

The Regular 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 Tuesday evening, January 18, 2022, beginning at 6:03 PM in the Auditorium of the Williamsport Area High School, 2990 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT: Lori A. Baer, Michelle L. Deavor, Cody L. Derr, Patrick A. Dixon, Jennifer Lake, Star Poole, Barbara D. Reeves, Jamie L. Sanders, Adam C. Welteroth.

ABSENT: None.

OPENING EXERCISES were provided by Mr. Adam C. Welteroth

President Baer asked Holly Shull to come to the podium. In accordance with the Board Policy #903, Ms. Shull contacted the Board Secretary requesting to speak regarding the appointment of Scott Williams. Ms. Shull a district resident welcomed Mr. Williams to the school board. She shared the accomplishments and achievements of her daughter and granddaughter in the school district as well as some of her own volunteer effects since moving from California to the district. She reviewed statistical data related to single parent homes, economically disadvantaged and poverty levels for the district as well as data on domestic violence. Ms. Shull also shared with the Board her feelings that the Board did not take Ms. Poole's situation into consideration when voting to dismiss her at the last meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting – January 4, 2022

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Ms. Lori A. Baer

- A. A motion was made by Mrs. Reeves, seconded by Mr. Sanders to ratify the appointment of Scott R. Williams to the board seat formerly held by Star Poole which was declared vacant at the meeting that occurred on January 4, 2022. Mr. Welteroth asked for clarification regarding the ratification motion and asked for a legal opinion. Regarding the appointment, Mr. Burkhardt, Esq. from Murphy, Butterfield and Holland, P.C., shared with the Board that he and Mr. Holland agreed that the action taken at the January 4, 2022 meeting to appoint Mr. Williams to fill the vacancy that occurred from the removal of Ms. Poole was done appropriately. However, due to questions that have been raised this motion just ratifies that appointment. Mr. Burkhardt said that a more indepth opinion could be shared in an executive session as attorney-client privileged information. After additional discussion, Mr. Sanders asked that the motion be called for a vote. Roll call vote motion passed 5-3 with Mrs. Deavor, Mrs. Derr and Mr. Welteroth casting negative votes.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT CONT’D: – Ms. Lori A. Baer

- A. Mr. Williams who was in the audience was welcomed to take his seat with the Board. He provided President Baer with his Oath of Office. Mr. Williams was sworn in as a board member by the Honorable Christian D. Frey, on January 10, 2022
- B. Scott Cousin, Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates provided an overview of the final feasibility report and the options that the Feasibility Study Committee recommends to the Board for consideration.

Option 1	Renovations to Stevens Primary Lycoming Valley Intermediate Add/Reno Curtin Intermediate Reno WAHS Athletic Facility Upgrades WASD Maintenance Building	\$84.5 Million - \$94.0 Million
Option 2	New Primary School Lycoming Valley Intermediate Add/Reno Curtin Intermediate Reno WAHS Athletic Facility Upgrades WASD Maintenance Building	\$85.2 Million - \$93.9 Million
Option 3	Close Stevens Primary Lycoming Valley Intermediate Add/Reno Curtin Intermediate Reno WAHS Athletic Facility Upgrades WASD Maintenance Building	\$64.5 Million - \$71.2 Million

He also provided a timeline for the Board should they wish to consider Option 3 which includes the closing of Stevens Primary School.

- C. Dr. Bowers provided a presentation on ESSER funding and how the district has used COVID related funds and will continue to use these funds to emerge stronger than before the pandemic.

Motion for an omnibus to include the agenda, minutes from the January 4th meeting and items 4.1B and C was made by Mr. Sanders, seconded by Mrs. Deavor.

Under the personnel section, the Board and administration expressed our heartfelt condolences to the family of Christy Phillips and to Mr. Michaels and the Curtin family as well.

Mr. Dixon asked about the feasibility report and the timeline for a hearing. Dr. Bowers stated that an item for considering a hearing to discuss the possible closing of Stevens Primary will be included on the February 1st agenda.

