

WELLSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 5, 2022

Called to Order by President Christopher Gastrock at 6:31 PM in the Old Music Room, Administration Office, 227 Nichols Street, Wellsboro, PA

II. Roll Call of Members: Mrs. Linda West; Mr. Lee Stocks; Mrs. Tracy Doughtie; Mr. Chris Gastrock; Mr. Albert Bieber; Mrs. Rebecca Charles; Mr. John Hoover; Mrs. Megan McConnell (arriving at 6:35 PM) Absent from the meeting was Mr. Wayne Hackett;

Present were the following: Mr. Robert Kreger, Administrator in Charge; Linda Gamble, Acting Board Secretary; Mr. Benjamin Miller, Middle School Assistant Principal; Amy Coots, Principal of Academic Affairs; Jeremy Byrd, High School Principal; Todd Outman, High School Assistant Principal; Mr. Mike Wolff; Press present: Natalie Kennedy (Wellsboro Gazette); faculty and community members;

III. Linda Gamble, Acting Board Secretary, read into the minutes the Notice of Work Session;

IV. Administrator-in-Charge Rob Kreger explained that the first handout was the Overnight Field Trip Request by Dan Sensenig, High School Music Teacher to take one student (High School Chorus Student) to Pocono Mountain East High school and Kalahari Resort on April 6 – 8 , 2022 to attend PMEA All-States Chorus and Conference. The cost of the trip is approximately \$1,899 which includes substitute costs.

V. Robert Kreger also gave an update on the High School Roof Project. He stated the District has received a formal cost estimate to replace the roof at the High School at about \$1.6 million (or with PV shingles, it would cost approximately \$2.6 million). Sam Wolf II of Tricon Building Services, spoke at the March 8, 2022 Work Session and advised that shingles will have an expected life span of 20-25 years while the PVC would last 40-50 years. Sam Scarantino of Quad 3 (the District architect for the Middle School Bathroom Project) will review the proposal later this week, after which the Budget and Finance Committee will look into how to cover the cost of the project. Mr. Kreger stated he has been advised that there is no legal remedy available since the high school roof, installed in 2008, had a one-year guarantee for workmanship issues, which is the reason for the roof failure. Some of the board members indicated a willingness to consider the PVC option, if the district could cover the cost of such. The Board is also looking to the option of spreading the project over two years. The District will need to make a decision quickly if work is to begin this construction season.

VI. Mr. Kreger also gave an update on the Rock L. Butler Middle School Bathroom project. He stated that the "female" bathrooms are now open. The construction is

now dealing with the 5th grade hallway "male" bathrooms. Everything seems to be going well with no major "hiccups".

Everything will hopefully be completed at the end of the summer!

VII. The Board had in front of them another handout – Extra-Duty Salary Schedule (7/1/2021 – 6/30/2024) which is part of the Contract Agreement between the Wellsboro Area School District and Wellsboro Area Education Association. Also given out as a handout was a Clarification of Understanding between the District and WAEA re: Cheerleading Advisor (in both High School and Middle School)

VIII. The next item of discussion was the High School and Middle School Odyssey of the Mind Teams. At the state competition on April 2, 2022, a Middle School team received a third place finish, qualifying it for the world competition. The high school team placed fifth, which is not qualify it for the world competition, but is receipt of the Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award did! Both teams created balsa wood structures to hold weight.

The World Competition will be held in Ames, Iowa on May 24 – 30, 2022. The Board was given as a handout, the proposed costs for the trip which includes fourteen (14) students and 6 coaches. The fourteen students are, to wit, Jennifer Beltz, Joelle Bull, Julie Clark, Gabriella Deveney, Elise Largey, Angelana Mack, Wyatt McConnell, Megan Newruck, Zander Rachiele, Jacob Smith, Emiley Sodman, Elliot Spooner, Henry Whitney and Katherina Whitney. The coaches/coordinators who will be chaperoning the field trip are Mel Belz, Ben Largey, Brigitte Largey, Said Mack, Janessa Smith and Amber Whitney.

Brigitte Largey, coach for the Middle School team, stated that Wellsboro had sent a team to the World Competition back in 2004-2005. Sadie Mack, the District's OM coordinator, also provided some preliminary cost estimates for taking the student coaches and coordinator to the World Competition. The teams will probably look at hotel accommodations as dormitory stays would cost \$735 per student. The majority of the students are in middle school and most parents are not comfortable having their students in a dorm. The possibility of renting a bus was explored but that would have added \$11,000 to the cost of the trip. Instead, private vehicle will be used. She estimated that the registration, travel, hotel and meal costs for students, faculty and parents to be around \$41,000. Fundraisers will be held to cover the student and coach costs. Parents will be responsible for their share.

President Chris Gastrock stated that the District would commit to paying \$6,000 toward the trip. The Board suggested several options for Sadie Mack to explore including Wellsboro's Five Foundations. The PTO can accept donations from the public and funnel those funds to the OM teams, stated Board Member Rebecca Charles. It also has a Pay-Pal account which the OM Program could use.

IX. Board Committee Reports – President Gastrock advised the Board the Buildings and Grounds Committee had met on March 14, 2022 at Noon – Items of discussion

were the High School Roof Project; High School Greenhouse; and Middle School Bathroom Remodeling Update;

X. Public Comment – Travis McConnell spoke to the Board concerning the Odyssey of the Mind Program wanting to know how the District handles the students going to the World Competition. He had questions concerning the registration fees, and the parents' housing costs. President Gastrock answered his questions.

President Gastrock announced that there would be an Executive Session for the purpose of personnel held as soon as the Work Session was adjourned. The Executive Session was held in the Old Music Room.

XI. Adjournment – The Work Session was adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gamble
Acting Board Secretary