

**WYNANTSKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**

**March 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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**1.0 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Mr. Lanesey.

**1.1 Record of Attendance**

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

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

Dr. Yodis reviewed additions to the agenda. Assemblyperson John McDonald III will join us for a legislative update. Bids were opened on March 16, 2022, & recommendations for approval have been added to the agenda for snow removal, refuse removal, and transportation storage & maintenance. An additional Section 504 plan was submitted for CSE approval. Teachers are being recommended to provide after-school tutoring services. Rocco Mazarello has been recommended to serve as the Asbestos reporting officer. Obsolete equipment has been identified for disposal.

**1.3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**a. February 17, 2022**

Mr. Hirokawa made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 17, 2022 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 5/0.

**1.4 Acceptance of Financial Reports**

**a. Internal Claims Auditor's Report (February 2022)**

## b. Monthly Treasurer's Report with Budget Transfers

Mrs. Mack made a motion to approve the Financial Reports. Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion. Motion carried 5/0.

## 1.5 Visitors and Communication

### a. Legislative Update NYS Assemblymember, John T. McDonald III

Assemblymember McDonald reported on Governor Hochul's initiatives to get all districts caught up on foundation aid. More funding has been added for mental health and community school initiatives. CTE funding is expected to increase over the next three years. He reported that funding seems to be stable for the next couple of years. There is a 5-year initiative to increase funding per seat for schools that receive less for Universal Pre-K. They are attempting to adjust the reimbursement process if a school qualifies for a refund from the State. Dr. Yodis asked about the 3% increase in foundation aid and the future plan for the funding for Pre-K at Wynantskill. The Assemblyperson clarified that the intention was to continue to provide Pre-K funding with a goal of there being consistent with the funding from year to year.

### b. Communications to the Board of Education

#### i. Building Use Requests

As we transition from COVID restrictions the Board has been asked to consider reopening the building to outside use. Mrs. Castle asked if building use would be affected by the new cleaning routine adopted in December. We are now contracting for evening custodial services so there is no longer a building employee on-site after 5:00 pm as in the past. Mrs. Mack wondered about having the custodial service lock up after events. Mr. Lanesev suggested that there may need to be an adjustment to the building use policy and fee schedule. At this time we will continue to only open the building for school or PTA-sponsored activities.

### c. Public Comment- Attendees decided to hold their comments until the second opportunity at the end of the meeting.

## 2.0 Reports to the Board of Education

### 2.1 Board of Education Reports & Updates

Mrs. Mack attended the QUESTAR III/ HVCC High School Open House Event to explore the college in the high school program. She reports that the five students from Gardner Dickinson who chose that path for high school are flourishing in that program, and offered her support for the program as a high school choice for district students.

Mr. Lanesev, Mrs. Mack, Mrs. Castle, and Dr. Yodis attended the QUESTAR III Regional Board Workshop, featuring Mike Ford, on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The workshop provided clarification of New York State Education Law and the duties of a school board. Presenter Mike Ford reported on data and trends in education highlighting the changes we are seeing in students and staff.

### 2.2 District / Superintendent Program Report

#### a. Sports Update with Dan Disotto

See attached slide show.

Mr. Disotto reported on the initiative to provide more sports opportunities to students at

Gardner Dickinson. Dr. Yodis and Mr. Disotto recently met with Dr. Robert Zayas and Todd Nelson of NYHPSAA to discuss options. An application has been submitted for a full membership status with Section III and NYHPSAA. Once the application is processed the district can move forward with sports merger options. A survey will go out to the community once we have obtained a response to the application.

The season will open with the baseball and softball teams beginning practice at the Top Level Sports Facility in Rensselaer. Once the field dries out practice will move outside. The week of April 5th will be the first scheduled game. Mr. Disotto reported that a considerable amount of work would be necessary in advance of us being able to host another team on the field. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the condition of the ballfield and the upcoming spring sports season. Options were discussed regarding long-term vs. short-term options.

Long-term, a multipurpose field would be the most desirable option so both baseball and softball could be hosted on-site, as we run into scheduling conflicts trying to schedule games at other facilities. Dr. Yodis reported that a capital project for a multipurpose field could run between \$50,000 to \$150,000. She said that a capital project of that nature would need to be planned for in the next budget cycle after the Board had an opportunity to review the Building Condition Survey and prioritize the facility's needs. Fundraising and community project options can be explored.

