

A Special Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Williamsport Area School District of which all members were duly notified and of which due public notice was given as required by Act 84 of 1986, was held on Wednesday evening, February 8, 2017, beginning at 6:33 PM in the Board of Directors' Room, District Service Center, 2780 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

The President, Lori A. Baer called the meeting to order with the following members:

PRESENT: Lori A. Baer, Patrick A. Dixon, Jennifer Lake, Jerene A. Milliken, Jane L. Penman, Nancy Story Somers, Spencer E. Sweeting, Scott R. Williams

ABSENT: Robin J. Knauth

2. President Baer announced an Executive Session was held today beginning at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial proceedings.
3. Motion made by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Mrs. Milliken, to approve the adjudication of student 16/17-07, resulting from a quasi-judicial hearing held earlier this evening.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call.

4. Motion made by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Dr. Penman, to approve the adjudication of student 16/17-08, resulting from a quasi-judicial hearing held earlier this evening.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call.

5. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

President Baer asked the question of what steps the district is taking to educate students on the negative effects of bullying. Dr. Bowers described for the board members that in each building the teachers and admin team have presentations, the SWPB (School Wide Positive Behavior Program) and that it is a challenge to stop the spread of social media and online bullying that is occurring outside of school but is inevitably brought into school later. Dr. Bowers noted that the key for all in school settings is to get the parents involved and encouraging students to report all incidents as soon as it occurs so that we can act upon it.

Mrs. Milliken described an incident from her daughter's experience in high school related to social media bullying. Dr. Bowers noted that Facebook and Snapchat are two social media sites that are usual sources of conflict between students online.

Mrs. Lake asked about any outside programs that we may bring in to the schools about this topic. She added that WAMS had an assembly that was well received, wondered if there were more such programs for all students.

5. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS CONT'D:

Dr. Bowers noted the difficulties and challenges administrators and counselors face following up on online bullying and offered that we routinely involve principals and the SRO (School Resource Officer) in investigating threats made online student to student.

Dr. Penman discussed the impact of the Olweus anti-bullying program that the district had used a few years ago and thought that it may be time to revisit its impact or results on bullying prevention. Dr. Bowers mentioned that he would bring this question to the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) meeting and get back to the board after the administrators have had a chance to study it further.

Mr. Williams commented that it is important how the issue of younger students using online social media sites are addressed by parents and other adults as a perception issue. He noted that how adults bring up the topic of which sites are appealing may influence a child's decision on whether he/she want to use that site.

Mrs. Lake commented that the family piece seems to be missing and suggested that a parent night presentation at schools may be a good way to address the problem of online bullying.

Mrs. Milliken noted the sheer volume of students who have cell phones and an online presence. Mrs. Milliken commented how kids do not want their parents seeing who or what is on the student's Twitter feed.

A short discussion among board members followed with the importance of involving members from PTO and other parent groups in this issue.

President Baer asked Dr. Bowers about PATH. Dr. Bowers stated that PATH is one option of the alternative education facilities where districts send students after an expulsion.

President Baer asked board members if they had any other items to discuss.

Mrs. Milliken described her awareness of the problem of human trafficking and the potential problem of students placed in foster care that are possibly being drawn into prostitution and drug dealing. Mrs. Milliken expressed concern that parents and the schools become knowledgeable of the signs of how young people are groomed for human trafficking or worse. Mrs. Milliken named Christine Johnson as a very knowledgeable source in the community and asked her to call Dr. Bowers.

Mrs. Lake mentioned that she knows Christine Johnson and agreed with Mrs. Milliken's assessment of Williamsport gaining attention as a potential location for adults grooming teenage female students for drug trafficking and prostitution.

5. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS CONT'D:

Mrs. Milliken discussed her concern about the Walking School Bus concept where a family she knows has to send their young child approximately 1.3 miles from their home on 3rd Street near Weis to Stevens Primary. Due to winter weather, the Walking School Bus is not in operation until spring.

Dr. Bowers commented on Governor Wolf's budget proposal which will drop approximately \$50 million dollars from transportation subsidies statewide in the next year and its potential impact on our busing. Dr. Bowers mentioned that the district is watching out for transportation concerns like the Walking School Bus and busing. Mrs. Lake expressed concern for students being left home alone while parents are at work or heading to work before students leave home for school. Mr. Williams expressed concern about potential liability for the district and expectations that the district is expected to always have people out doing the Walking School Bus each day. Mr. Sweeting agreed with Mr. Williams and the lack of volunteers for the Walking School Bus concerned him.

6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

President Baer asked if there were any other issues for discussion. There were none.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Mrs. Milliken and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Peter D. Chapla, Assistant Superintendent