FINANCE REPORT

5.1 Approve the following financial reports:

- A. Treasurer’s Report for the month of December 2021:
- B. Payroll Report for the month of December 2021:

General Fund – Unrestricted	\$4,341,232.47
General Fund – Restricted	288,047.80
Food Service Fund	121,419.60
Earned Income Tax	72,379.31
Student Activities	0.00
TOTAL	\$4,823,079.18

5.2 Authorize payment of invoices and services rendered by the list submitted from January 5, 2022 to January 18, 2022 and direct the officers of the Board of School Directors to execute the same:

General Fund	\$1,236,963.81
Athletic Fund	4,768.00
EIT Operating Fund	6,120.02
Food Service Fund	117,043.15
Payroll Fund	901,920.21
PLGIT Capital Projects Fund	5,611.25
Student Activities Fund	0.00
TOTAL	\$2,272,426.44

5.3 Approve budget transfers for FY22, dated December 1, 2021 to January 10, 2022, as presented in accordance with Section 609 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended:

5.4 Acknowledge the move of Fred A. Holland, district solicitor, from Murphy, Butterfield & Holland, P.C. to McNerney, Page, Vanderlin & Hall, effective February 14, 2022.

BOARD POLICY – None

CURRICULUM REPORT

7.1 Renew a software service agreement with Sourcewell Technology for the 2022-23 Spring Math Licensing. The cost of \$17,425 will be paid through ESSER Funds.

PERSONNEL REPORT

8.1 MEMORIAL RESOLUTION – Christy L. Phillips

Adopt the following memorial resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors of the Williamsport Area School District observes with profound sorrow the untimely passing from this life of Christy L. Phillips who for over 6½ years was a dedicated teacher for the School District,

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes with respect and appreciation the devotion and time she gave to the School District,

WHEREAS, the tragic loss of Christy will be felt by many for a long time; now, there it be

RESOLVED: that the Board of School Directors of the Williamsport Area School District tenders its deepest sympathy to her family in their bereavement, with the comforting knowledge that her life was well spent for the good of her fellow man

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the members of this School Board direct that this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of this body and that a copy be presented to Mrs. Phillips' family.

8.2 RESIGNATIONS

Accept the following resignation(s), effective on the dates and for the purposes indicated:

- A. Karen A. Buchheit, full-time Health Room Technician at Jackson Primary School, for the purpose of retirement, effective at the completion of the 2021-2022 school year (tentative ending date of June 9, 2022).

RESOLVED: that the Board of School Directors of the Williamsport Area School District acknowledges with profound regret the retirement of Karen A. Buchheit from service in the Williamsport Area Schools and expresses its sincere appreciation for her 22 years of dedicated service to our school system as a health room technician. It further expresses the hope that her years of retirement will be many and richly rewarding.

- B. Sarah R. Driscoll, full-time 4th Grade teacher at Curtin Intermediate School, for other employment, effective March 11, 2022, or possibly sooner, as administration has determined to hold Ms. Driscoll for up to 60 days per PA School Code.

- C. Jillette L. Smith, full-time Art teacher at Curtin Intermediate School, for other employment, effective March 3, 2022, or possibly sooner, as administration has determined to hold Ms. Smith for up to 60 days per PA School Code.

8.2 RESIGNATIONS CONT'D:

- D. Ashley N. Arriaga, part-time Aide (Special Education) at Curtin Intermediate School, for personal reasons, effective January 21, 2022.
- E. Gregory A. Brown, part-time Aide (Special Education) at the high school, for personal reasons, effective January 20, 2022.
- F. Shyanne L. Camacho, part-time Food Service Worker at Cochran Primary School, for personal reasons, effective January 5, 2022.

8.3* LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Approve the following leave(s) of absence:

- A. Grace M. Chandler*, full-time 1st Grade teacher at Cochran Primary School, for an unpaid leave on an intermittent basis (as needed) effective December 10, 2021, through June 9, 2022.

8.4* ELECTION OF STAFF

Elect the following staff, for the purpose and on the date indicated:

- A. Jeremy B. Church as a long-term substitute teacher effective January 19, 2022, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year only (tentative ending date of June 9, 2022), unless terminated sooner, to be currently assigned primarily at the intermediate schools but may be used at any level where there is need and to support a remote platform if needed, at a salary rate of Step 1, master's, \$55,645, prorated (replacing long-term substitute teacher William Doebler transferred to 5th Grade at Curtin Intermediate School replacing Christy Phillips).
- B. Jordyn L. Gehr as a long-term substitute teacher effective January 19, 2022, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year only (tentative ending date of June 9, 2022), unless terminated sooner, to be currently assigned primarily at the secondary level but may be used at any level where there is need and to support a remote platform if needed, at a salary rate of Step 1, bachelor's, \$52,582, prorated (replacing long-term substitute teacher Kirsten Winner, resigned).
- C. Caylin M. Hartley as a long-term substitute teacher effective January 19, 2022, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year only (tentative ending date of June 9, 2022), unless terminated sooner, to be currently assigned to teach 4th Grade at Curtin Intermediate School, at a salary rate of Step 1, bachelor's, \$52,582, prorated (replacing Emily Murray, resigned).