Short term there is a considerable amount of leveling that needs to occur and work needs to be done on the mounds and home plate. Mr. Disotto suggested converting to a clay infield. The Board expressed concern about the timeframe available for getting the field in playable condition and suggested exploring options as there isn't much time to get short-term work contracted and completed before the scheduled games. Dr. Yodis will check with the insurance company and NYSED about having the community help with the short-term touch-ups. Using other fields will also be explored as a backup option.

- b. Dr. Yodis gave the attached slide presentation on the budget preparation process. The budget is being prepared with consideration for current spacing protocols with preparation to pivot if protocols suddenly change. Dr. Yodis is looking at the student demographics and considering creative staffing options to meet the changing needs of the student population. Mrs. Mack asked about the declining enrollment and how it will affect the foundation aide. Dr. Yodis reported that there is about a 2-year lag in the funding/enrollment calculations in regards to state aide, and we can expect to feel the impact down the road when they recalculate. Mr. Lanese asked about scheduling for next year. Dr. Yodis would like to add 15 minutes to the day and will meet with the WTA to try to get an MOA for next year to accommodate for more support to the middle school. Mrs. Castle asked about the transition from morning transportation to instructional time in the building. Ideally, students will report directly to homeroom to begin instruction next year as they have done this year.

### 2.3 Principal's Report

Principal Cornell reported on the PARP program with the theme "Be Your Best Self", with the initiative for students and families to read together beyond the classroom. Authors Nick Bruell, Barbara McClintock, Barbara Slate visited the classrooms virtually as a kick-off for the event. Forty-two students participated in the Literacy Fair with their work on display for the March 16 Scholastic Literacy Fair. Many families were in attendance at the event. Mrs. Cornell offered appreciation to Katie Sheehan, Linda Fercura, Jamie O'Brien, Kaelyn Madelone, and Jamie

O'Brien for their ongoing commitment to making the program possible. Gratitude was expressed to Sue Czubeck for her role in making the Scholastic Fair happen for the Gardner Dickinson community.

#### 2.4 Buildings and Grounds Report

Dr. Yodis reported that the building and grounds team have been taking inventory of equipment housed on-site and will be auctioning off additional equipment.

#### 2.5 PTA / SEPTA Update- No reports

### 3.0 Appointments and Authorizations

#### Consent agenda 3.1 – 3.11

3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations as per attached.

3.2 Approve Snow Plowing Service Season Contract to High Tech Lawn & Snow Service Ltd. for the 2022-2023 School Year:

- Plowing Service -\$6,000.00 a season
- The price for salt (upon request) - \$250.00/per application
- Removal of snow piles/push back (upon request) -\$400.00/per occurrence.

3.3 Approve Transportation Maintenance, Storage of Vehicles, & Vehicle Service Contract to Mulson's Garage for the 2022-2023 School Year:

- Storage of 20 Buses-\$6,000.00 for the year plus the cost of electricity.
- Preventive Maintenance Inspection -\$ 85.00/per bus
- DOT Inspection-\$90.00/per bus
- Cost of other service and repair-\$90.00/ per hour.

3.4 Approve Refuse Removal Service Contract to Twin Bridges for the 2022-2023 School Year @ \$375.00 per month.

3.5 Approve the attached agreements between the Wynantskill UFSD and North Greenbush Common School District for K-12 **transportation services, physical education services,** and the letter of notification to the North Greenbush Common School District for the grades **K-8 tuition rates** for 2022-2023 school year.

3.6 WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Wynantskill Union Free School District, Rensselaer County, New York, has called an Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote of the qualified voters of said School District to be held on the 17th day of May, 2022, and WHEREAS, it is now desired to provide for the appointment of inspectors for said Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of Wynantskill Union Free School District, Rensselaer County, New York, as follows:

Section I. Mary Ellen Angrisano, a duly qualified voter of said School District is hereby appointed as the Permanent Chairman of the Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote referred to in the preambles hereof.

