WASD Committee of the Whole MINUTES

January 14, 2025
6:00 p.m.

1. OPENING

1.1 Call Meeting to Order
1.2 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
1.3 Roll Call

BOARD MEMBERS

KLINGENBERG MELISSA	PORTANTE MARK	RUMMEL AMY	RUMMEL TONI	SLATCOFF JEFF	SOTOSKY MARK	THORNSBERRY TIM	WALKER RON	DECEWICZ DAVID	MILLER, SKYLEE
SECRETARY		TREASURER	VP					PRESIDENT	STUDENT REP
6:15	X	Remote	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL

BECKLEY CHARLES	CHRISTY MELANIE	DURYEA KORIE	GAYE GLENN	GYURIK PAMELA	MOORE KIM	OTT MARK	REPAK RON
ES Principal	School Psychologist	Special Education Dir.	Director of Education	Recording Secretary	HS Principal	Athletic Director	Solicitor
X	X	X	Excused	X	X	X	A
ROXBY JUSTIN	**SHUSTER JESSICA**	**SLATCOFF STEVE**	**TALLYEN FRANK**	**VUCKOVICH MICHAEL**	**ZELLAM JESSICA**		
Facilities Director	MS Principal	HS/MS Asst Principal	IT Director	Superintendent	Business Manager		
X	X	Excused	X	X	X		

1.4 Welcome to Visitors
1.5 Public Comment (3-minute limit) - NONE
1.6 Presentation - Literacy Journey
- Liz Caton - Instructional Coach
- Brook Faust - 3rd Grade Teacher
- Kate Bridge - Kindergarten Teacher

The team delivered an outstanding presentation on our new Literacy Curriculum and showcased how our teachers are implementing it in their classrooms. Their enthusiasm, leadership, and engaging approach were truly inspiring. We are thrilled to announce that they will be presenting the full version of this presentation at the upcoming Title I Improving School Conference at the end of the month. Their dedication to improving literacy education is evident, and we are confident their insights will leave a lasting impact on attendees.

MEETING SUMMARY: ***The following items were brought to the attention of the Board and were discussed further to explain each item, the Board will vote on the necessary items at their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 21st. The Board supported these items unless otherwise noted or further information was requested before the vote at the regular meeting. Mr. Vuckovich, Superintendent, conducted the meeting and gave a detailed explanation of each item and called on the administrator in charge of certain items if a further explanation was needed.***

2. Finance & Operations
Committee Co-Chairs: Mrs. Toni Rummel & Mrs. Amy Rummel

2.1 Financial Reports - December 2024

2.2 Cartwheel Health Services Agreement
   a. Previously discussed this and got approval from the Board of Directors
   b. Tele-therapy
   c. Seeking formal approval

2.3 Audit Presentation
   a. Next week, January 21st
   b. Facilities upgrades: HVAC at the elementary school and bleachers at both buildings

2.4 Facilities Updates
   a. Bleachers - HS and Bleachers ES
      i. PO signed and sent in - waiting for installation date
   b. HVAC work at Elementary School
      i. Contract signed, moving forward with project
   c. Cafeteria funds
      i. Will need permission to do RFPs for any item over 22k
      ii. List of items we submitted as part of our corrective action plan to lessen our cafe funds.
      iii. Seeking approval so we can move forward with ordering

2.5 Request to donate 19 tables from the Elementary School and 7 from the High School

2.6 Request for Use of Facilities - Life Church

2.7 Beauty Lawn Contract 2025

2.8 Request to advertise for Elementary Service Line and Elementary Cooler/Freezer

2.9 Request for grant writing services for the RUS-DLT grant.
   a. Grant for auditorium - $9,500 fee (win or lose)
   b. Several schools in our area have used him and have been awarded the grant

2.10 Request approval for Bocce Club

3. Academic & Extracurricular
Committee Co-Chairs: Dr. Melissa Klingenberg & Mr. Jeff Slatcoff.

3.1 2025-26 School Calendar Discussion
   a. 2025-26 School Calendar (draft)

i. Later start due to construction at the elementary school. The administration believes we should err on the side of caution with the start date as we are concerned with delays
    1. August 7 and 14 - Voluntary Tech days for staff
    2. First day for staff is August 26, 2025
    3. First day for students is September 2, 2025

ii. The district has the right to change the calendar if necessary

3.2 Request for facilities use:

a. AYSO request for use of facilities
   i. Requesting use of both the Stadium and Old Soccer fields for use April 1-June 30, 2025. Mon-Fri 4pm-8pm and Saturdays in May 8am-12pm
   ii. Mr. Ott has reservations about AYSO using the stadium during the week due to our track & field team using it for practices and meets - if stadium use is granted, it should be after all track activities are completed for the day and preferably just for game usage

Mr. Mark Ott, Athletic Director, expressed concerns regarding the use of Windber Stadium's field by AYSO for practices. He noted that this creates challenges for the district during Track and Field season and adds unnecessary wear and tear on the turf surface. As a solution, AYSO will be directed to utilize the old track complex and other fields for practices. Additionally, the number of games played on the turf surface will be limited to reduce its use. Mr. Ott will coordinate the logistics with AYSO, and Dr. Decewicz, a member of the AYSO board, fully supports these recommendations as does the rest of the Board.

