

WYNANTSKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL
DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
September 15, 2022, @ 7:00 PM
Gardner-Dickinson School Library Media Center
Minutes Draft

1.0 Call to Order and The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

1.1 Call to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Meeting called to order at 7:01pm by Mr. Lanesey.

1.2 Record of Attendance
Record of attendance

Mrs. Mack	Absent
Mr. Lanesey	Present
Mrs. Castle	Present
Mr. Strang	Present
Mrs. Hurbanek	Present

1.3 Review of Agenda/Additions to Agenda
Dr. Yodis reviewed the agenda, mentioning a few MOAs were added today, as well as an appointment of a school nurse and psychologist, some spots we were in great need of.

1.4 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a. August 25, 2022
- b. September 7, 2022

August 25th will be approved based on one edit that was labeled “accepted a motion” rather than seconded. Nichole’s name was misspelled on 3.20.
Mr. Strang made a motion to approve the August 25th and September 7th minutes pending the edits.
Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4-0.

1.5 Acceptance of Financial Reports

- a. Internal Claims Auditor’s Report August 2022
- b. Monthly Treasurer’s Report with Budget Transfers (August 2022)

No discussions.
Mr. Strang made a motion to approve the financial reports.
Mrs. Hurbanek seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4-0.

1.6 Visitors and Communications

- a. Communications to the Board of Education
- b. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

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
No reports.

2.2 District/Superintendent Program Report
Dr. Yodis explains more about the COMPASS institute trainings that a group of administrators and faculty attended. This group designed a SMART goal that the school district would like to accomplish by June 2023.

Asking that the board get behind this as well, so the entire district can get behind this goal:

“Wynantskill UFSD will increase a schoolwide culture and climate of respect and collaboration among students, families, teachers, staff and district leadership by 50% by June 2023.”

Every district they studied had a strong culture, and that is what Dr. Yodis and the group who attended the COMPASS institute would really like to bring to GD. It will be continuously measured, as a survey was sent out earlier this week, and a survey will be taken again in January, and once again at the end of the year. A student survey will be sent out soon too. She thanks the hard work of the crew that attended the COMPASS workshop.

Dr. Yodis talked about the CARE (Cultivating Awareness and Resilience in Education) development programs that the staff went through before the start of school that were aimed to help faculty better manage stress throughout the year. Many improvements were taken from the workshops to be used in things like faculty meetings to create a better environment and communicate more effectively.

Dr. Yodis went over the NYSPHSAA (New York State Public High School Athletic Association) update regarding the sports merger proposal. It is scheduled to be an action item February 2023, to be implemented in Fall of 2023. A discussion occurred regarding a portion of the proposal that says students must stay in the district that they decide to play modified sports with. Mr. Strang questioned if losing students playing at other districts will lose our ability to sport our own GD teams. A lot of details are still needed to figure this out in the future.

2.3 Principal's Report

Principal's Report.pdf

Principal Cornell also went over the code of conduct presentations she gave to students. The board agreed that the open houses were well received, felt like we were back to normalcy and was a great success.

2.4 Building, Grounds & Transportation

Building and Grounds Supervisor, Rocco Mazzarello, went over things that the buildings and grounds crew accomplished over the summer. Completed tasks included: roof maintenance, made sure nothing was out of alignment; the book room was relocated (Kaelyn Madelone was very helpful with that move); some floor repairs were made, asphalt repairs (potholes, along the side of the building); tree pruning and clearing; striping and finishing the hallway floors; painting the doors downstairs; and 5 pallets of electronics will be recycled for free through Questar later in September. Moving forward, the gym floors will likely be refinished over winter break, he will look to move the speakers in the gym higher up, refinish classroom floors, and the boiler room needs some cleaning. Mrs. Castle and Mrs. Hurbaneck express how great they believe the school looks, specifically the cafeteria floors. Mr. Mazzarello sends his appreciation to coworker Bob K.

