

October 20th, 2022 Minutes.

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 7:04pm by Mrs. Mack

1.2 Record of Attendance

Mrs. Mack Present

Mr. Lanesey Present

Mrs. Castle Present

Mr. Strang Absent

Mrs. Hurbanek Absent

1.3 Review of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

Dr. Yodis mentioned that there are a couple of special reports from Scott Pressuer, transportation, and a lot of appointments for substitutes.

1.4 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a. September 15, 2022

Mr. Lanesey made a motion to approve the September 15th minutes.

Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3/0.

1.5 Acceptance of Financial Reports

a. Internal Claims Auditor's Report September 2022

b. Monthly Treasurer's Report with Budget Transfers (September 2022)

c. Summary of Reserve/Fund Balances

Mrs. Castle made a motion to accept the financial reports.

Mr. Lanese seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3/0.

1.6 Visitors and Communications

a. Scott Preusser, External Claims Auditor

Mr. Preusser thanks the district office for their assistance in this process and gathering the reports necessary to be ready for them. Mr. Preusser detailed things in his reports and mentioned we had a very good year in terms of assets, reserve funds, and giving back on taxes. Putting money into capital reserves is wise to be able to put it into a project. Borrowing money is costing schools more with the interest rates so high, having that capital reserve helps save a lot of money for the district. Other departments have reserves as well, that are able to be used for future funding, which is a very good detail. Overall, the district's financial position came in well, no huge fluxes in tax rates, which is not seen very often. Once federal funding is gone, aid changing will have an influence on the budget, it will be something that the district will have to focus on when it happens.

b. Discussion about high school choice and transportation

- Mike Goyer continued discussion about Brittonkill being a high school choice due to the low numbers currently attending there and the strain on the transportation dept. There was discussion about the possibility of working with Brittonkill to split transportation since at this time it does not seem fair to limit high school choices and eliminating one school will not have a huge effect overall and we appreciate Mike's concern overall. Transportation covers 30 schools right now, which could change by the minute, if a student moves into an area 15 miles from a school we transport for. Dr. Yodis commends how we are doing in retaining and bringing on new drivers. Many drivers have already retired but continue to help us. Other districts help us out when they can, but they are struggling as well. Mr. Goyer is looking forward to Mr. Mazzarello helping more with transportation next year.
- Our new 65-passenger bus arrived, and our smaller bus is delayed. On a question about electric buses, Mr. Goyer says it is somewhat of an unknown, but will be reaching out to get as much funding as we can for them. Dr. Yodis stated that there will be new guidelines out from the state regarding electric buses in February. Mr. Mazzarello applauds what Mr. Goyer and Mr. Cushing do every day for this school and its transportation. The board agrees and thanks them both.

c. Communications to the Board of Education

- It is board of education appreciation week and students created cards and posters for the board members.

d. 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

a. Royal Recognitions

The food service staff were recognized for their dedication and service to our students. The staff does well with the students, did exceptional work through covid, and the Department of Health audit was sparkling for the cafeteria, acknowledging the good work they do every day.

b. Policy Committee Update

Mrs. Castle reported that a policy committee has started its work again. It has been a while since policies were reviewed and the initial thought was to go through the policies and request NYSSBA updates. NYSSBA only puts certain ones electronically, and we can only request 10 samples a year. We will reach out to NYSSBA to request their assistance with the process for a cost of about \$3500 to review all that are currently needed. The policy committee will then review to fit for our district and continue work on a regular basis.

c. Board Goals

Mrs. Mack stated that this point is from the retreat the board attended in August. The first goal is checked off, which is to reinstate the policy committee. The second goal is to improve board communications, one step towards that is the board newsletter from last week, which is a monthly plan. Changing the mission statement is another goal of the board, however, might be something that happens in the future, not an immediate change. There was discussion that the mission statement is referenced in many policies and it's something to look at carefully. It was suggested that the policy committee begin review of it and then be open to further discussion on it.

2.2 District/Superintendent Program Report.

- Dr. Yodis reported that it has been 30 successful days of school. It's wonderful to see how close students can finally work together post covid.
- Dr. Yodis thanks Peter Mesh and Jeanine Mitchell for after-school clubs, Coach Parker, and Mr. Lantz for soccer. Field trips have started and kids are having a blast. The kids are very busy but very happy.
- Dr. Yodis stated that last year we had almost no options to hire employees and gives a shout-out to Mr. Barber for helping us hire so many. We are thinking outside of the box to get people to join our team, and the recruiting is going very well. For the first time since Dr. Yodis has been working here, the whole Elementary team was able to meet at one time, as we were able to hire enough substitute teachers to cover them all.
- We had our first lockdown drill, 4 police departments showed up to get familiar with our building and procedures. Mr. Lanese asks if we ever do an emergency evacuation drill. Dr. Yodis says the last one was before COVID, but we just talked about this with North Greenbush PD. New contracts to the evacuation sites were made and sent. Years ago we used to have buses here all the time just in case, and it's being talked about now. Mr. Goyer mentions we can put that together.

- We had a 911 call yesterday for an after-school employee and EMS arrived almost immediately and stayed for almost two hours. We've invited First Responder agencies to our FR assembly next week.
- The Capital Project paperwork isn't ready to be put forth today, but perhaps a special meeting Tuesday.

2.3 Principal's Report

Principal Cornell stated that we've had our first schoolwide assembly since COVID.

- Our positive behavior cart for middle school is new this year, students earn royal dollars and can exchange them for prizes. They can choose from art supplies to food. She thanks Brenda Alderman for her work with the cart and work on surveying kids on what they would be excited about. This also lets students save their royal dollars for bigger prizes. We ask staff for "non-monetary" donations students can earn, like lunch with a teacher.
- Some events coming up include books buddies and boos, idea from Mrs. Mercado. 2nd annual pumpkin run on Halloween, and the second schoolwide assembly on the 28th.
- The 8th-grade parent meeting to discuss activities for the 8th graders this year went well, great discussion was held with some actionable next steps.

