

WELLSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting
April 11, 2017

MINUTES

Called to Order by President Matthew Feil at 6:30 PM in the Wellsboro Area High School Large Group Instruction Room, 225 Nichols Street, Wellsboro, PA;

President Feil led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Members: Mr. John Hoover; Mr. Wayne Hackett; Mr. Duane Cotner; Ms. Denise Sherman; Mr. Matthew Feil; Mrs. Susan Judlin; Mr. David Messineo; Mr. Christopher Gastrock; Board Member Stewart Burrous was absent;

Present were the following: Dr. Brenda Freeman, Superintendent; Mrs. Bonnie Thompson, Business Manager; Mr. Steven Adams; Mr. Michael Pietropola; Mr. Robert Kreger; Mr. Daren Bryant; Mr. Patrick Hewitt; Press: Diane Eaton (Williamsport Sun Gazette); Natalie Kennedy (Wellsboro Gazette); Linda Gamble, WASD Board Secretary; Carys Barlett, Elementary Student Representative; Regan Regina, Middle School Student Representative; Shelby Osgood, High School Student Representative;

Visitors Present: Dylan Hunt; Erin Szentesy; Che Regina; Clyde Pierce; Stephen Boyce; Charissa Mascho; Jen Stephens; Karen Swendrowski; Karen Hoose; Matt DeCamp; Daren Getty; Courtney Barlett; Annette Nuss; Brigitte Largey; Kathy Tutak; Mary Nance;

Announcement of Executive Session: Monday, April 10, 2017 at 5:00 PM, Old Music Room, for the purpose of personnel;

Concerned Resident Issues: None

Approval of Agenda – A motion was made by Mr. Hackett, seconded by Mr. Gastrock, to approve the Agenda. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Board Minutes/Financials – A motion was made by Mr. Gastrock, seconded by Mr. Messineo, to approve the Board Minutes/Financials as presented:

- A. Minutes of re-scheduled regular Board Meeting of March 16, 2017;
- B. Financial Reports:
 - 1. Board Summary Report (March 2017)
 - 2. Student Activity Fund Summary (March 2017)
- C. Approval of Bills
 - 1. 2016-17 General Fund Invoices (March 2017)
 - 2. 2016-17 School Lunch Fund Invoices (March, 2017)
 - 3. 2016-17 Capital Projects Fund (Athletic Field)

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment on Title I and other Federal Programs: None

Reports:

Elementary Student Representative Carys Barlett reported to the Board various events taking place in the Don Gill and Charlotte Lappla Schools (PSSA Testing). On March 29th, the High School students performed a puppet show on healthy choices.

Middle School Student Representative Regan Regina reported that the PA State Police did a presentation for all 6th graders regarding enrollment into their Camp Cadet program this summer. On March 28th our 8th graders attended a vocational day at the High School where students had the opportunity to experience the different vocational opportunities our school district offers. On March 31, 5th & 6th grade

enrichment program hosted a 5th grade fun night as a fundraiser for their gifted program. April 3-6 were our ELA testing dates here at the Middle School. Students participated in a walking program, dancing program and a free breakfast before testing began for the day. Students worked very hard at doing their best on these sections of the test. Students will begin their Math PSSA's on April 25th and will run through April 27th.