Section 2. The following named qualified voters of said School District are hereby appointed to act as Inspectors of Election of said Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote: Stefanie Ryan, Susan Czubek

Section 3. Nancy Ruffinen is hereby designated as Chief Election Inspector.

Section 4. The following named qualified voters of said School District are hereby appointed as Assistant Clerks of said Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote: Stefanie Ryan, Susan Czubek

Section 5. Each Inspector of Election and Assistant Clerk appointed for said Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote, as herein provided, shall be entitled to compensation at the rate of \$15.50/hr. serving as Chief Election Inspector & Assistant Clerk/Inspector for each day actually and necessarily spent on the duties of his/her office. The Clerk of said School District is hereby authorized and directed to give written notice of appointment to the persons herein respectively appointed as Permanent Chairman, Inspectors of Election, and Assistant Clerks for said Special District Meeting.

- 3.7 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wynantskill Union Free School District, hereby establishes the following standard work days for its employees and will report days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the time keeping system or the record of activities maintained and submitted by these members to the clerk of this body:

Title	Standard Work Day (Hrs/day)
Bus Drivers	6.0
Food Service Worker	7.0
Cafeteria Worker	4.0

- 3.8 Approve Extracurricular appointments as per the WTA contract.

<b>After School Tutorial</b>
Therese Bucher-Math
Peter Mesh-Math
Rebecca Delaney-ELA, Science, Social Studies
Martha Ryan-ELA, Science, Social Studies
Lisa Hancock- Spanish, as needed
John Lantz- Substitute, as needed

3.9 Appoint Rocco Mazzarello, as the LEA Designated Person under CFR § 763.84 of the EPA Asbestos-Containing Material in Schools regulation, for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. No stipend.

3.10 Policy Update- Second Reading & Adoption

6150 Budget Transfers
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3.11 Approve the disposal of:

Cub Cadet 1130 SWE Snow Blower-Tag # F00050
10HP30 Snow Blower F00049, Tag #F00049
V24B Wet Vac 1026 4 Power Flite PAS 20 DX Floor Scrubber, Tag # A00154
Ventrac 4200 Compact Tractor with Cab, Tag #A00169
Mower Deck for Ventrac 4200 VXD, Tag # A00169
2-Rolling Electronics Racks- Tag #A00232, Tag # A00229

Mrs. Mack made a motion to approve Consent Agenda 3.1-3.11. Mr. Hirokawa seconded the motion. Motion carried 5/0.

#### 4.0 Informational

- 4.1 Questar III Annual Meeting April 13, 2022, @ 6:00 pm via Zoom
- 4.2 Regular BOE Meeting April 14, 2022, @ 7:00 pm
- 4.3 Candidate Petitions Due April 18, 2022, by 5:00 pm
- 4.4 Candidate Position Ballot Draw April 19, 2022, @ 9:30 am
- 4.5 Questar III Budget Vote April 26, 2022, @ 9:00 am via Zoom
- 4.6 Public Comment

Sue Czubek inquired about what middle school enrichment might look like next year.

Megan Armstrong expressed concerns about the Math and ELA score projections presented at last month's meeting. She inquired about the Board of Education's role in meeting the district goals of *"increasing academic achievement for all students"* and *"providing a quality education program"*. She expressed concern with the current level of staffing for AIS, and asked what the school's plan is to bring the majority of students up to a proficient level beyond purchasing a new curriculum? She asked when the community can expect to see the proficiency numbers increase?

Shelby Wilson expressed concerns about academic support not being available to her child & disruptive students in the classroom. Dr. Yodis will reach out to her for clarification on her

concerns.

### **5.0 Request for Executive Session**

Mrs. Mack made a motion to convene into executive session at 8:37 pm for:

**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:

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.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0.

### **6.0 Return to Open Session**

Mrs. Castle made a motion to return to open session at 9:32 pm. Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried: 5/0

### **7.0 Adjournment**

Mrs. Castle made a motion to return to adjourn at 9:33 pm. Mrs. Mack seconded the motion.

Motion carried: 5/0

Respectfully submitted,

***Heidi Hallock***

Clerk of the Board

For BOE Approval 4/14/2022

Agenda attachments can be found in the Documentation portion of the Agenda Table for the March 17, 2022 Meeting.

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.

