

Wynantskill UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gardner-Dickinson School

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
February 16th, 2023, @ 7:00 PM
Gardner-Dickinson School Library Media Center
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
The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mrs. Mack.
 - 1.2 Record of Attendance
 - Mrs. Mack - present
 - Mr. Lanesey - present
 - Mrs. Castle - present
 - Mr. Strang - present
 - Mrs. Hurbanek - absent
 - 1.3 Review of Agenda/Additions to Agenda
No additions/revisions for the agenda.
 - 1.4 Royal Recognition
 - 1.5 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. January 19th, 2023
Mrs. Castle made a motion to accept the minutes.
Eric Strang seconded.
Motion carried 4/0
 - 1.6 Acceptance of Financial Reports
 - a. Internal Claims Auditor's Report January 2023
 - b. Monthly Treasurer's Report with Budget Transfers
Mr. Lanesey made a motion to accept the Financial Reports.
Mr. Strang seconded.
Motion carried 4/0
 - 1.7 Visitors and Communications
 - a. Communications to the Board of Education
 - i. BOCES Annual Meeting Invitation
 - ii. Dan DiSotto - Athletics Update

Dan presented the Athletic Proposal timeline and presented on the process, factors driving the process and the ultimate decision that was recently made. Unfortunately, the proposal was defeated. GD will have to look at other options now for sports mergers.

- b. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard
None at this time.

2.0 Reports to the Board of Education

- 2.1 Board of Education Reports & Updates
None at this time.

- 2.2 District/Superintendent Program Report

Dr. Yodis:

- Reported on the Response Protocol and Reunification training and evacuation procedures and plans. She attended a 2-day training along with Rocco Mazzarello at Questar III with other Rensselaer County schools.
- COVID numbers up this week as well as the stomach bug resulting in several students and staff out sick..
- Bus drivers were invited to a breakfast where a proposal was discussed for a new salary structure to raise the base pay of the drivers, including longevity steps to coincide with years of service (with GD or with another school). The proposal depends upon budget approval. The District welcomed 2 new drivers recently, both with previous experience and we are lucky to have them.
- Discussed the Volunteer Firefighters/EMT Property Tax exemptions. Deadline for adoption is March 1st so there may not be enough time to research and implement for this tax year.
- Spoke about what we know about the budget so far to date. Enrollment numbers were discussed going forward, including Pre-K and Little Red student numbers. Also discussed was the maximum tax levy increase as well as the preliminary state aid numbers based on the Governor's Proposal.

☐ Budget Outlook- Feb 16, 2023 MINS

- 2.3 Principal's Report

Mrs. Cornell

- Spoke about winter activities at GD. Middle School dance, Museum Club, Odyssey of the Mind currently meeting, gearing up for competition in the spring.
- The PTA held BINGO night -125 people attended.
- A Soup-er Bowl fundraiser and carnation sale for BeeCart supplies were held in February.
- Mrs. Bucher & Wallace's class will lead the Bee Assembly and kick off the PARP program.

- 2.4 Building, Grounds & Transportation

Transportation:

Mr. Goyer:

- spoke about the approaching April 1st deadline coming for private school transportation.
- StopArm cameras installations are beginning February 27 and 2 will be installed per week until complete.
- Learning a lot about electric buses.
- We have a full roster of drivers at this time. Joyce Lanese continues training and Mike is confident she will be on board soon! Another prospect may be on the horizon.
- Mailings for parents are being updated and will be out to parents so everything is clear for them regarding delays, etc.

PTA/SEPTA Update

- PTA: Talent Show is March 10, with rehearsal on Wednesday, March 1.
- SEPTA: Parent chat last week. Attending Bring on the Spectrum March 11, and planning other projects in April and May.

3.0 Appointments and Authorizations

Consent agenda 3.1 - 3.6

- 3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations as per attached.
- 3.2 Approve 2023-2024 Board of Education Calendar
The following changes requested:
- April meeting date to Tuesday, April 16
 - August meeting to Thursday, August 31, 2023
- 3.3 Appoint Kristen Parker as girl's softball coach for 2022-23 season as per WTA contract.
- 3.4 Approval of substitutes for the 2022-23 school year

Non-Certified Substitute Teachers (\$100/day)
Andrew Hoffman (retroactive 2/10/23)
Jeffrey Pierre-Louis (retroactive 2/9/23)
Belinda Freeman (retroactive 2/9/23)
Alexander Kirsch
Jenna Fennelly
Meleigha Kugler

- 3.5 Accept the resignation of Karen Keane from the position of special education teacher for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2023
- 3.6 Appoint Tracy Owes as a full-time bus driver at a rate of \$22.60/hr retroactive 2/9/23 and aide at a rate of \$16.82/hr.

Mrs. Castle made a motion to accept the consent agenda items.

Mr. Lanesey seconded.

Motion carried 4-0

3.7

APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WYNANTSKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, RENSSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST TO RENOVATE, RECONSTRUCT AND CONSTRUCT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GARDNER-DICKINSON SCHOOL BUILDING AND FACILITIES, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$4,977,950 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,643,222 SERIAL BONDS OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PAY A PORTION OF THE COST THEREOF.

Motion made by Mr. Lanese to accept the Bond resolution.

Seconded by Mr Strang.

Motion carried 4/0

4.0 Informational

4.1 Regular BOE Meeting March 16, 2023 @ 7 pm

4.2 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard.

Mrs. Dinan:

- commended Dan DiSotto on his presentation about the state of athletics.
- expressed concern about declining enrollment and
- congratulated Mrs. Keane on her retirement. Commented on Mrs. Keane's, Mrs. Horacek's and Mr. Mesh's retirement and their commitment to children. She stated that replacement of teachers in today's job market may be difficult.

Jessica Saulpaugh:

- spoke about sports and the importance of the role they play in her child's life and others.
- She would love to see if the District could find a way to make the sports work.

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)).

6.0 Return to Open Session

7.0 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:20 was made by Mr Lanesey.
Seconded by Mr. Strang.
Motion carried 4/0.

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.