8.4* ELECTION OF STAFF CONT'D:

- D. Kerron R. Dicks to be currently assigned to a part-time Aide (Special Education; 185 days per year; up to 5 hours per day) at Cochran Primary School, with a base wage rate of \$13.87 per hour (without degree rate), effective January 19, 2022 (replacing Zoie Cipriani, resigned).
- E. Jessica M. Hollingsworth to be currently assigned to a part-time Aide (Special Education; 185 days per year; up to 5 hours per day) at the high school, with a base wage rate of \$15.12 per hour (with degree rate), effective January 19, 2022 (replacing Lisa Peacock, transferred).
- F. Caleb A. Wertz to be currently assigned to a part-time Aide (Non-Special Education; 185 days per year; up to 5 hours per day) at the middle school, with a base wage rate of \$13.87 per hour (without degree rate), effective January 19, 2022 (replacing Booker Riddick, resigned).
- G. The following substitute food service worker(s), at the salary rate of \$12.00 per hour, for the actual number of hours worked, effective date as indicated:
- Shyanne L. Camacho (effective 01/06/22)
- H. The following substitute administrative support/aide(s), subject to assignment by the Superintendent of Schools, at the hourly rates established by Board policy (\$12.00 per hour; up to a maximum of 180 days per year) and only for the actual number of hours assigned and worked:
- Gregory A. Brown (effective 01/24/22)
- I. The following person(s) as non-certified substitute teacher(s) with receipt of an emergency permit, subject to assignment by the Superintendent of Schools, at the salary and/or rates as established by Board policy (\$90 per day for first 45 days; \$110 per day for days beyond the 45th day; up to a maximum of 180 days/year) and only for the actual number of hours assigned and worked during the 2021-2022 school year:
- Edward E. Wood (effective date to be determined)
- J. The following substitute health room technician(s), subject to assignment by the Superintendent of Schools, at the hourly rates established by Board policy (LPN--\$20.00 per hour; RN--\$32.00 per hour; up to a maximum of 180 days per year) and only for the actual number of hours assigned and worked:
- Karen A. Buchheit (LPN) (effective 06/10/22)

8.5* POSITION CHANGES

Approve the following position change(s):

- A. Ashley L. Hickok has requested to return to her part-time Aide (Non-Special Education) position at Cochran Primary School, effective return date to be determined. Ms. Hickok was recently approved for a position change to full-time Aide (Special Education; 185 days, 7 hours per day) at the middle school, which was effective January 7, 2022 (originally approved on the January 4, 2022 Agenda).

8.6 WORK SCHEDULES FOR 2021-2022

- A. Approve a revision to the Employee Work Schedule, as outlined in the Memo of Understanding between the District and the Williamsport Area Education Support Professional Association (WAESP) dated January 14, 2022, which states that the first remote learning day due to inclement weather that occurs now through the end of the 2021-22 school year, will be a paid non-work day for all food service support staff employees falling within the following classification: 180-day.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

9.1 RELEASED TIME/TRAINING PROGRAMS

Approve released time for staff members to participate in professional development activities in accordance with the Professional Development Plan of the Williamsport Area School District and consider approving training programs. All expenditures proposed are within local, state and federal budget categories approved as noted.

STUDENT/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Field trips are being presented for provisional approval in accordance with the District's Health and Safety Plan and may need to change or be canceled. All students must be in compliance with the school's field trip disciplinary requirements in order to participate.

10.1 Approve the following student trips:

- A. Nine (9) Williamsport Area High School band students, accompanied by their teacher, to travel to the Community Arts Center during January 2022 to participate in the PMEA District Band Festival. The students will be transported by their parents. One substitute will be required for the day.
- B. Six (6) welding students from the Williamsport Area High School, accompanied by their teacher, to travel to Penn College during February 2022 to participate in a welding competition. District transportation is requested and will be paid through the CTE budget. One substitute is required for the day.

