

**Board of Education**

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
June 15th, 2023, @ 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 7:00 pm

1.2 Record of Attendance

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

1.3 Royal Recognition - GD Softball Team. Congratulations to the following student-athletes and coaches for an exceptional winning season, and for representing Gardner-Dickinson in incredible fashion.

Coach Parker	Coach Mazzarello	Taylor Arienti
Emme Blaauboer	Jayden Denny	Juliana Dinardo
Reese Mahoney	Natalie Pakatar	Gianna Palmer
Sophie Ring	Skye Sage	Freya Seebald
Adrianna Sleicher	Meghan Wehna	

1.4 Review of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

- Anthony Vescio is here to present precautionary measures we are taking for cybersecurity purposes.
- We are appointing a new Spanish teacher and filling the CSE Secretary position.
- Added disposal of library texts earlier this week to the agenda.

1.5 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a. Regular BOE Meeting May 18th, 2023
- b. Special BOE Meeting June 5th, 2023

Mrs. Hurbanek made a motion to approve the previous minutes.

Mr. Lanese seconded the motion.

Motion carries 4/0.

- 1.6 Acceptance of Financial Reports
  - a. Internal Claims Auditor's Report May 2023
  - b. Monthly Treasurer's Report with Budget Transfers

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

Mr. Lanese seconded the motion.

Carries 4/0.

- 1.7 Visitors and Communications
  - a. Communications to the Board of Education
  - b. Anthony Vescio, Cybersecurity

Mr. Vescio discussed cybersecurity in response to Mr. Strang's request about what our efforts are in protecting us in the cyber world.

- We have monthly patches through Microsoft and weekly endpoint patches on things such as laptops.
- Web filters are implemented to ensure dangerous sites are not accessible amongst others.
- Human awareness is one of the more important factors to consider when it comes to cyber security. All staff are offered free training in cybersecurity once a year. Mr. Vescio mentions that suspicious emails sent to staff are generally always reported and he commends the staff on that aspect.
- He says that IT is always available to assist.
- Password policy - middle school is now setting their own passwords, perhaps 5th grade can be implemented soon in this policy as well. Changing passwords regularly is also important.
- On the topic of AI, Mr. Vescio explains that he believes it's degenerative, diminishing our ability to think and be creative. It is also something that is a hot topic and needs to be researched and discussed further.
- Mrs. Mack comments that some people do not have access to computers and we may need to offer paid training with a designated time for staff here that can have help doing these pieces of training.
- Mr. Vescio also discussed the repair costs of Chromebooks, potentially having families pay for devices if their student breaks devices more than once. Other school districts have an insurance plan where families pay \$40 at the beginning of the year in order to recoup some of the costs, but it wouldn't necessarily work unless 100% of families bought in.
- About \$10,000 was spent this year on repairs.
- It is something to discuss and determine if we'd like to implement this in September.

- c. Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

Chief Dave Keevern, North Greenbush Police Department.

- The NG Police Department has been serving GD diligently for the past couple of years, even having an officer stationed out front for drop off and pickup the past year, lockdowns, and thought we had a good relationship.
- He questioned if we felt the same as he was upset to learn that the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office hired an officer as SRO (School Resource Officer) for Gardner Dickinson without anyone notifying him. He asked why his department was not considered and how this decision was made.
  - Dr. Yodis indicated that she spoke to Lieutenant Croll before he retired and to Sergeant Deeb of the NG Police Department who were assigned as her contacts with the department. They both indicated that NGPD would never be able to accommodate an SRO position. She was told they would be in contact with the chief.
  - Chief Keevern indicates that they were not the correct people to ask in the department
- He stated that his department will not assist or respond to calls or incidents with anything involving GD students or activities at school during school hours. But will respond after hours when the SRO would not be there.

## 2.0 **Reports to the Board of Education**

### 2.1 Board of Education Reports & Updates

No updates at this time.

### 2.2 District/Superintendent Program Report

- Retirement party for our four retirees was held earlier this month. The love in the party was amazing to witness. Dr. Yodis wishes them all the best.
- Field trips - Bronx Zoo, Boston and more - thanks to PTA for sponsoring all field trips so no parents paid out of pocket.
- Dr. Yodis and Mr. Mazzarello attended the NYS safety conference to discuss all school safety measures and possible future issues, including building safety as well as mental health issues, etc.
- COMPASS team - NY Kids returned to see how our SMART goal has been achieved and determine future steps and goals.
- Senior Walkthrough - Thanks to Tyler Strock at Averill Park for reaching out to initiate this walkthrough, 17 graduating seniors attended to great feedback from everyone involved!
- Middle School Redesign - communications sent out recently to tell incoming 6, 7 and 8th graders about how their classes will look next year.

### 2.3 Principal's Report

### 2.4 Building, Grounds & Transportation

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### 2.5 PTA/SEPTA Update

- Next year's officers have been appointed for the PTA.
- SEPTA met on Tuesday, approved budget changes, and had a parent chat, Thursday the 29th will take a trip to FunPlex!

## 3.0 **Appointments and Authorizations**

### **Consent Agenda 3.1 - 3.16**

3.1 Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations as per attached.

3.2 Appoint Theresa McClain as part-time CSE Secretary for the 2023-24 school year at a rate of \$20/hr.

3.3 Approve Amy Murphy (School Counselor) for up to ten days of summer work at a daily rate per the WTA contact, and as needed/requested by the Superintendent.