High School Student Representative Shelby Osgood reported on Friday, April 21, Student Council will be going to New York City to see the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the United Nations. This Thursday, Student Council will be going down town and painting local business windows blue. We will be painting them blue in support for Child Abuse Prevention Month. On April 29th, on the Green, there will be a Child Abuse Prevention Month Festival. Student Council also went to District Conference at Williamson Middle School on March 24 and is currently holding its executive elections for next year. National Honor Society will be hosting a students vs. staff Donkey Basketball Game on April 29th at 7:00 PM. It is a service project and all the profits will go to Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. The NHS also just finished a blood drive on March 31st. The Junior Class raised just shy of \$1000 for their class by selling Gertrude Hawk Chocolate. The senior class is hosting Prom on April 22nd at the Penn Wells Hotel. Tickets have been on sale during lunches and during tutorial. FFA went to a county dairy judging contest. They will be holding a banquet tomorrow in the auditorium at 5:00 PM for recognizing members and re-electing executive members. They have dinner in the cafeteria and then the ceremony in the Auditorium. Awards and degrees are given for the whole years' worth to members. FFA members that qualified for Areas will be going to a regional speaking competition on April 20th at Williamsport Penn Tech. There will be an Ag Safety Day on May 4th at the Fairgrounds that the 4th grade students will be going to. Students in Ag classes will be teaching about animal safety and many other things. In the Ag room, there will be a mini horse boarding for two weeks, probably starting next week. The 9th and 10th grade Honors English students submitted articles to our Fusfoo online school newspaper. There were 15 students who have written articles that made it to the national level and have been showcased on the national Fusfoo website. Those students are: Cathryn Brought, Kayla Mengee, John Kotz, Nina Coolidge, Alexandra Chilson, Karter Witmer, Bethany Zuchowski, Jayden LaCoe, Liza Manning, Aidan Perry, Raevyn Oswald, Sophia Robinson, Morgan Guthrie, Emilie Zuchowski, and Emma Poirier.

Superintendent Brenda Freeman reported to the Board on various topics. The first being an update on the Budget. She advised the Board that Title Funds will be withheld (according to President Trump's projected Budget) as well as transportation funding. She also reported that PDE has a proposal to shorten the length of the PSSA Testing time (in 2018). Future Ready PA – gives all school districts a "report card" effect. She also spoke on Graduation Requirements (giving 4 options given by the State) 1-combine all of the test scores; 2-using a local assessment; 3-use an industry test; or 4-have the District approve that you must pass the district approved career portfolio) Superintendent Freeman reported that she attended a Construction Meeting that day. The pressboxes are scheduled to arrive this week. Details are still being worked on to hold graduation outside on the field. Many factors enter into the picture – weather, PA system, etc. Drew Seeling's students are looking at putting a Concession stand on the field (permanent structure).

Steve Adams, Elementary Principal, reported on happenings at the elementary level. He also wished Deb Patterson a good retirement.

Michael Pietropola also wished his teachers, Susan Hackett, Resat Kutbay, Sharon Manikowski, good wishes for a healthy and happy retirement.

Patrick Hewitt congratulated those retiring teachers who are leaving but who have worked very hard for many years. We will be losing a lot of skilled people. The LETRS Workshop (4 day workshop) is about the importance of using phonetics to teach early reading skills. The sounds that the letters make are very important. Quite often we jump into just the letters themselves, but the sound of the letter is actually more important. We should be teaching letter sounds rather than just the alphabet.

Robert Kreger also congratulated the teachers who are retiring from his school building.

Daren Bryant, Director of Buildings & Grounds, reported that spring is here to say. The Groundskeepers are keeping the ball field up to par and taking care of some muddy areas. They are getting mowers ready to cut grass. Maintenance is continuing efforts on work orders and starting to turn the heat down throughout the District. We are also continuing to work through the processes of design and gathering permit information to be able and move forward with helping Drew Seeling, and his Construction program students construct a concession stand as soon as approved to do so. Dirt is starting to travel to the Middle School field today and will continue until done.

Business Manager Bonnie Thompson reported that the District did not receive any bids on the removal of the ash trees. She also reported on the findings from the Department of the Auditor General Bureau of School Audits concerning the recent audit conducted within the District. An informal audit review conference will be scheduled in the very near future and all board members are encouraged to attend.

Several board members commented on various topics include Curriculum, Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting, upcoming Programs & Policy Committee meeting, parental involvement.

X. CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by Mr. Gastrock, seconded by Mr. Messineo, to approve the Consent Items as presented.

1. ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

A. 2017-2018 Technology Services Contract

Consideration of approval of the 2017-2018 Technology Services Contract between the Wellsboro Area School District and BLaST I.U. #17, said contract providing for on Exhibit #1 - **Option 1** – Service provided on call without a contract at \$88.00 per hour 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday-Friday. After hours - \$108.00 per hour with a four hour minimum. Said Agreement shall be for a period from July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

B. Agreement between WASD and Snyder’s Driving School, L.L.C.

Consideration of approval of Agreement between Wellsboro Area School District and Snyder’s Driving School, LLC, the purpose of which is to assist WASD students to obtain their PA automobile operator’s license and promote safe driving habits with the requirements of the PA Department of Transportation.

C. Approval of BCompliant FPS

Consideration of approval to engage services of BCompliant FPS, effective April 12, 2017, to perform annual Fire and Sprinkler Inspection of the schools in the Wellsboro Area School District in accordance with the following quotes (savings of \$4,135):

	Fire Alarm Inspection	Sprinkler Inspection
Davis-Ulmer (current company we use)	\$5,800	\$1,960
Fire Alarm Service Technology	Not to exceed \$6,500 for both	
BCompliant FPS	\$2,075	\$1,550

2. PERSONNEL

A. Extra-Curricular Volunteer Appointments for School Year 2016-17

Consideration of approval for the following extra-curricular volunteer appointments for:

1. Benjamin Chesko, Volunteer High School Boys Tennis, effective April 12, 2017 – May 27, 2017;
2. Eric Abernathy, Volunteer Junior High Baseball Coach, effective April 12, 2017 – June 16, 2017.

B. Professional Staff Resignation

Consideration of approval to accept letter of resignation from Khirah Pinkerton, Middle School Sixth Grade Learning Support Teacher, effective June 7, 2017 (pending snow day).

C. Resignations Due to Retirement

Consideration of approval of resignation letters due to retirement from the following:

1. Lisa Higham, High School English Teacher, with regret, effective June 8, 2017;
2. Cathy L. Copp, High School Learning Support Teacher, with regret, effective June 8, 2017;
3. Joseph Mercuri, High School Culinary Arts Teacher, with regret, effective June 8, 2017;
4. Sharon M. Manikowski, Middle School Learning/Emotional Support Teacher, with regret, effective June 8, 2017;
5. Christopher Reese, High School Business Education Teacher, with regret, effective June 8, 2017;
6. Deborah Patterson, Elementary Learning/Emotional Support Teacher, with regret, effective June 8, 2017;

D. Conference Requests

Consideration of approval for the following conference requests:

1. Judy Smithgall, High School Music Teacher, to attend PMEA Annual In-Service Conference, Erie, PA on April 19-22, 2017 (approximate costs of \$190 to be paid from Building Budget)
2. Patrick Hewitt, Fed. Programs Coordinator/Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and Dr. Brenda Freeman, Superintendent, to attend PAFPC (PA Association Federal Program Coordinators) Annual Conference, Somerset, PA on May 7 – 10, 2017 (approximate costs of \$2,426 to be paid from Title I Funds)
3. Dawn Bergen, High School Life Skills Support Teacher, to attend PASA (Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment) Scoring Conference, Harrisburg, PA on May 12-14, 2017; (approximate costs of \$50 to be paid from Building Budget)
4. Dr. Brenda Freeman, Superintendent, to attend “2017 PARSS (PA Association of Rural and Small Schools) Conference”, State College, PA on April 26-28, 2017 (approximate costs of \$525 to be paid from Superintendent’s Account)

E. Approval of Revised Job Description for Custodian

Consideration of approval for the revised job description for Custodian as recommended by the Programs & Policy Committee Meeting of March 6, 2017.

F. Support Staff Resignation

Consideration of approval to accept the resignation of Danial Haug, High School Custodian, effective March 3, 2017.

G. Request for Family Medical Leave

Consideration of approval to grant Family Medical Leave to Miranda Smith, Elementary Teacher, effective April 28, - June 8, 2017.

H. Resignation Due to Retirement

Consideration of approval to accept letter of resignation, due to retirement, from Resat Kutbay, Middle School Food Science Teacher, with regret, effective June 8, 2017. Said retirement will be governed under the Memorandum of Understanding dated March 17, 2017 between the Wellsboro Area School District and the Wellsboro Area Education Association, notwithstanding said letter of resignation was submitted after the March 31, 2017 deadline as set forth in the Memorandum.

