

WELLSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board of Education Meeting  
March 16, 2017

**MINUTES**

Called to Order by President Matthew Feil at 6:51 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. Stewart Burrous; Ms. Denise Sherman; Mr. Matthew Feil; Mrs. Susan Judlin; Mr. David Messineo; Board Members Duane Cotner and Christopher Gastrock were absent;

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

Visitors Present: Tina Kreisler; Courtney Barlett; Eric Barlett; Brigette Largey; Kristen West; Heather Ladd; Shane Mascho; Karen Farrer; Deborah Greco; Arline Buchman; Brenda Brought; Carrie Heath; Rhoda Mann; Annette Nuss; Melissa Ryan; Spring Lohr; JoAnn Yungwirth;

Announcement of Executive Session: Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 8:30 PM, Old Music Room, for the purpose of personnel matters; Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 6:00 PM, High School Faculty Room, for the purpose of student and personnel matters;

Concerned Resident Issues: None

President Feil announced a change to the Agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Messineo, seconded by Mrs. Judlin, to approve the following: CONSENT ITEM 3-A – Overnight Field Trip Request, #2 Delete Brandon Falk, High School Biology Teacher, and insert the names: Dr. Victor and Maribeth Becker, to take eleven (11) students (Distance running Club) to Syracuse, New York on March 25-26, 2017. The motion passed by unanimous Voice Vote.

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

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

- A. Minutes of re-scheduled regular Board Meeting of February 13, 2017;
- B. Financial Reports:
  - 1. Board Summary Report (February 2017)
  - 2. Student Activity Fund Summary (February 2017)
- C. Approval of Bills
  - 1. 2016-17 General Fund Invoices
  - 2. 2016-17 School Lunch Fund Invoices
  - 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

High School Student Representative – Shelby Osgood reported there will be a lock-in this Friday at the High School, which is a social event for students in an AG class. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, FFA will be attending the

Area CDE Contest (Career Development Events). It has different contests, public speakers, parliamentary procedure, safe tractor driving, and national resource public speaking. On March 24, students in agriculture classes will go to the First Citizens' Bank to promote agriculture. On April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Tioga County Fairgrounds, there will be a square dance. It is open to the public and the cost is \$8.00 for single or \$14.00 for couple. The square dance is from 7 – 10:30 PM.

Elementary Student Representative Carys Barlett reported to the Board various events taking place in the Don Gill and Charlotte Lappla Schools (Open House, Spring Concert)

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Freeman recognized Ralph Topf, Don Gill Custodian for his many years of service and presented him with a gift. She also reported to the Board the issue of Naming Opportunities by the Wellsboro Area Education Foundation and their effort to obtain funds for designated areas with the District's boundaries. All revenue obtained will be used to provide future educational needs of the District. Dr. Freeman reported on the Student Loan Forgiveness Program sponsored through BLAST IU #17. Dr. Freeman introduced Drew Seeling, High School Industrial Technology Teacher, and his group of students in their effort to build a house within the District. There was a PowerPoint presentation given by the students and a question/answer period followed.

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.

Administrators Steven Adams, Michael Pietropola, Pat Hewitt, Robert Kreger, and Daren Bryant reported on events in their buildings.

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 Ms. Sherman, seconded by Mrs. Judlin, to approve the Consent Items as presented.

### **1. ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION**

#### **A. Dual Enrollment Agreement between Mansfield University and WASD for 2017-18 School Year**

Consideration of approval to authorize Wellsboro Area School District to enter into Dual Enrollment Course Agreement with Mansfield University to provide courses in the area of education to eligible students during the 2017-18 school year.

#### **B. Feasibility Study**

Consideration of approval to direct the WASD Administrative Team to look into the feasibility of moving the 8<sup>th</sup> grade from Rock L. Butler Middle School to the Wellsboro Area High School. This feasibility study shall consider the following factors: 1) curriculum; 2) staffing and course enrollments; 3) building capacity; 4) PDE requirements; 5) PlanCon reimbursement, and any other legal requirements.

#### **C. Class Sizes/Course Enrollments**

Consideration of approval to direct the Wellsboro Area School District Superintendent, Dr. Brenda M. Freeman, to prepare and present data regarding class sizes and course enrollments to the WASD Board of School Directors.

D. Reallocation and/or Reassignment of WASD Professional Staff

Consideration of approval to direct the WASD Administrative Team to look into reallocating and/ or reassigning the WASD professional staff based on educational needs.

E. Modernization/Updating WASD Building Curriculum

Consideration of approval to direct the Wellsboro Area School District Superintendent, Dr. Brenda M. Freeman, to look at modernizing and updating the curriculum in all buildings based on, among other things, need and course enrollment.

F. Approval of WASD Policy #249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying

Consideration of approval of WASD Policy #249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying as presented. Said policy was reviewed by Programs & Policy Committee on March 1, 2017 and is submitted for approval by the Board in accordance with requirement set forth in said policy: “The Superintendent or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the Board”.

G. Budgetary Transfers for School Year 2016-17

Consideration of approval for the budgetary transfers for School Year 2016-17 as presented.

