

Wellsboro Area School District  
Board of Education  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
May 4, 2021

Called to Order by President Chris Gastrock at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium, Administration Office, 227 Nichols Street, Wellsboro, PA, via Zoom Meeting.

Roll Call of Members: Mrs. Tracy Doughtie, Mr. Chris Gastrock, Mr. Wayne Hackett, Mr. John Hoover, Mr. David Messineo, Mr. Lee Stocks and Mrs. Linda West were present at roll call.

Present were the following: Dr. Brenda Freeman, Superintendent; Mrs. Laura Perry, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Administrators: Mr. Steve Adams, Mr. Robert Kreger, Mr. Ben Miller, Mr. Jeremy Byrd, Mr. Todd Outman, Mr. Daren Bryant, Mr. Bryan Murphy, and Mr. Tim Hanner.

Presentation by The Nutrition Group – Budget Proposal 2021/2022

Mrs. Patty Baresse, Vice President, The Nutrition Group, provided the Directors with the FSMC proposed 2021/2022 Food Service budget. The presentation included the update that USDA has provided for the continuation of free breakfast and lunch program through the 2021/2022 school year and the budget presented reflected the additional reimbursement anticipated. The directors agreed to include the proposed budget on the formal board agenda for consideration.

Presentation by PFM Financial Advisors and Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC

The Directors were provided a presentation by Jamie Doyle, Managing Director, PFM and Jonathon Cox, Bond Counsel, regarding the current debt service environment for the possible issuance of funds related to the upcoming renovation project at the Rock L. Butler Middle School. Mrs. Doyle and Mr. Cox reviewed the district's current debt structure, including the recent refinancing, requires under the local debt borrowing act for the use of funds and the timelines involved with allocating the funds, and a tentative timeline of borrowing based on the board's direction of approving a parameter's resolution.

ESS Northeast, LLC – Addendum to Extend Agreement

As previously discussed with the Directors, the district's agreement with ESS Northeast, LLC, for the contracting of substitutes, the administration proposed a multi-year extension to the agreement to provide for competitive compensation with other area school districts. The agreement was reviewed and recommended for inclusion on the formal board agenda for consideration.

Superintendent Update – Dr. Brenda Freeman

- ✓ COVID limitation guidance under PA and PDE have changed, effective June 1, 2021. The district will be moving forward with in-person graduation preparation utilizing the new guidance.
- ✓ The district continues to host UPMC vaccination clinic through May 13, 2021. Positive feedback was received by the high school students who volunteered their services to UPMC for the vaccine clinic.
- ✓ This week is Teacher Appreciation Week celebration. Dr. Freeman sent an email to the faculty for their dedicated service to the district and thanked them for their service in this abnormal year.
- ✓ A tour of the house project was hosted for the directors prior to the work session.

- ✓ Dr. Freeman attended an Open House at Victaulic (Waupaca Foundry) in Lawrenceville, PA. One of the reasons that this international company was drawn to our area is due to the demonstrated work ethic within our region.

Board Discussion

Mr. Messineo inquired to Dr. Freeman if there have been any mandatory orders provided to schools to return to full in-person instruction for 2021/2022. Dr. Freeman is not aware of any such requirement.

Visitor Comment

Mr. Al Beiber addressed the board regarding the social studies curriculum at the High School and the current influences that media and news has on historical events.

The work session adjourned at 7:58 PM into an Executive Session on a motion made by Mr. Messineo, second by Mrs. Doughtie.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Perry, Secretary to the Board  
Board Secretary  
Wellsboro Area School District