

Wynantskill UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gardner-Dickinson School

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
 March 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 by Mrs. Mack at 7:00 pm

1.2 Record of Attendance

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

1.3 Review of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

The North Greenbush agreements were removed from the agenda and will be handled next month.

1.4 Royal Recognition

The Wynantskill UFSD would like to recognize Dom “M’er” Martino and Pat Martino for their longstanding support of not only Gardner-Dickinson but the entire Wynantskill community.

The Wynantskill UFSD would like to recognize the GD basketball teams for their great representation of Gardner-Dickinson throughout the season and overcoming any adversity encountered!

Coach Townsend	Coach Logan
Coach Parker	Coach Vince
Emme Blaauboer	Alex Roy
Erabella Albert-Thomas	Andy Williams
Gianna Corina	Anthony Adams
Gianna Palmer	Benjamin Apple
Isabel Strang	Drew Davey
Juliana Dinardo	Jackson Belokopitsky
Payton Rupp	Jesse Graiff

Reese Mahoney	Liam Kern
Serenia Spencer	Lucas Geise
	Keegan Armstrong
	Stefan Bilek
	Tyler Mercado
	Vincenzo Merola

Note: The girls' team was not able to attend due to previous commitments, however their certificates of recognition will be presented at school.

1.5 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a. February 16th, 2023

Mr. Lanesey made a motion to accept the February 16th minutes.

Mrs. Castle seconded the motion

Motion carried 5/0

1.6 Acceptance of Financial Reports

a. Internal Claims Auditor's Report February 2023

b. Monthly Treasurer's Report with Budget Transfers

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

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0

1.7 Visitors and Communications

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

The Wynantskill Board of Education welcomed NYS Assemblymember John. McDonald to discuss the State budget and aid to schools. Mr. Mc Donald indicated that the Assembly had moved forward with their proposed State Aid appropriations. He acknowledged that Wynantskill is not receiving as much aid as some surrounding districts. While Wynantskill was able to get the full 3 percent tax levy increase, it did not equate to much at all with the rising costs of everything.

- Dr. Yodis addressed that only 5 districts in Rensselaer County were under a 10 percent drop in enrollment with Wynantskill being 7 percent. Dr. Yodis wonders if Mr. McDonald thinks the State will look at all these losses and not penalize for a drop in enrollment. Mr. McDonald indicated several reasons for enrollment drops including family sizes are smaller which contributes to the decline in enrollment, but he does not foresee a major drop in aid if a major drop in enrollment occurs. It was noted that even HVCC and UAlbany are having enrollment issues.
- Mrs. Castle asked about funding for school breakfast/lunches from the State. Mr. McDonald indicated that \$124 million is proposed in the Assembly budget package to help feed children regardless of their socioeconomic status, with the hope to keep that money can be there for the long term.
- Mr. Strang asked about funding for electric buses. Mr. McDonald said a survey will be issued to every school district to further understand how Districts will be moving ahead and their interest in electric buses. He also mentions that it is a long and expensive process.

b. **Tiffany Dzembo - Volunteer Firefighters Taxes**

Tiffany Dzembo spoke to the Board of Education about the new tax exemption for volunteer firefighters that

just passed in NY. In an effort to increase and recruit volunteer firefighters to Wynantskill FD, a tax exemption of up to 10 percent of a residence is proposed. There are certain requirements volunteers have to meet in order to be offered the exemption. The Board believes that we have a great relationship with the Wynantskill FD and appreciate everything they do for the school and community.

■ Volunteer Firefighter & Ambulance Worker Tax Exemption Proposal - Wynantskill UFSD March 2023....

c. Kyle Buying - Electric School Buses

Kyle Buying, a Civil Engineer, spoke about the process of implementing electric buses works, the estimated cost, grants, and more. The State has passed laws that will affect what vehicles and buses will be available to buy in the future. Many schools are having issues with planning for electric buses. Careful planning has to be considered for bus routes to ensure proper charging. Mr. Buying also discussed other things to plan for, including battery degradation, space to install charging stations, spare buses, and more.

■ CorniceTechnology_ElectricSchoolBusEnergyProfile_Presentation_WynantskillUFSD_2_16_2023.pdf

d. Communications to the Board of Education

None at this time.

e. 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

Nothing to report at this time.