H. WASD Teacher Equity Plan for School Year 2016-17

Consideration of approval of Wellsboro Area School District Teacher Equity Plan for School Year 2016-17 as presented. Said Plan was reviewed by the Programs & Policy Committee on March 1, 2017 with no exceptions.

I. WASD School Calendar for School Year 2017-18

Consideration of approval for the Wellsboro Area School District 2017-18 School Calendar.

2. **PERSONNEL**

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

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

1. Ed Ryan as High School Volunteer Boys Tennis Assistant Coach, for School Year 2016-17 (Season: March 6 – May 27, 2017)
2. Brett Hamblin as Junior High Volunteer Baseball Assistant Coach, for School Year 2016-17 (Season: March 6 – June 16, 2017)

C. Support Staff Resignation

Consideration of approval to accept letter of resignation from P. Kenneth Power, High School Custodian, effective March 17, 2017.

3. **STUDENT**

A. Overnight Field Trip Requests

Consideration of approval for the following overnight field trip requests:

1. Lara Owlett, High School French Teacher, to take forty (40) students (Class of 2018) to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee in Spring of 2018 (Attachment X-3A-1);
2. Judy Smithgall, High School Vocal Music Teacher, to take 2 students (All-State Chorus) to Erie, PA on April 19-22, 2017;
3. Judy Smithgall, High School Vocal Music Teacher, to take 1 student (All-Eastern Chorus) to Atlantic City, NJ on April 5-8, 2017;
- 3-b. Maribeth Becker, High School Biology/General Science Teacher, to take 11 students (Distance Running Club) to Syracuse, NY on March 25 & 26, 2017;

B. Requests for Homebound Instruction

Consideration of approval for the following Requests for Homebound Instruction:

1. for Student #9 HB 2016-17 as per her family physician for a period of approximately two weeks commencing February 24, 2017. Student will be able to return to school on March 6, 2017 for only half days. Request for homebound instruction for half day only for a period beginning March 6 - 24, 2017 after which student will be re-evaluated.
2. for Student #10 HB 2016-17 as per his family physician for a period of approximately two weeks commencing March 2, 2017.

C. In Lieu of Expulsion

Consideration of approval for In Lieu of Expulsion Agreement for Student #3 2016-17.

D. WASD Building Construction Program/Skills USA Club

Consideration of approval to support and allow the WASD Building Construction Program students and Skills USA Club students under the direction of Drew Seeling, High School Industrial Technology Teacher, to explore avenues to secure remaining funds needed to complete a project to build a new house in the Borough of Wellsboro propelling the educational involvement of the students to a new height by allowing the students to experience the entire process of building a home from the start of the foundation to its completion, thus setting a new standard for the Districts' vocational programs and becoming the benchmark for other schools in the area.

4. OTHER

A. 2016-17 Additions to WASD Substitute List

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

B. Approval of Transportation Driver

Consideration of approval for the following individual as school bus driver for Benedict's Bus Service, effective 3/15/2017:

1. Gerald Wilson, School Bus Driver

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

XI. ACTION ITEMS:

1. ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

A. Memorandum of Agreement - A motion was made by Mr. Hoover, seconded by Mr. Hackett, to approve the "Memorandum of Agreement", a one-time Retirement Incentive, between the Wellsboro Area School District and the Wellsboro Area Education Association as presented.

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

B. WASD Naming Opportunities – A motion was made by Mr. Hackett, seconded by Mr. Messineo, to approve the authorization of the WASD Superintendent, Dr. Brenda M. Freeman, to work with the Wellsboro Area Education Foundation in their effort to obtain funds for Naming Opportunities for designated areas within the District's boundaries. All revenue obtained will be used to provide future educational needs of the District.

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

2. **PERSONNEL**

A. Approval of 2016-17 Reading and Math Tutor K-8 – A motion was made by Ms. Sherman, seconded by Mr. Hackett, to approve Jaimie Purdy, Autistic Support Teacher for BLAST IU #17 in the Wellsboro High School, to be a 2016-17 Reading

and Math Tutor K-8 said teacher to be used for students in Grades K-8 in one or more sessions, to wit: February 6 – March 23, 2017; June 19 – July 24, 2017. Said tutor will be paid the contracted extended duty hourly rate of \$32.00 per hour. Certified teacher shall have knowledge and/or experience in mathematics and/or language arts content/standards at the various grade levels. Number of positions will be contingent upon qualified student/parent participation by grade level and building and will be at the discretion of Administration.

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

B. Hires - A motion was made by Ms. Sherman, seconded by Mr. Messineo, to approve the following hires for school year 2016-17 and 2017-18:

1. Jack Witmer, part-time Groundskeeper, at a rate of \$12.25 per hour, on an “as-needed basis” effective March 15 – November 17, 2017;


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

C. Hire of Intern – A motion was made by Mrs. Judlin, seconded by Mr. Hackett, to approve the hire of Mackenzie Crawford as School Psychology Intern for the school year 2017-2018, effective August 22, 2017. Rate of pay will be \$16.80 per hour for a period of 1250 hours for a total stipend of \$21,000.

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

XII. Public Comment – None

XIII. Adjournment – A motion was made by Mrs. Judlin, seconded by Mr. Messineo, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 PM. All ayes.



Matthew Feil, President  
Wellsboro Area School District  
Board of Education



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