3.4 Appoint Eric Audi as a Food Service Worker at a rate of \$17.33/hr., 4 hours per day, for the 2023-2024 school year.

3.5 Appoint Michael Goyer as a Transportation Consultant at a rate of \$50.00/ hour as needed for the 2023-2024 school year, not to exceed \$30,000.00

- 3.6 Appoint Mary Bond as Part Time FTE (.4) Social Worker per WTA contract @ Step 6 for the 2023-24 school year.
- 3.7 Appoint Brenda Vermilya as Part-Time FTE (.6) School Nurse @ St. Jude beginning 9/1/2023- 6/30/24 @ Step 14 (pro-rated)
- 3.8 Appoint Summer School Bus Drivers as per the attached assignments/rates:
- a. Nicole Manzer - Easter Seals Summer Program- July 3- August 11 / 4 hours per day base / 8-10 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m./ 29 Days
  - b. Neal Benassi -Little Red Summer Program- 6 weeks / 3 days per week / 18 days / 4 hours per day / July 11 - August 17
  - c. Bob Cushing - West Sand Lake ES and MS Special Needs Program - 7/3 - 8/11 / 29 days / 4 hours a day to start
  - d. Neal Benassi and Robert Zieske- cleaning and detailing- Hours will be per diem and applied to timesheets.
- 3.9 Appoint Peter Mesh as a certified substitute teacher for the 2023-24 school year.
- 3.10 Policy Update: First Reading

8121.1 - Narcan 1240 - Visitors to the School 1130 - Media Relations 1400 - Public Complaints
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- 3.11 Appoint John Lantz and Jacob Fisch as boys soccer coaches for the 2023-24 season as per WTA contract.
- 3.12 Appoint Kristen Parker and Michelle French as girls soccer coaches for the 2023-24 season as per WTA contract.
- 3.13 Appoint Maria Biondo as Spanish teacher per WTA contract @ step 4 effective September 1, 2023 (pending fingerprint clearance).
- 3.14 Approve a contract with John Penman to serve as pupil services coordinator, effective from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, for an amount, not to exceed \$60,000.
- 3.15 Approve contract with Susan A. Stoya to serve as lead teacher evaluator for the 2023-24

school year at a rate of \$60 per hour, not to exceed a total of \$5,000 by June 30, 2024.

3.16 Approval to dispose of 150 titles from the library. Some were damaged during circulation and others were strategically removed in an effort to keep the collection up-to-date and relevant. (See attached)

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

Mrs. Hurbanek seconded the motion.

Motion carries 4/0.

- Dr. Yodis welcomes Therese Mclain as CSE secretary and Maria Biondo as Spanish teacher for the upcoming year. Ms. Biondo has been working diligently to get her NYS teacher certificates set. Big thank you to Mrs. Hancock for all of her help in this process and will be a mentor to Mrs. Biondo.
- Mrs. Castle indicates that the policies were sent out to the policy committee to review to forward for board approval.
- Mr. Lanesey asked if we are still using Brittonkill for transportation to Wildwood in the summer, Dr. Yodis says we are.

3.17 RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Wynantskill Union Free School District hereby authorizes the funding of the District approved reserves with the excess of 4% from unassigned fund balance at June 30, 2023. The allocation of such fund balance will be determined subsequent to June 30, 2023 and prior to setting the tax levy.

Mr. Lanesey made a motion to approve item 3.17

Mrs. Castle seconded the motion.

Motion carries 4/0.

3.18 Accept the resignation of Joyce Lanesey as a full-time aide retroactive 4/18/23.

Mrs. Hurbanek made a motion to approve item 3.18

Mrs. Castle seconded the motion

Motion carries 3/0.

Mr. Lanesey abstained.

3.19 Appoint Joyce Lanese as a part-time recess aide retroactive 4/18/23.

Mrs. Castle made a motion to approve item 3.19

Mrs. Hurbanek seconded the motion

Motion carries 3/0.

Mr. Lanesey abstained.

3.20 Appoint Anthony Lanese as a substitute building/bus aide retroactive 6/05/23.

Mrs. Hurbanek made a motion to approve item 3.20

Mrs. Castle seconded the motion

Motion carries 3/0.

Mr. Lanesey abstained.

#### **4.0 Informational**

4.1 Organizational/Regular BOE Meeting July 5th, 2023 @ 7 pm

4.2 Opportunity for the Public to be Heard.

Mrs. Katrina Dinan -

- Believes the school board is a reflection of the community and culture, and mentions the school board goals set at the beginning of the year.
- She has been attending BOE meetings for the past year, and gave a recap of the year from her perspective.

Mr. Peter Mesh

- Thanks everyone from the board to administration to staff to first responders - grown an incredible amount as a teacher and a person, thanks to all of us.
- Reminded about how many lives we touch and how many we don't even know we touch.
- Unfathomable how many students have come through here and we don't even know what difference they are currently making in the world.
- Biggest lesson learned here was from a past administration who said he had nothing positive to offer. Now knows when someone is doing something he doesn't like, he goes back and thinks about that and he wants people to think about the best when looking at someone they may complain about.

#### **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 at this time.

## **6.0 Return to Open Session**

## **7.0 Adjournment**

Mr. Lanesey made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm

Mrs. Castle seconded the motion

Motion carries 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 potential; empower all to achieve personal excellence; and encourage a lifelong love of learning.