3. STUDENT

A. Overnight Field Trip Request

Consideration of approval for the following overnight field trip request:

1. Melanie Berndtson, High School Horticulture/AgScience Teacher, to take five (5) FFA students to Camp Lackawanna (Tunkhannock, PA) for 2nd Annual Heritage Youth Sojourn from May 12 – 14, 2017.

B. Request for Homebound Instruction

Consideration of approval for the following Request for Homebound Instruction:

1. for Student #11 HB 2016-17 as per his family physician for a period of approximately six weeks commencing April 3, 2017.

C. Educational Trip Exceeding 10 Days

Consideration of approval for the following educational trip request:

1. Begad El-Sokkary, Kindergarten student, to travel outside the US from May 15 – September 6, 2017.

4. OTHER

A. 2016-17 Additions to WASD Substitute List

Consideration of approval for 2016-17 additions to WASD Substitute List as presented

Upon a roll call vote: Mr. Cotner, aye; Mr. Feil, aye; Mr. Gastrock, aye; Mr. Hackett, aye; Ms. Sherman, aye; Mr. Hoover, aye; Mrs. Judlin, aye; Mr. Messineo, aye; Motion passed; Board Member Stewart Burrous was absent;

XI. ACTION ITEMS:

1. ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

A. Approval of Receipt of Private Grant Monies in School Year 2016-17 – A motion was made by Mr. Gastrock, seconded by Mr. Hoover, to approve the following private grant monies received by WASD in School Year 2016-17:

1. Donation from **Pitney Bowes** in the amount of \$300 to be used toward the Gifted Program under the direction of Denise Route, Middle School Computer Teacher.

Upon a roll call vote: Mrs. Judlin, aye; Mr. Hoover, aye; Mr. Cotner, aye; Mr. Gastrock, aye; Mr. Hackett, aye; Mr. Feil, aye; Ms. Sherman, aye; Mr. Messineo, aye; Motion passed; Board Member Stewart Burrous was absent;

B. WASD School Breakfast/Lunch meal Prices for School Year 2017-2018 – A motion was made by Mr. Gastrock, seconded by Mr. Hoover, to approve the Wellsboro Area School District's School Breakfast/Lunch meal prices for School Year 2017-2018 as presented.

Upon a roll call vote: Mr. Messineo, aye; Mrs. Judlin, aye; Ms. Sherman, aye; Mr. Feil, aye; Mr. Hackett, aye; Mr. Hoover, aye; Mr. Cotner, aye; Mr. Gastrock, aye; Motion passed; Board Member Stewart Burrous was absent;

2. PERSONNEL

A. Full-Time/Part-Time Hires – A motion was made by Mr. Gastrock, seconded by Mrs. Judlin, to approve the following hires for school year 2016-17 and 2017-18:

1. Clarissa Hoyt, part-time Groundskeeper, at a rate of \$10.00 per hour, up to 25 hours per week, effective April 12 – November 17, 2017, pending receipt of required clearances;

2. Ed Dombach, as High School Custodian, full-time (8 hrs. per day/12 months), effective April 12, 2017 at a rate of \$10.00 per hour during the first 60-working day probationary period. Upon satisfactory completion of the probationary period, starting rate of pay will be \$11.14 per hour.

Upon a roll call vote: Mr. Feil, aye; Mr. Cotner, aye; Mr. Gastrock, aye; Mr. Hackett, aye; Ms. Sherman, aye;

Mr. Hoover, aye; Mrs. Judlin, aye; Mr. Messineo, aye; Motion passed; Board Member Stewart Burrous was absent;

B. Hire of School Psychologist – A motion was made by Mr. Hoover, seconded by Mr. Gastrock, to approve the hire of Jacob R. Rogers, School Psychologist (Elementary Priority), effective August 15, 2017 for a period of 196 days of each school year at a salary of \$51,777 pending receipt of PA Certification (anticipated in May 2017) as School Psychologist;