2.2 District/Superintendent Program Report

Dr. Yodis delivered her March 2023 Superintendent Report:

- Discussion of a sports merger- Dr. Yodis and Mr. DiSotto met with both Troy and Averill Park Administrators on a possible sports merger. We are asking questions to help our decisions as to which school would be best for different sports mergers. [Modified Sports Merger Options](#)
Both AP and Troy are open to a merger. After speaking with ED Dopp this week, we understand that paperwork by the April 1st deadline is too restrictive.
If we merge with a school, we could potentially ruin our chances to hold certain sports here. Mr. DiSotto indicated potentially starting a soccer club after-school program in order to encourage more students to play in the fall so we can have a boys and girls soccer team.
- The deadline for PreK applications was today, a total of 21 in-district applications were received. Right now, it looks like one class will be held with 18 students, with 3 on a waitlist. Families will be notified of the lottery results on Monday to accept their seats. A second room could be opened later if more interest arises.

2.3 Principal's Report

Principal Cornell joins us via zoom.

- Our talent show had a terrific turnout, and a special shoutout to Mrs. O'Brien, Mr. Mazzarello, and Mrs. Horacek for planning and setting up the show.
- The Literacy Fair is upcoming along with the PARP (pick a reading partner) program. The book fair is also approaching with a special guest reader night.
- Regional Staff Professional Development day is being held tomorrow.

2.4 Building, Grounds & Transportation

Mr. Mazzarello reports that lots of snow and trees were shoveled and removed! The power outage was handled after being out all day yesterday. Exhaust fans have been updated, a washer/dryer system has been purchased and would save money to clean our janitorial supplies.

📎 Board Meeting 3-16-23 .pdf

2.5 PTA/SEPTA Update

PTA hosted their first lego club meeting!

3.0 Appointments and Authorizations

Consent agenda 3.1 - 3.10

3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations as per attached.

3.2 Approve 2023-2024 School District Calendar

3.3 Approval of substitutes for the 2022-23 school year

Non-Certified Substitute Teachers (\$100/day)
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Stephen McClain

3.4 Approve Snow Plowing Service Season Contract to High Tech Lawn & Snow Service for the 2023-2024 School Year:

- Plowing Service \$6000 a season
- The price for salt (upon request) \$250 /per application
- Removal of snow piles/push back (upon request) \$400 /per occurrence.

3.5 Approve Refuse Removal Service Contract to Twin Bridges for the 2023-2024 School Year @ \$375 per month.

3.6 Appoint Robert Zieske as bus driver trainee at a rate of \$18.54/hr retroactive to March 3rd, 2023.

3.7 Approve the 8th-grade field trip to New York City on April 3rd, 2023.

3.8 Approve the 8th-grade field trip to Boston on June 12th, 2023.

3.9 Approve the 6-7th grade field trip to Bronx Zoo on May 22nd, 2023.

3.10 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 16th day of May, 2023, 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 1. 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. 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 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 \$16.50/hr. serving as Chief Election Inspector & \$16.00/hr as 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.

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

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0

3.11 Be It Resolved that pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following be appointed to tenure to the position to which they have served the required probationary period as specified below:

Name – Kate Lansing

Tenure Area – Speech Language Pathologist
Commencement of Tenure Appointment – 9/02/2023
Certification Status – Permanent

Mrs. Castle made a motion to approve item 3.11.

Mr. Strang seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0

3.12 Be It Resolved that pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following be appointed to tenure to the position to which they have served the required probationary period as specified below:

Name – Linda Fecura-Bunk
Tenure Area – Library Media Specialist
Commencement of Tenure Appointment – 9/02/2023
Certification Status – Permanent

Mr. Strang made a motion to approve item 3.12.

Mrs. Hurbanek seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0

The Board of Education and Dr. Yodis congratulate Mrs. Lansing and Mrs. Fecure on receiving tenure and thank them for their wonderful work and dedication to the students of Wynantskill!

4.0 Informational

- 4.1 Regular BOE Meeting April 20th, 2023 @ 7 pm
- 4.2 Questar III Annual Meeting April 5, 2023, @ 5:30 pm
- 4.3 Candidate Petitions Due April 17, 2023, by 5:00 pm
- 4.4 Candidate Position Ballot Draw April 18, 2023, @ 9:30 am
- 4.5 Questar III Budget Vote April 25, 2023, @ 8 am
- 4.6 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard.

Ms. Dinan:

- Commends that the Board recognizes that people matter and she appreciates the Royal Recognitions.
- The support for the Veterans tax exemption in the past would prove the firefighter exemption would go over well with the public.
- Regarding electric buses, she thinks big districts will move to have administrative superintendents running transportation departments as big budgets will have to be prepared.

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

Mr. Lanesey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40pm.

Mrs. Hurbanek seconded the motion.

Motion carries 5/0.