STUDENT/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CONT'D:

10.1 Approve the following student trips cont'd:

- C. Nine (9) Williamsport Area High School choral students, accompanied by their teacher, to travel to the Community Arts Center during February 2022 to participate in the PMEA District Choir Festival. Students will be transported by their parents, or will be transported in the teacher's personal vehicle. One substitute will be required for the day.
- D. Thirty-five (35) members of the Lycoming Valley Intermediate School's Theatre Club, accompanied by several staff members, to be transported with District transportation to the Williamsport Area Middle School on a date during February 2022 for a last rehearsal before their show. Costs will be paid through the music budget.
- E. Eighteen (18) Williamsport Area High School SkillsUSA students, accompanied by two advisors, to travel to Penn College on one day during February 2022 to participate in a competition. District transportation is requested and will be paid through the CTE budget. Two substitutes will be needed for the day.
- F. Nine (9) Williamsport Area High School construction trades students, accompanied by their teacher, to travel to Penn College for two days during February 2022 to participate in a SkillsUSA competition. Transportation will be provided in a district van. One substitute will be required for two days.

10.2 Approve the following request for facility use:

- A. Special Olympics of Lycoming County to use the swimming pool and locker rooms at the high school on Mondays, beginning February 28 through May 23, 2022 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., for aquatics practice. The Special Olympics is requesting relief of the occupancy fee estimated at \$2,100.00. Certificate of Insurance to be received.

BIDS/CONTRACTS

- 11.1 Authorize the software lease agreement for the Tax Office with Business Information Group, INC. (BIG) at a cost of \$26,784.00 for a period of one year beginning April 1, 2022. Costs to be paid out of the tax office budget.
- 11.2 Authorize an agreement for services for the Tax Office with Business Information Group, INC. (BIG) for support of software operation at a cost of \$190.00 per hour. Costs to be paid out of the tax office budget.

TAX ITEMS

- 12.1 Approve the attached tax summaries:

TAX ITEMS CONT'D:

- 12.2 Approve an agreement between Jessica S. Williams elected Tax Collector for Old Lycoming Township and the Williamsport Area School District, for Ms. Williams to deputize the District to collect real estate taxes levied by the District. As the tax collector will not have any responsibilities, she will not receive any compensation.

TRANSPORTATION – None

Voice vote. All votes were affirmative.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Timothy S. Bowers, Ed.D.

Dr. Bowers welcomed and thanked Mr. Williams for his willingness to serve on the Board.

He also thanked Scott Cousin and the Crabtree, Rohrbaugh team for their work with the district over the last several years to finally complete the feasibility study.

Dr. Bowers gave a shout out to Dale Crans and the facilities staff for the great job of snow removal from our recent storm. He noted that this team started at 4:30 a.m. and worked throughout the day so we could be back in session on Tuesday.

Schools across the country have faced a very difficult time over the last several years due to the COVID response. Once again, he would like to thank our faculty and staff for the efforts that have been made each day to continue to educate our students. An example of how the COVID response has allowed us to be more flexible is how the district shifted our professional development day on Monday to 100% virtual. In the past, the snow would have caused us to cancel. Great job to everyone involved.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Welteroth noted that he was very disappointed in his request for a legal opinion not being provided in the public. He noted that he sent an email to Mr. Holland asking for a legal opinion and did not receive a response.

Mr. Welteroth made a motion to immediately remove Mr. Holland and associates as the district solicitor. President Baer and Mr. Burkhardt noted that under the recent changes to the Sunshine Act a motion to amend the agenda to add this item would need to be approved before this motion could be consider. Mr. Welteroth expressed confusion as to why the Board was able to appoint Mr. Williams at the January 4th meeting if motions are not allowed to be added at the table. Mr. Burkhardt read the January 4th agenda language "Consider any action necessary as a result of the due process hearing regarding Ms. Poole." Based on the due process hearing the vacancy occurred and the Board chose to make a motion to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Welteroth made a motion to amend the agenda. The motion died for a lack of a second.

ITEMS FROM PUBLIC

Sarah Reed addressed the Board challenging the Board appointment of Mr. Williams. She expressed her opinion related to the process of just choosing the person with the next highest number of votes.

Michelle Hazel address the Board also challenging the appointment of Mr. Williams. Ms. Hazel also addressed taxes and Schoology.

Robin Liebersohn addressed the Board regarding the moving of the playground, the closing of community schools, the need to upgrade our curriculum and books stating some are over 20 years old, and email access to the entire Board.

President Baer noted that the website has been updated to include the ability to email the entire Board at one time.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Reeves, seconded by Mrs. Lake. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Wanda M. Erb, Board Secretary