

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, October 20, 2020, beginning at 6:10 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, Patrick A. Dixon, Jennifer Lake, Jane L. Penman, Barbara D. Reeves, Marc D. Schefsky, Nancy Somers, Adam C. Welteroth

**ABSENT:** Star Poole

**OPENING EXERCISES** were provided by Dr. Jane Penman.

President Baer reminded everyone to remain masked throughout the meeting. She announced that an executive session was held prior to tonight's meeting for personnel and attorney advisement.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting – October 6, 2020

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

A. Dr. Poole reported on the October 1, 2020 student enrollment. October 1, 2020 enrollment is 4,850 students, which is down 79 students from October 1, 2019.

Dr. Bigger provided a brief overview of the parent survey regarding returning to 5 day in-person instruction. There were 2425 households responding representing 79.6% of all households with students or 3870 students representing 79.7% of the student population. Of those responding, 1845 are currently in hybrid, 440 in remote, and 140 with a combination of some students in hybrid and some in remote. The summary of the survey results was: 1) Move to 5 days per week in-person -- 1422 – or 59.37%; 2) Remain in hybrid – 520 or 21.71%; 3) Remain in remote – 318 or 13.28%; 4) Move from remote to in-person – 135 or 5.54%. Adding together numbers 1 and 4, the response was that of the survey responders 1557 or 65.01% of households want to return to 5 day per week in-person instruction.

The Board discussed the survey results. Dr. Penman made a motion to consider approving the elimination of the Hybrid Learning Plan and returning all students to in-person learning within the next 2 weeks. The Remote Learning platform will be used in a limited capacity and will be reserved for those students who have shown proficiency in using the platform. Adam Welteroth seconded the motion. Board discussion occurred

Dr. Bigger was asked to provide data regarding absenteeism and failures so far this school year. Utilizing the criterion of 3 or more unexcused absences and comparing October 20, 2019 to October 20, 2020 totals, she noted that K-3 increased from 40 students to 416; grades 5-8 increased from 35 students to 270 students; and grades 9-12 increased from 42 students to 507

## **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT'D: – Ms. Lori A. Baer**

students. Since the first marking period has not ended, the failure data is based on the interim student progress reports for WAHS and WAMS. At WAHS, students are failing 32.32% of the total number of courses offered and at WAMS, 31.38% of the total courses offered. At the elementary levels, this data is not available in a similar format. Dr. Bigger shared information regarding elementary students not meeting specific benchmarks. The percentages of students not meeting these benchmarks varied by grades from 43% to 69%.

Additional discussion occurred among the Board regarding the survey, the data, and the communication that the Board received from parents and teachers, as well as what is happening at the state and national level.

Mr. Welteroth asked to have the motion called for a vote. Roll call vote. The motion was defeated 4-4 with Mrs. Reeves, Dr. Somers, Mr. Dixon and Mrs. Lake voting against the motion.

President Baer asked that the Board consider a motion to increase the emphasis on live synchronous learning and provide more robust opportunities for our students. No one made a motion, however, discussion continued on hybrid learning and when the district would return to 5 day in-person instruction. Dr. Bowers was asked about the hybrid program. Dr. Bowers emphasized that from a health and safety point of view the hybrid did work and he still believes that we needed to start in hybrid. The concern now is that the hybrid model is not working academically. Dr. Bigger was asked to provide an overview of the professional development that has been provided to staff.

Mr. Welteroth asked that the Board revisit the original motion. He made a motion to consider approving the elimination of the Hybrid Learning Plan and returning all students to in-person learning within the next 2 weeks. The Remote Learning platform will be used in a limited capacity and will be reserved for those students who have shown proficiency in using the platform. Dr. Penman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. The motion was defeated 4-4 with Mrs. Lake, Dr. Somers, Mrs. Reeves and Mr. Dixon voting against the motion.

The Board asked Dr. Bowers to look at the calendar and to schedule additional meetings of the full board to discuss this topic further.

A motion for an omnibus was made by Dr. Penman, seconded by Dr. Somers to include the minutes, the enrollment report, and the addendum.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

5.1 Approve the following financial reports:

A. Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2020:

**FINANCE REPORT CONT'D:**

- 5.2 Authorize payment of invoices and services rendered by the list submitted from October 7, 2020, to October 20, 2020 and direct the officers of the Board of School Directors to execute the same:

General Fund	\$697,593.38
Athletics Fund	1,957.00
EIT Operating Fund	75.00
Food Service Fund	83,879.72
Payroll Fund	1,773,090.81
PLGIT Capital Projects Fund	40,765.99
Student Activities Fund	<u>288.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,597,649.90</b>

- 5.3 Approve budget transfers for FY21, dated October 7, 2020 to October 20, 2020, as presented in accordance with Section 609 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended:

**BOARD POLICY**

- 6.1 Approve the first reading of policy 204 “Attendance” of the Williamsport Area School District Board Policy.
- 6.2 Approve the first reading of policy 208 “Withdrawal from School” of the Williamsport Area School District Board Policy.

