

WELLSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education
WORK SESSION MINUTES
June 7, 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. Maegan McConnell; Mr. Daniel Nowak;

Present were the following: Dr. Brenda M. Freeman, Superintendent; Mr. Robert Kreger, Administrator in Charge; Linda Gamble, Acting Board Secretary; Steven Adams, Elementary Principal; Mr. Benjamin Miller, Middle School Assistant Principal; Amy Coots, Principal of Academic Affairs; Todd Outman, High School Assistant Principal; Mr. Michael 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; (NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to the Open Meeting Law (1974, July 1, P.L. 486, No. 175, Section 1, et. Seq.) that the Board of School Directors of the Wellsboro Area School District will hold a Work Session on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 6:30 PM for the purpose of discussing school district business. The Work Session will be held in the Old Music Room located in the District Administration Office, 227 Nichols Street, Wellsboro, PA..

Linda Gamble, Board Secretary
Wellsboro Area School District
Board of School Directors

IV. Presentation – Board President Chris Gastrock presented to Dr. Brenda M. Freeman, a retirement gift from the Board thanking her for her years of service to the District.

V. Presentation of Power Point – Dr. Benjamin Largey, School Psychologist/Online Program Coordinator (Wellsboro Online Academy) and Tammy Giarth, Wellsboro Online Academy Head Teacher, presented to the Board a power-point presentation concerning Wellsboro Online Academy (Cyber Charter Student Recruitment Efforts in a Rural Pennsylvania School District). Dr. Largey stated that at the end of school year 2021-22, there were fifty-one (51) full time students (savings of approximately \$648,000 to the District). Tammy Giarth did a “walk through” on a regular day in the school year at the request of a board member.

VI. Discussion – Robert Kreger, Administrator in Charge, presented to the Board, a request of approval of summer hours for Penny Cruttenden, Middle School Library Aide requested by District Librarian, Rachel Smith. It was the concession of the Board to allow it and be put on the Agenda. (Handout #1)

VII. Alanna Huck, Incoming Superintendent of the Wellsboro Area School District, spoke to the Board concerning the 2022-2023 General Budget. She advised the Board that at the present time, there was a \$183,000 deficit. She gave figures as to a possible tax increase of

.5%, 1% and a 1.5% increase. The Board members gave their ideas on how the budget should be handled and also discussed the future big projects that will be coming up – high school roofing project, the Middle School bathroom project, the HS Greenhouse project, etc. There was a straw vote taken as to the vote of the budget – there were 3 dissenting votes (John Hoover, Tracy Doughtie and Linda West) and the remaining ones voted an increase of .5%.

VIII. Todd Outman, High School Assistant Principal, presented to the Board a Middle School Track and Field Proposal (7th and 8th grade) (Handout #2) It was the concession of the Board to allow this and will appear as a Memorandum of Agreement on the Agenda of 6/14/2022.

IX. Alanna Huck, Incoming WASD Superintendent, spoke to the Board about the purchase of CSIU Financial Software; the deadline for having the software in place is July 1, 2022;

X. Discussion - Mike Wolff, Network Administrator, spoke to the Board regarding the purchase of a new phone system through Grand Stream (BLaST IU #17) (Handout #3); Board Member Linda West asked the question "What's wrong with the one we have now"? Mike's answer was that we cannot get parts. The Board directed that the upgrade be placed on the Board Agenda of June 14, 2022 in the amount of \$51,597.99.

Mike Wolf also spoke to the Board about the hiring of summer students for help in the IT Department. There would be two (2) students; two (2) para helpers. The payrate would be \$10.00 per hour for total costs: \$10 per hour – No more than 24 hrs. per week per student. Funding for this project will be taken from the IT Budget.

XI. Karen Farrer, Supervisor of Special Education, reviewed the Special Education Plan 2021-2024 with the Board. (Handout #5)

XII. Board Member Al Bieber spoke to the Board regarding school safety. He had also talked with Sheriff Levindoski regarding incident of 2003 where a student shot himself in one of our schools.

XIII. Public Comment – Eric Baldwin spoke to the Board concerning gender issues and "Pride Month".

XIV. Adjournment – The Work Session was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda K. Gamble
Acting Board Secretary