ceiling Mount Projector
F01379	Epson Ceiling Mount Projector
F01430	Epson Ceiling Mount Projector
F01432	Epson Ceiling Mount Projector
F00127	SmartTech Smartboard
F00129	SmartTech Smartboard
F00144	SmartTech Smartboard
F00157	SmartTech Smartboard
F00245	SmartTech Smartboard
F00256	SmartTech Smartboard
F00258	SmartTech Smartboard
F00257	SmartTech Smartboard
F00281	SmartTech Smartboard
F00282	SmartTech Smartboard
F00283	SmartTech Smartboard
No Tags	12- Folding, Round Cafeteria Tables w/ attached stools
1660-1699	20 Ceiling Mount Television and VCR combination

3.9 Policy Update- Second Reading & Approval

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

Mr. Lanese asked about the plan for the disposal of equipment. Dr. Yodis reported that

projectors and Smartboards in working order were being salvaged and set up in support classrooms where possible. The TV/VCR combinations are obsolete and will be offered to a parent-owned salvage business for disposal.

Mr. Lanesy suggested adjusting the Board of Education calendar next year by pushing the August 18, 2022, meeting to August 25, 2022, to allow more time for opening of school business to occur between meetings. Everyone was in agreement and the calendar will be modified accordingly. Mr. Lanesy asked that language in future agendas be modified to align with the changes to Policy 1230, renaming agenda items 1.5,c. and 4.2 as Public Comment.

Mr. Strang made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 3.1-3.9.
Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion.
Motion Carried: 5/0

3.10 Policy Update- First Reading

6150 Budget Transfers

4.0 Informational

4.1 Regular BOE Meeting March 17, 2022, @ 7:00 PM

4.2 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

Susan Czubek is excited to see things opening up and more activities returning. She expressed a desire to see some focus on some activities that are seen as extras, like field trips. The Washington DC trip was an activity that students look forward to. Organizing for larger trips takes considerable time to plan and fundraise for. She is asking that the school consider moving toward providing enrichment opportunities again and encourages staff to reach out to the PTA for funding as they move forward. Larger activities and trips are not out of reach for next year if the planning and fundraising start now.

5.0 Request for Executive Session

Mrs. Mack made a request to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of Action 6 at 8:09 PM.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried: 5/0.

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. Castle made a motion to return to open session at 9:03 PM.

Mrs. Mack seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0.

7.0 Adjournment

Mrs. Mack made a motion to adjourn at 9:04 PM.

Mr. Hiriokawa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Heidi Hallock

Clerk of the Board

BOE Approved: TBA 3/17/22

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.