**CURRICULUM REPORT**

- 7.1 Approve a tuition agreement with Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. to provide Williamsport Area School District student(s) with special education requirements and all related services admitted to Soaring Heights School at a tuition rate of \$185.00 per day requiring Emotional Support Services and \$285.00 per day requiring Autistic Support Services. Nursing, Professional and/or Paraprofessional Support, if necessary, is at a rate of \$120.00 per day. Costs will be paid through the Special Education budget.
- 7.2 Approve a Sublease Agreement with Lycoming County for a 20-year lease for school district radio equipment to be placed on radio tower locations that are owned and maintained by the county. There is no fee for this lease. The agreement is in place for access, maintenance, and repair of equipment owned by the school district.

## PERSONNEL REPORT

### 8.1 RESIGNATIONS

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

- A. Christine R. Krajnyak, full-time Guidance Counselor at the middle school, for the purpose of retirement, effective the end of the first semester of 2020-2021 (tentative effective date of January 22, 2021).

RESOLVED: that the Board of School Directors of the Williamsport Area School District acknowledges with profound regret the retirement of Christine R. Krajnyak from service in the Williamsport Area Schools and expresses its sincere appreciation for her 23½ years of dedicated service to our school system as a guidance counselor. It further expresses the hope that her years of retirement will be many and richly rewarding.

- B. Sarah R. Caffas, part-time Food Service Worker at the high school, for personal reasons, effective October 16, 2020.
- C. Naomi C. Decker, part-time Administrative Support I (245 days) in the Curriculum and Data Analysis Departments at the DSC, for other employment, effective October 9, 2020.
- D. Terminate employment with the Williamsport Area School District for Brittany N. Sullenberger due to job abandonment of her position as a part-time Aide (Special Ed.) at Lycoming Valley Intermediate School, effective October 21, 2020.

### 8.2\* LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Approve the following leave(s) of absence:

- A. Approve the following employees for paid Special Sick Leave for PSERS purposes for the dates and hours indicated:
  - (1) Joshua D. Aarons – October 5, 2020 through October 9, (32.75 total hours)
  - (2) Tracie M. Anderson – October 8, 2020 through October 9, 2020 (14 total hours)
  - (3) Kristie M. Anzulavich – September 28, 2020 through October 2, 2020 (35 total hours)
  - (4) Gerri L. Braggs – October 9, 2020 (7 total hours)

- (5) Leanne S. Hofstead – October 6, 2020 through October 8, 2020 (18.75 total hours)

8.2\* LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A Approve the following employees for paid Special Sick Leave for PSERS cont'd:

- (6) Terry S. Moore – September 28, 2020 (7.5 total hours)
- (7) Brenda E. Steele – October 5, 2020 through October 9, 2020 (35 total hours)

B. Diana DeVaughn, full-time Paraprofessional/Intervention Specialist at Lycoming Valley Intermediate School, for an unpaid leave, effective October 12, 2020, through November 16, 2020.

C. Revision to previous item approved at the October 6, 2020 Board Meeting -- Tara L. Phlegar\*, full-time Special Education teacher at Lycoming Valley Intermediate School, for an unpaid leave, effective October 2, 2020, through ~~November 6, 2020~~ November 19, 2020, and for an unpaid leave on an intermittent basis (as needed) effective ~~November 9, 2020~~ November 20, 2020, through June 10, 2021.