Mike Goyer congratulates Rocco Mazzarello for getting his bus license. Mr. Goyer explains that all of the buses have to be aligned with how many drivers we have. Every driver drives for multiple schools. We successfully trained 5 out of 6 drivers over 2 summers. Mr. Goyer explains that it takes up to 3 months to train a bus driver, and the reason that it's so difficult to find bus drivers is that the training process is long and overwhelming to some. Mr. Goyer reported that the Yankee Trails move is going well. There have not been a lot of complaints, which he believes is awesome to see. Dr. Yodis explains that the new invoice and billing system for fuel purchasing is incredible, in compliance with everything we need to be in terms of auditing. Mr. Goyer is possibly expecting two drivers or more to leave in January. However, multiple candidates have been interviewed lately. Mr. Strang says it's a national crisis for the need for bus drivers but the district is handling it well. The topic of Brittonkill school district arose, mainly that Brittonkill numbers have been declining, so we could roll out the district within the next three years. There are 6 students there now, compared to around 46 a few years ago. There could be discussions about pausing Brittenkill as an option for a high school to save a bus driver from traveling. An option could be allowing students to still choose Brittonkill however not offering transportation, to ease the strain it places on our transportation staff. We will work on communicating any decisions out to families.

2.5 PTA/SEPTA Update

No update. PTA meeting on Tuesday, September 20th.

3.0 **Appointments and Authorizations**

3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations as per attached.

3.2 Approval of the following Extra-Curricular appointments for the 2022-2023 school year as per the WTA contract:

Martha Ryan	8 th Grade Advisor
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3.3 Appoint John Penman as CSE Chairperson for the 2022-2023 school year, at no additional stipend.

3.4 Appoint Kyle Barber as District Clerk, retroactive to September 1st, 2022, at a stipend of \$4,570.

3.5 Appoint Katie Lyn Mardon as School Nurse, at Step 6 as per the WTA contract, effective November 2, 2022.

3.6 Approval of Contract between Wynantskill UFSD and Rocco Persico for Psychological Services, not to exceed \$36,000, for the 2022-2023 school year.

3.7 Approval of Substitutes for the 2022-2023 school year as follows:

Madison Akots	Substitute Nurse
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Sarah Sepp	Certified Substitute Teacher
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Jason Alston	Substitute Custodian *(Pending Fingerprint Clearance)
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3.8 Accept the letter of resignation from Debra Baker as an aide, effective September 12, 2022.

3.9 Approval of MOA between WTA and WUFSD regarding nurse salary.

3.10 Approval of MOA between WTA and WUFSD regarding Pre-K arrival time for the 2022-23 school year.

3.11 Approval of MOA between WTA and WUFSD regarding hiring of Sara Friday outside of WTA contract for the 2022-23 school year.

Discussion: Dr. Yodis appreciates all that Nurse Gibbs has done for the school. She’s very excited for Katie Mardon to begin after her maternity leave. Rocco Persico will be here at least one day a week as a psychologist as well as do some writing off site. Mr. Persico works at Little Red and East Greenbush and is very well established. We are still looking for a right fit for our school psychologist role. MOA for PreK was done as too many cars were picking up students and clogging up the front of the school. PreK teachers have been great in coming in early to allow this change to happen. PreK teachers have loved greeting the kids outside.

Mr. Strang made a motion to approve items 3.1 - 3.11

Mrs. Hurbanek seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4/0.

4.0 Informational

- 4.1 Regular BOE Meeting October 20, 2022, @ 7 pm
- 4.2 Audit Committee Meeting October 20, 2022 @ 6:30 pm
- 4.3 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard.

Parent Sue Czubek noticed a trend in Troy high that they lock up their cell phones when entering the building in lock boxes. She asked if Wynantskill has thought about doing something similar. Principal Cornell explains that all teachers have a consensus to not allow cell phones to be used in class. Dr. Yodis says she will look into something like the lock boxes. Mr. Strang believes this would stop the issue of students filming when they shouldn't be, etc. Mrs. Castle likes the idea of putting the phones at the front of the class but not locked up as they could save a life in the event of an emergency. Principal Cornell says there's always a connection to the office and outgoing calls as now every room has a phone in it.

Teacher Kate Hamilton explains that one of the draws to GD is the high school options we offer, and getting rid of a high school choice will hinder us potentially in the future. She asks the board to look into the future more before making a decision.

5.0 Request for Executive Session

No request for executive session.

6.0 Return to Open Session

7.0 Adjournment

Mrs. Castle motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm
Mrs. Hurbank seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4/0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kyle Barber
Clerk of the Board
For BOE Approval 10/20/2022

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.