2.4 Building, Grounds & Transportation

- https://wynantskillufsdorg-my.sharepoint.com/:p/g/person/rmazzarello_wynantskillufsd_org/EbgKm4z5gMRIuW9ZwMF B2eQBaoqR6ySJ3yLJ4hMb6VD7hw?rttime=Dx0TMcm12kg
- Use of facilities requests are coming in. Because we do not have any district staff in the building past 5:00, honoring these requests is difficult. There was discussion about possible options and it will be explored further to help the community groups.

2.5 PTA/SEPTA Update

Fundraisers for PTA have begun.

3.0 Appointments and Authorizations

Consent agenda 3.1 - 3.13

3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations as per attached.

3.2 Approve the 2023-2024 Budget Development Calendar.

3.3 Appoint Ned Kassman to IHO Rotational List.

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

Susan Gallagher (retroactive 9/27) Non-Certified Substitute Teacher

Andrew Makowski (retroactive 10/11) Non-Certified Substitute Teacher

Madison Hook (retroactive 10/14) Non-Certified Substitute Teacher

Jayson Gayle (retroactive 9/27) Non-Certified Substitute Teacher

Rose Church (retroactive 10/04) Substitute Teacher Aide

Christina Gribben Certified Substitute Teacher

Laura Sayers (retroactive 10/04) Substitute Teacher Aide

Yordano Berrios (pending fingerprints) Teacher Aide

Rosemary Palasz (retroactive 10/07) Recess Aide

Aerianna Kristel (retroactive 10/14) Substitute Teacher Aide

Alyssa Rodriguez Non-Certified Substitute Teacher

Paris Bezjian Non-Certified Substitute Teacher

Kanika Pompey Non-Certified Substitute Teacher

Amy Ovitt (pending fingerprints) Non-Certified Substitute Teacher/Substitute Nurse

Katelynn Cook Non-Certified Substitute Teacher

Darcy McMahon (retroactive 10/19) Substitute Teacher Aide

Delisha Durant (pending fingerprints) Teacher Aide

3.5 Approve Kaelyn Madelone, Jamie O'Brien, Karen Keane, Lauren Curran, and Rebecca Delaney as teacher mentors for the 2022-23 school year.

3.6 Appoint Peter Mesh for the following extracurricular activity at \$30 an hour not to exceed 6 hours retroactive for hours worked.

Tennis Club

3.7 Appoint Kristen Parker and Courtney Townsend as girls basketball coaches for the 2022-23 season as per WTA contract.

3.8 Appoint Logan Simonian as boys basketball coach for the 2022-23 season as per WTA contract.

3.9 Appoint Marie van Maastricht for the following extracurricular activity as per WTA contract. All County Band Representative

3.10 WHEREAS, the Wynantskill UFSD intends to participate in the County of Rensselaer School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program (hereinafter the "Stop Arm Program").

WHEREAS, the Stop Arm Program is authorized under New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1174-a; WHEREAS, pursuant to NYS VTL §1174-a, in order to participate in the Program, the Wynantskill UFSD must enter into an agreement with the County.

WHEREAS, the Wynantskill UFSD intends to execute the School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program Opt-In Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and enter into the Stop Arm Program. RESOLVED, the School

District BOE hereby acknowledges and approves the Rensselaer County School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program Opt-in Agreement made between the County of Rensselaer, Wynantskill UFSD, and Bus Patrol America LLC, and agrees to be bound by its terms.

3.11 Approve a rate of pay at \$24.72/hr. for bus drivers for field trips/extracurricular activities, and a fee of \$26/hr for drivers for outside groups for field trips/extracurricular activities.

3.12 Approve Schoolhouse as its construction manager for the proposed capital project, subject to the District and Schoolhouse entering into a contract for the services in a form acceptable to the District's Superintendent of Schools and its legal counsel.

3.13 Accept the 2021-2022 External Audit Report and Corrective Action Plan.

Mrs. Castle made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Mr. Lanese seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3/0.

Dr. Yodis says the stop arm program can have the cameras ordered within two weeks, the county handles all expenses and maintenance. Hopefully, people will stop passing the buses.

3.14 Policy Update - First Reading.

6700 Purchasing Policy

4.0 Informational

4.1 Regular BOE Meeting November 17, 2022, @ 7 pm

4.2 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard.

- Katrina Dinan congratulates the board of education for the board of education week and believes it's important that the board of education budget for things like policy review and professional development. She commented on the mission statement, school choice, and requested access to the transportation study. The transportation study can be found here: <https://www.wynantskillufsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/FINAL-REPORT.pdf>
- Kate Mercado would like to thank the board of education for everything they do. She would like to thank Principal Cornell and Brenda Alderman for the royal bee cart, and how amazing it has been for reinforcing positive behavior in the middle school.
- Erik Denny commented that the new menu process of seeing it on the app only is more difficult than just posting it; expressed concern over action by a visitor's school bus, inquired about a plan B for winter fire drills, expressed a possible consideration of solar panels to be installed with the capital project and tax levy inequalities.

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 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. 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)).

Mrs. Castle made a request to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of Action 6 at 8:39 PM.

Mr. Lanese seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3-0.

6.0 Return to Open Session

Mrs. Castle made a motion to return to open session at 9:43 PM.

Mr. Lanese seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3/0.

7.0 Adjournment

Mrs. Castle made a motion to adjourn at 9:44pm.

Mr. Lanese seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Barber

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 prog