

WELLSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education
Work Session
February 2, 2016

MINUTES

Called to Order by President Matthew Feil at 6:30 PM in the High School LGI Room, 225 Nichols Street, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

Roll Call of Members: Mr. Duane Cotner; Mr. John Hoover; Mr. Wayne Hackett; Mr. Tim McCratic; Ms. Denise Sherman, Mr. Matthew Feil; Mr. Stewart Burrous. Member absent: Mr. Chris Gastrock

Present were the following: Administrators: Mr. Steve Adams; Mr. Patrick Hewitt; Mr. Mike Pietropola; Mr. Daren Bryant; Mr. Robert Kreger; Press present: Natalie Kennedy (Wellsboro Gazette); Diane Eaton (Williamsport Sun-Gazette); Linda Gamble, Board Secretary; Al Bieber; Tina Kreisler; JoAnn Yungwirth; Becky Briggs; Lauren Morral; Ben Miller; John Johnston; Kacy Hagen; David Messineo; Dick Miskovitz; Matt Hildebrand; Brian Kennedy; Anna Vail; Shane Mascho; Donna Burrous;

Linda Gamble, WASD Board Secretary, read into the Minutes the Notice of Work Session.

President Matthew Feil stated that the first order of business were the interviews for the vacant school board member position. Five interviews were held: Richard F. Miskovitz; Kacy J. Z. Hagan; Susan Judlin; David A. Messineo; John Johnston; a vote would be taken at the end of the interviews. President Feil also announced that following the Work Session, a Special Board Meeting will be held at 8:30 PM.

At 7:18 PM, a vote was taken of the school board members. The final vote was: 3 votes for Susan Judlin, 2 votes for Kacy Hagan and 2 votes for David Messineo; President Feil announced that the new board member candidate, Susan Judlin, would be voted on in the following Special Board Meeting and would be sworn in at that time;

At 7:21 PM, Daren Bryant, Director of Buildings & Grounds, presented his Agenda . Discussion was held on the costs of removal of asbestos material in the various district buildings. Board Member Tim McCratic questioned whether we should have bids put out on this. Mr. Bryant announced that the 2016 Tremco roof repair quote on the Don Gill Elementary School is being prepared. No mold has been cited as yet. The work is scheduled for this summer. Mr. Bryant advised the Board that the new auto scrubber at the Middle School had worn out and the District has purchased a new one together with an orbital floor machine which would help a great deal with doing the gym floors. He advised that last year, the District spent over \$14,000 in outsourcing the gym floors and with this new purchase, we would probably save half of that amount this year by doing it ourselves. Mr. Bryant announced that the Nurse's office and the Guidance Office (high school) plan to switch due to lack of privacy. Mr. Kreger, high school principal, spoke on this subject. The guidance counselor cannot close the door if there are more than 2 persons in the office. He advised that the plans are being drawn up and will advise what the costs will be. Mr. Bryant advised that we are seeking bids on parking lot seal coating bids for all of the parking lots. This seal should preserve the parking lots for 5- 8 years. Mr. Bryant advised the Board that International Fire-Shield submitted a proposal to the cleaning, fire retarding of the stage curtains located in the auditorium (Administration Office). Said proposal is in the amount of \$1,463.20. If the District desired a stage rigging hardware safety inspection at the same as the stage curtain service is performed, the price is an additional \$500 (five year warranty). When asked about the state of the buildings in the District, Mr. Bryant advised not bad.

Business Manager Bonnie Thompson handed out to the Board various financial reports which she discussed with the Board. These reports included WASD 2016-17 Staffing (this included Current Staffing 2015-16) with an addition of 2 part-time special education aides (\$15,000 per position not added into budget figures); WASD 2016-17 general Fund Budget Expenditure Summary; WASD 2016-17 General Fund Budget Revenues Summary; WASD Debt Service Schedule

(long Term Debt Payable 2016-17); WASD Debt Service Payments Schedule 1/31/2016; WASD 2016-17 General Fund Budget Expenditure and Revenue Totals. She cautioned the Board that the Budget is a “fluid” document – it will change as we obtain information or make decisions. Future adjustments and many unknowns to the budget include assessed values from Lycoming and Tioga County; homestead/farmstead amount; insurance rates (health and general liability); Federal – Title I allocations; Governor’s address on February 9^t and PASBO webcast on February 16th; no state budget for 2015-16 with no exact number for Basic Education Funding; no exact number for Special Education Funding; PSERS reform; cyber charter school costs. She spoke on the mandated and contractual expenditures including payroll, benefits, PSERS (retirement 25.84% 2015-16 increased to 30.03%; 2016-17 year 4.19% increase; (\$496,696 increase of 18.79% over 2015-16; charter/cyber school; debt service (savings of \$467,726); lease for postage machines, copiers and computers;

Athletic Facilities Update/Discussion - President Feil gave an update on the athletic facility. He has learned through the interim solicitor, Patrick Fanelli, that the District has some options. He went into detail about these various options. He reiterated that the Board is committed to completing this project on time - no delays, no plans to change the facilities because at this time the facilities are disabled. Concerns include the donations and the RACP grant (changing the scope). Discussion followed.

Discussion – Source4teachers contract – Mr. McCratic expressed his concern with source4teachers due to persons advising him that they were not being called as substitutes. Mr. Burrous advised that we were going to give this program a test drive for a year (with the hope of picking up retired teachers as substitutes). Mr. McCratic asked the administrators to get some feedback from teachers as to how they like the source4teacher program. This matter will be further discussed at the Programs & Policy Committee Meeting scheduled for February 8, 2016.

District Policy #810 – Transportation – This matter will also be discussed at the Programs & Policy Committee Meeting on February 8, 2016.

Public Comment – 8:42 PM - Al Bieber of Wellsboro, PA spoke about the roofs . He asked is something could be done about having an “A” roof or steel roof that could last several years. He wanted the Board to look into having a standard roof over these buildings. In the long run, if you plan on having that building functional, you are going to be way ahead. There’s gotta be a better way than having a flat roof. As far as the grant is concerned (RACP), are we for certain that the million dollars is available to the District? You definitely need to get a guarantee that that money is going to be available.

8:48 PM – Anna Vail of Wellsboro, PA - I want to say that it is nice to see quick movement with this new Board. I can push one button on the website and find out the information. Thank you for that! It’s nice to see Mr. Hewitt sitting up there. With the crumb rubber, in 5 years, you may be removing that. Consider the cost....About the donors, are they going to change their minds if you decide to change from turf to grass. I hope you go to the donors and ask them. I was little concerned about the way the decision was made for the replacement board member. Lack of discussion was a bit concerning to me. I am concerned about your decision making there....your diversity is not the greatest.

8:52 PM – John Shaffer of Wellsboro, PA – Thank you for your commitment to the facility for our athletes. I the #1 priority to sell the turf and go with grass? I want to be able to answer questions from parents.

8:54 PM – Donna Burrous of Middlebury Center – She (in the past) worked for HR for Corning, Inc. She also questioned the Board on the process they selected the board member. She stated that’s not the way to pick a good candidate.