

# Wynantskill UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Gardner-Dickinson School

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
November 17, 2022, @ 7:00 PM  
Gardner-Dickinson School Library Media Center  
Draft **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

Mrs. Mack called the meeting to order at 6:58pm

#### 1.2 Record of Attendance

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

#### 1.3 Review of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

Brianna Delgado was added to the substitute teacher list as her fingerprints cleared today.

#### 1.4 Royal Recognition

The Board of Education would like to recognize the following, exceptional group of musicians for representing GD at the All County Band event earlier this month and doing a spectacular job. All of this couldn't be possible without our amazing music teacher, Mrs. van Maastricht.

a.) Liam Casey b.) Freya Seebald c.) Tyler Mercado d.) Johnny Wang

#### 1.5 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a. October 20, 2022
- b. October 25, 2022

Mrs. Castle made a motion to approve the October 20th and October 25th minutes.

Mrs. Hurbanek seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0

#### 1.6 Acceptance of Financial Reports

- a. Internal Claims Auditor's Report October 2022
- b. Monthly Treasurer's Report with Budget Transfers

Mr. Lanese made a motion to approve the financial reports

Mr. Strang seconded the motion

Motion carried 5/0

1.7 Visitors and Communications

a. Communications to the Board of Education

A letter was received from Ms. Dinan.

b. Public Information Meeting - Capital Project

Ed Anker, Eric Robert (via zoom), and Dr. Rick Timbs (via zoom) attended the meeting to discuss and answer questions regarding the Capital Project. All stated that they are ready for drawings and have a good head start on the process. The review/approval process at the State Education Department has improved since the last capital project and should not be as time consuming for documents to be approved. Mr. Robert said the project managers will have a year and a half to fully prepare. Summer 2024 is the estimated starting time, potentially with a little work in the fall of 2024 to finalize things.

Dr. Timbs stated how important it is to maximize state aid and Mr. Anker and Mr. Robert have accomplished getting maximum aid for the district. Dr. Timbs also analyzed debt service, and the project will bear no negative impact on taxes, including no increase on the tax cap or levy. He commended Ms Angrisano and Dr. Yodis for saving money in the capital reserve which is the major reason there will be no tax levy.

c. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

No one at this time.

2.0 **Reports to the Board of Education**

2.1 Board of Education Reports & Updates

a. Policy Committee Update

Sending five policies through for first reading. Things will be on hold from here until NYSSBA finalizes our policy review.

b. Attendance at Questar Presentation

Mrs. Castle attended a Questar presentation with Dr Yodis regarding the change in learning behaviors in students. She discussed some points that were brought up about having to change teaching styles. Dr. Yodis will present more in her report.

2.2 District/Superintendent Program Report

 BOE Report 11\_1\_7\_22.pdf

- Dr. Yodis commends the great work the school has done so far even though it's only November.
- The CARE program is continuing with Mrs. Lovelace which helps teachers manage stress and burnout and is going very well. The program will continue four more sessions.
- An update on the COMPASS institute that was attended earlier this year, which includes our SMART goal of increasing culture and climate. Two people from the institute checked the status last week of how the school is doing, and will come back on Monday to present more ideas to implement in the school, like a buddy-mentor system between students and faculty.
- Restorative Justice Practices (RJP), another project that some staff took part in this summer has an update; GD applied for and received coaching for RJP's through a grant. The board applauded Mrs. Cornell for the work towards this.
- PBIS is going strong with bee bucks, weekly raffles, Dr Yodis gives props for the royal bee cart to Mrs. Cornell.
- The new reading program has staff working tirelessly to implement it as they are excited to use it in their classes. We are able to have all staff work together at the same time because we have enough substitutes to cover classes. Kaelyn Madelone gets a shoutout from Dr. Yodis for all the support and

- hard work she is bringing to this process and she's doing an amazing job.
- Middle school is working to realign to new standards and assessments. Mrs. Sheehan thanks Dr. Yodis for including non-classroom teachers in these trainings as it helps her be more consistent and support the classroom teachers.
- There are many initiatives that the district is working on and are looking to just connect everything together as a whole.
- Dr. Yodis says in 11 years this is the highest sense of pride in this building she's ever had.
- Dr. Yodis also reported on the Questar presentation with Dr. Bill Daggett with discussions on the changes to students over the years and how schools need to focus on changes needed.