Upon a roll call vote: Mr. Messineo, aye; Mrs. Judlin, aye; Mr. Hoover, aye; Ms. Sherman, aye; Mr. Hackett, aye; Mr. Gastrock, aye; Mr. Feil, aye; Mr. Cotner, aye; Motion passed; Board Member Stewart Burrous was absent;

C. Extra-Curricular Hires – A motion was made by Mr. Gastrock, seconded by Mr. Hoover, to approve the following extra-curricular hires:

1. Dean A. Frutchev as High School Boys/Girls Track Assistant Coach for the school year 2016-17 at a stipend of \$2,399 effective April 12 – May 27, 2017;
2. Scott Burrous as High School Girls Soccer Head Coach for the school year 2017-18 at a stipend of \$3,569 effective April 12, 2017 (2017-18 Season: August 14 – November 18, 2017).

Upon a roll call vote: Ms. Sherman, aye; Mr. Cotner, aye; Mr. Messineo, aye; Mr. Feil, aye; Mrs. Judlin, aye; Mr. Gastrock, aye; Mr. Hackett, aye; Mr. Hoover, aye; Motion passed; Board Member Stewart Burrous was absent;

D. Increase in Rate of Pay for Cleaning Services - A motion was made by Mr. Gastrock, seconded by Mr. Hoover, for the approval to increase Selby Jean Pier's hourly rate for cleaning the District Administration Center (5 hours per week) from \$10.89 per hour to \$11.11 per hour (2% increase), effective January 1, 2017 – December 30, 2017.

Upon a roll call vote: Mr. Cotner, aye; Mr. Feil, aye; Mr. Gastrock, aye; Mr. Hackett, aye; Ms. Sherman, aye; Mr. Hoover, aye; Mrs. Judlin, aye; Mr. Messineo, aye; Motion passed; Board Member Stewart Burrous was absent;

E. Resignation Due to Retirement – A motion was made by Mrs. Judlin, seconded by Mr. Messineo, to approve the acceptance of letter of resignation due to retirement from Susan Hackett, Middle School Social Studies/ELA Teacher, with regret, effective June 8, 2017.

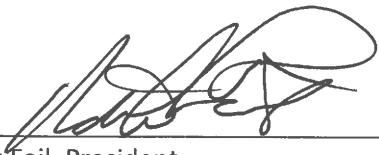
Upon a roll call vote: Mrs. Judlin, aye; Mr. Cotner, aye; Mr. Messineo, aye; Mr. Feil, aye; Mr. Gastrock, aye; Mr. Hackett, abstained; Mr. Hoover, aye; Mrs. Sherman, aye; Motion passed; Board Member Stewart Burrous was absent;

XII. Public Comment – Brigette Largely of Wellsboro, PA spoke as a mother of 3 children and on behalf of a group of parents who asked the Board to hear their opinion. Admittedly, no one wants their taxes raised but given the current financial situation of the District, that you consider raising the taxes to the 2% index (corrected to 3.2%) index for the future of our students.

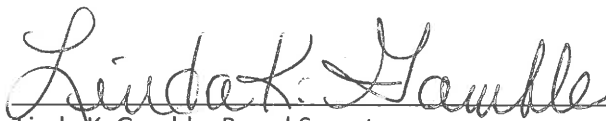
Kathy Tutak, of Wellsboro, PA. She addressed the Board as a retired school teacher, administrator and as a Board member. She advised that it is critical that we provide our students with the best possible education so they can go forward with their careers. Nothing is free! There is an anticipation of things going up. You have to play catch up but not overnight! Our students are going to be the ones taking care of us in the future. We are a rural area but in the end our product is our children! That you really take a hard look and see what we can do. If it means raising taxes, do what you have to do.

Shawndra Holderby, Wellsboro, PA addressed the Board about what a fantastic faculty the District has. She encouraged the Board to replace those teachers who are retiring.

XIII. Adjournment - A motion was made by Mr. Gastrock, seconded by Mr. Cotner, to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 PM. All ayes.



Matthew Feil, President
Board of Education
Wellsboro Area School District



Linda K. Gamble, Board Secretary
Board of Education
Wellsboro Area School District