8.3\* ELECTION OF STAFF

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

- A. Taylor R. Shipman to be currently assigned to part-time Food Service Worker (up to 180 days; 4.25 hours per day) at Cochran Primary School, with a base wage rate of \$12.83 per hour, effective October 21, 2020 (replacing Shyanne Camacho, resigned).
- B. The following persons as Supplemental Teachers for Help Desk Support for Remote Learning Students for after school and evening hours, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, as needed, at the contract rate of \$31.20 per hour:

Erica M. Bacon	Jennifer M. Larson
Cynthia A. Hamm	Amy R. Mahon
Kevin J. Harris	Tanya M. Swink
Amanda K. Kurtz	Julie R. Welliver

- C. The following substitute administrative support/aide(s), subject to assignment by the Superintendent of Schools, at the hourly rates established by Board policy (\$9.00 per hour; up to a maximum of 180 days per year) and only for the actual number of hours assigned and worked:

Michelle D. Beggs (effective 10/21/20)

8.3\* ELECTION OF STAFF CONT'D:

- D. The following substitute food service worker(s), at the salary rate of \$9.00 per hour, for the actual number of hours worked, effective date as indicated:

Sarah R. Caffas (effective 10/21/20)

- E. 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:

Melisa A. Hale (RN) (effective 10/21/20)

**Payment of stipends for the below agenda items 8.3 F. – L. may be modified or withheld in the event that the activities for which stipends are being paid are curtailed or do not occur due to the COVID-19 pandemic or other conditions beyond the District's control:**

- F. Elissa K. Koontz, Title I Reading Specialist at Curtin Intermediate School, to serve as the Title I Building and Parent Engagement Coordinator at Curtin Intermediate School for the 2020-2021 school term, at a total annual stipend of up to \$2,000, funded through Title I (availability of position and funds to reviewed annually).
- G. Dana M. Null, Title I Reading Specialist at Lycoming Valley Intermediate School, to serve as the Title I Building and Parent Engagement Coordinator at Lycoming Valley Intermediate School for the 2020-2021 school term, at a total annual stipend of up to \$2,000, funded through Title I (availability of position and funds to reviewed annually).
- H. Amanda N. Richards, Title I Reading Specialist at Cochran Primary School, to serve as the Title I Building Coordinator at Cochran Primary School for the 2020-2021 school term, at a total annual stipend of up to \$1,000, funded through Title I (availability of position and funds to reviewed annually).
- I. Gina M. Raniero, Title I Reading Specialist at Cochran Primary School, to serve as the Title I Parent Engagement Coordinator at Cochran Primary School for the 2020-2021 school term, at a total annual stipend of up to \$1,000, funded through Title I (availability of position and funds to reviewed annually).
- J. Joan A. Shaw, Title I Reading Specialist at Hepburn-Lycoming Primary School, to serve as the Title I Building and Parent Engagement Coordinator at Hepburn-Lycoming Primary School for the 2020-2021 school term, at a total annual stipend

of up to \$2,000, funded through Title I (availability of position and funds to reviewed annually).

8.3\* ELECTION OF STAFF CONT'D:

- K. Kimberly A. Williamson, Title I Reading Specialist at Jackson Primary School, to serve as the Title I Building and Parent Engagement Coordinator at Jackson Primary School for the 2020-2021 school term, at a total annual stipend of up to \$2,000, funded through Title I (availability of position and funds to reviewed annually).
- L. Tyra J. Crews, Title I Reading Specialist/Instructional Coach at Stevens Primary School, to serve as the Title I Building and Parent Engagement Coordinator at Stevens Primary School for the 2020-2021 school term, at a total annual stipend of up to \$2,000, funded through Title I (availability of position and funds to reviewed annually).

8.4\* POSITION CHANGES

Approve the following position change(s):

- A. Valerie L. Blass from a part-time Food Service Worker (4.0 hours) to be currently assigned to a part-time Food Service Worker (4.25 hours; up to 180 days) at Lycoming Valley Intermediate School, with a base wage rate of \$13.44 per hour, effective October 21, 2020 (replacing Cindy Hostrander, transferred).

**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** – None at this time

**BIDS/CONTRACTS** – None at this time

**TAX ITEMS**

12.1 Approve the attached tax summaries:

**TRANSPORTATION**

- 13.1 Approve the following drivers/monitors/mechanics for STA, Inc. for the 2020-21 school year:

Jeffrey J. Legge      CDL Driver/Aide

The motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Timothy S. Bowers, Ed.D.**

Dr. Bowers thanked the Lycoming County Commissioners for the grant of \$966,400 from their CARES funds to assist the district in COVID related expenditures. He noted that we work closely with the commissioners and we truly appreciate their support.

**ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**ITEMS FROM PUBLIC**

The following district residents addressed the Board sharing their concerns and opinions regarding returning to school for 5 days of instruction or remaining in hybrid: Brad Lenig, Ashley Swanson, Kelly Allmaras, Anna Radspinner, and Stacy Gerrity.

President Baer announced that an executive session for personnel would follow the meeting.

Upon motion made by Mrs. Lake, seconded by Mrs. Reeves and carried the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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Wanda M. Erb, Board Secretary