### 2.3 Principal's Report

- Books buddies and boos, pumpkin run, tennis club, science club, odyssey of the mind, builders club, turkey bowl all events or clubs that are doing well or went very well.
- Parent-teacher conferences occurred last week. There was great attendance by parents.
- ELA and Math state testing scores from 2021-22 were released. NYS testing scores have all been low and students are struggling, however, our district is ranking well compared to other schools in the area.

### 2.4 Building, Grounds & Transportation

- Mr. Mazzarello mentions the continuing struggle for bus drivers. He commends the dedication of the current staff as he's driving much less than he imagined.
- Mr. Mazzarello talked about the great effort and work Yankee Trails puts into its facilities and that they maintain a great space for our buses to be stored. A bus broke down last week, and two members of Yankee Trails came out immediately and handled all issues within 24-hours.
- Mr. Mazzarello and Mr. Goyer continue to try and stay on top of any updates on electric buses.
- Wayfinder is something being looked into to mount tablets in the bus that help maintain the attendance of students on the bus, and if someone isn't on the bus, the routes will update to be more efficient.
- The leaf vacuum is now running and works great.
- All repairs needed for fire inspections were handled.
- Small issues that were discovered at the last lockdown drill were taken care of.

### 2.5 PTA/SEPTA Update

A family photo night will be held in the first week of December that will be a fundraiser for the PTA.

## 3.0 Appointments and Authorizations

### Consent agenda 3.1 - 3.8

3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations as per attached.

3.2 WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Wynantskill Union Free School District, Rensselaer County, New York, has called a Capital Project Budget Vote of the qualified voters of said School District to be held on the 13th day of December 2022, and WHEREAS, it is now desired to provide for the appointment of inspectors for said Capital Project 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 Capital Project 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 Capital Project Budget Vote: Stefanie Ryan, Susan Czubek

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Section 3. Karen Martin 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 Capital Project Budget Vote: Stefanie Ryan, Susan Czubek

Section 5. Each Inspector of Election and Assistant Clerk appointed for said Capital Project 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.

3.3 Approve the request for maternity leave for Mary Bond, commencing on January 3, 2023 and ending March 24, 2023.

3.4 Accept the resignation of Peter Mesh for the purpose of retirement, effective July 1, 2023.

3.5 Accept the resignation of Sydney Geoghan as lunchroom aide effective November 18th, 2022.

3.6 Approval of substitutes for the 2022-23 school year -

Dorian Ekeh	Non-Certified Substitute Teacher
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Sonya Hanlon	Substitute Teacher Aide
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Brianna Delgado	Non-Certified Substitute Teacher
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3.7 Approve Architect and Engineering Services contract with Phinney Design Group.

3.8 Policy Update- Second Reading & Adoption

6700 Purchasing Policy
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**Discussion:** The district is sad to see Mr. Mesh leave, but wishes him the best in his well-deserved retirement. The district congratulates Sydney for graduating college and getting a job in her field.

Mr. Strang made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Mr. Lanese seconded the motion.

Motion carries 5/0.

### 3.9 Policy Update - First Reading

9240 Recruiting and Hiring
9700 Staff Development
5153 Student Assignment to Classes
4000 Student Learning Standards and Instructional Guidelines
4511 Textbook Selection and Adoption

### 4.0 Informational

4.1 Regular BOE Meeting December 15, 2022, @ 7 pm

4.2 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard.

Ms. Dinan spoke on culture, collaboration, and communication being great things to feature; reflected on Mr. Mesh and his generosity and dedication to Gardner-Dickinson, mentioned the roof warranty and the steps the district has mentioned to keep up on the warranty.

### 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)).

**No request for executive session.**

### 6.0 Return to Open Session

## **7.0 Adjourment**

Mr. Lanese made a motion to adjourn at 8:29pm.

Mrs. Castle seconded the motion

Motion carries 5/0.

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.