3.3 Conferences

a. PSBA Safety Symposium - Mr. Tallyen and Mr. Vuckovich, 1 day, Mechanicsburg.
   i. Paid for out of the PCCD safety grant

b. Cleveland Public Schools
   i. Second Step classroom visit
   ii. End of February
   iii. 2-4 individuals, costs for hotel, and lunch
   iv. Paid for out of the PCCD Safety Grant

c. PSADA Conference
   i. Mark Ott, requesting to attend the PSADA conference in Hershey, Pa, March 18-21.
   ii. Registration, professional development course(s) lodging, meals, mileage, tolls, and parking fees will be paid as per policy.

4. Policy & Personnel

Committee Co-Chairs: Mr. Mark Sotosky & Mr. Ron Walker

4.1 Staffing

a. Volunteers
   1) Barb DiLoreto as a volunteer for our Bocce Program.
   2) Dawn O'Roark - JH Softball Volunteer

b. Paid
   1) Tony Clement - JH Track & Field, Paid Asst
   2) Clarissa Thomas - JH Softball Scorekeeper ($200 stipend)
   3) Jennifer Strayer - Game Manager

4.2 Approval of the first reading of the following policies:

a. #815.1 Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education

b. #005 - Organization

1) Recommended to assist with implementing consistent standards for the organization meeting.

2) Updated to reflect recent court ruling regarding a board member's removal for notice of the reason and due process.

c. [#308 - Employment Contract/Board Resolution]
   1) Recommended for legal liability purposes
   2) Allows the Superintendent to accept resignations on behalf of theBoard of Directors
   3) Requires 60-day resignation notice prior to the resignation's effective date

d. #823 - Opioid Antagonist
   1) Formally titled "Naloxone" which we had.
   2) Act 135 of 2022 updated the definitions and terminology for drug overdose medication and changes in terms.
   3) Minor language changes
   4) Requires any staff member administering these items to be properly trained via an online PA Department of Health module.
   5) Recommended for legal liability purposes.
   6) Currently our SRO, as a Windber Police Officer, has Naloxone in his possession and is certified to administer. Our school nurses do not house Naloxone in their offices, nor have been certified to administer it.

Currently, we do not adhere to Policy #823 – Opioid Antagonist, as our school nurses do not store Naloxone in their offices; instead, it is carried by the School Resource Officer (SRO). To address this, Mr. Vuckovich will engage in discussions with our administration and school nurses to explore ways to implement the necessary procedures and protocols. The goal is to ensure this life-saving medication is readily accessible in the event of a life-threatening emergency. We will present this policy for the first reading at the January 21st meeting, but will make any adjustments prior to the second reading after the team has a chance to discuss and make any necessary adjustments to the policy.

4.3 Retirements/ Resignations

a. Diane Bedont
   1) Discussion, ideas

b. Glenn Gaye
   1) Discussion, ideas

The Board has agreed to accept the resignations of Mrs. Bedont and Mr. Gaye at the January 21st meeting. Ideas to address these vacancies, including potential staffing changes will be presented at the February Committee of the Whole Meeting for discussion and further guidance from the Board.

c. Paul Buza - Head Girls Varsity Soccer Coach

The Board agreed that Mr. Vuckovich can start the process of advertising for a new soccer coach immediately.

4.4 Tenure

a. Approval for Alyssa Beitsinger to be awarded Tenure

4.5 Approval of Ignite Substitute Teachers for January

Mr. Vuckovich reminded the Board that while substitute teachers are approved on a monthly basis, this does not guarantee they will exclusively accept substitute assignments within our district. These individuals are part of a shared pool utilized by most local school districts.

4.6 Student Handbook

a. Updated it to reflect notice to families that we accept digital signatures. We will communicate accordingly with families after/if the Board formally approves.

Mr. Vuckovich explained that this process will streamline how parental permission is obtained for student participation in various activities, eliminating the need to collect paper copies. After consulting with our solicitor, it was recommended to ensure this policy is clearly outlined in the student handbooks to keep parents informed. As a result, a section has been added to the handbooks explaining the acceptance of digital signatures from parents through platforms such as Google Forms, Parent Square, and similar outlets.

4.7 Volunteers

a. Approval for Tim Bracken and Bryan Lampel to be volunteers for the Archery Club pending volunteer clearances.

4.8 Approval for Scott Jani as Mentor Teacher for Craig Fry (Gr. 7 Science) *Scott was previously approved as Mentor for the Long Term Sub position in Grade 7 Science.

4.9 Approval for Jen Culp as Mentor Teacher for Cortney Benton (HS/MS School Nurse) Ms. Benton started her employment at our district on January 9th.

Non-Agenda Items Deliberation/Updates (if time allows)

1. The Board Picture for the Yearbook will be taken at the Regular Meeting on January 21st prior to the start of the meeting.
2. Windber Borough Police Department - Gratitude Letter
3. ISP Elementary Team Presentation
4. PowerSchool Data Breach Update - ***Discussion was held in Executive Session following this meeting.***

Meeting Adjourned: 7:53 p.m.

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting - January 21, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.