



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 12, 2021 Regular Meeting

Pursuant to the regulations, the regular Board meeting was held on the above date in the Waupaca High School Community Room and live streamed via YouTube. The meeting was also broadcast on TV Channel 991.

The purpose of the Board Meeting Minutes is to capture the essence of discussions through the actions voted on. These minutes should not be interpreted to represent a transcription of the meeting. To watch a recording of this meeting, please click [here](#).

President's Comments and Pledge of Allegiance:

Stephen Johnson welcomed everyone and asked Carrie Naparalla to lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Johnson at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Stephen Johnson, Dale Feldt, Steve Klismet, Mark Polebitski, Patrick Phair, Betty Manion, and Steve Hackett.

Also Present:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Ron Saari, Sandy Lucas, Carl Hayek, Steve Thomaschefskey, Laurie Schmidt, Michael Werbowski, Jenifer Erb, John Meyer, John Erspamer, Jody Pankratz, Carrie Naparalla, Carol Beyer-Makuski, and members of the community.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Steve Hackett and seconded by Patrick Phair to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Public Comment:

Several community members addressed the Board regarding the mandatory wearing of masks, the length of mandatory COVID quarantining of healthy students, the continuity of day to day schooling, the authority given to certain individuals in making decisions related to COVID, as well as bullying. The last speaker asked the Board for additional time to speak which the Board granted.

Review of Board Meeting Norms:

The Board reviewed their collective commitments.

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Betty Manion to approve the items of the consent agenda as presented.

Minutes:

September 14, 2021, Regular Board Meeting
September 16, 2021, Special Board Meeting
September 27, 2021, Special Board Meeting
September 28, 2021, Policy Committee Meeting

Financial Reports:

Accounts Payable Approval: \$2,738,254.64, and Building Fund Payable: \$155,705.00

Cash Receipts: \$1,887,007.66

Treasurer's Report – Total Cash per Reconciliation: \$9,292,683.67

Resignations:

Jill Kocovsky – Comet Café Class 2

Lisa Ann Collins – WMS Ed. Asst. – Spec. Ed.

Gretchen Hulka – WLC 4K Ed. Asst.

Salary Step Changes:

Emma Sievers – 3B24 to 3M0

Claire Ellie – 10B18 to 10B24

Final Approval of Class III Field Trips

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Communications:

Mr. Saari recognized the many observances happening during the month of October.

District Administrator's Report:

Mr. Saari advised that the District is in need of substitute aides and teachers, and is still experiencing staff shortages in food service and as bus drivers. He provided information on how to apply for these positions.

Mr. Saari provided enrollment data indicating the number of students who have left the District to homeschool, attend another school or go virtual, as well as student transfers in and out (not open enrolled in/out).

Mr. Saari along with Director of Technology & CTEC Steve Thomaschefskey were excited to share that the District was awarded over \$104,000 through the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program, which will provide 70 hotspots for students to checkout and 240 new Chromebooks for use throughout the District.

Mr. Saari gave a shout out to Director of Co-Curricular Activities/Athletics Trevor Leopold for the weekly athletic communication, as well as to Director of Teaching and Learning Mark Flaten for his work with the MLSS, ILT and K-12 teams in preparing and organizing the Wednesday afternoon work on K-12 Priority Standards.

Mr. Saari advised of the requirements that the District will need to meet in order to receive any ESSER III federal stimulus funds.

He also provided an update of the successes of the Grant Writer.

Monitoring:

2021-2022 Budget:

Director of Business Services Carl Hayek presented the District's Preliminary 2021-2022 Budget. The District's budget is balanced, and it will have the lowest proposed tax mill rate in 30 years -- \$6.63 per \$1,000 of property value. The District's projected property tax levy required to support the 2021-2022 budget is estimated at \$11,719,218. The major changes affecting the mill rate are the overall property valuation projection increase of 7.33% and the projected increase of General State Aid of \$415,776. Although property values are increasing, wages and benefits will continue to increase and the District's infrastructure is being strategically maintained and repaired annually.

Since there will be no increase in the revenue limit for two years, the purpose of any ESSER III Funds that the District may receive is to offset the increased expenses in order to balance the District's budget the next two years.

The budget will be published in the *Waupaca County Post* on Thursday, and the Budget Hearing is scheduled for October 28, 2021.

Administration:

3rd Friday in September Enrollment Report:

Mr. Saari shared the required report indicating that fewer students have enrolled in the District this year.

Set Graduation Date:

Mr. Saari reminded the Board that at last month's Board meeting, in an effort to continue "Senior Week" as a Comet tradition and to provide an opportunity for more of our staff to attend graduation, the Administration recommended changing the senior graduation date from a Sunday to Wednesday, June 1, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. He advised that per the Board's request, High School Principal Michael Werbowsky sent out separate surveys to students, parents, and staff asking for their graduation date preference of a possible three choices. The results were not unexpected. In alignment with Administration experience, previous recommendation date, and survey participation rates and responses, the Administration's recommendation remained consistent from the September Board meeting.

A motion was made by Patrick Phair and seconded by Steve Hackett to accept the Administration's recommendation and set the 2022 graduation date as Wednesday, June 1, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Early Graduation Requests:

Mr. Saari advised that five students are requesting early graduation, and that these students and their parents have discussed their request with their school counselor and High School Principal Michael Werbowsky.

A motion was made by Patrick Phair and seconded by Dale Feldt to approve the early graduation requests of the five High School students as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Substitute Teacher Pay Increase:

In an effort to recruit and retain more substitute teachers, as well as be more competitive with other area districts, Administration is recommending that the substitute teacher compensation rate be increased from \$110.00 per day to \$130.00 per day. This increased expense has been factored into the District's balanced budget.

A motion was made by Patrick Phair and seconded by Steve Hackett to increase the substitute teacher pay from \$110.00 per day to \$130.00 per day as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Posting and Scheduling Board Meetings:

Mr. Saari advised of the many ways information relating to Board meetings is shared with the community.

Following the results of a survey, Mr. Saari provided the Board with three days to keep as placeholders for possible special Board and/or Committee meetings in any given month should the need exist. Board President Johnson asked the Board members to pencil in their calendars the third Monday, fourth Monday, and fourth Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. for a possible meeting.

Board Reports:

Upcoming Meetings and Other Activities:

The Board was reminded of the following upcoming meetings and other activities:

- October 18, 2021 – Special Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
- October 25, 2021 – Policy Committee Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
- October 27, 2021 – Virtual WASB Statewide Fall Regional Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- October 28, 2021 – Budget Hearing – 5:30 p.m.
- November 6, 2021 – WASB Legislative Conference – 7:45 a.m.
- November 9, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.

Policy Committee:

Committee Chairperson Patrick Phair advised that the Policy Committee reviewed and recommended that the full Board approve and adopt the following policies:

- NEOLA Policy 3217 Weapons (Professional Staff)
- NEOLA Policy 4217 Weapons (Support Staff)
- NEOLA Policy 5772 Dangerous Weapons and/or Look-Alike Weapons (W443.6)
- NEOLA Policy 2510 Adoption of Textbooks (W362) (as amended)
- NEOLA Policy 2521 Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment (W361) (as amended)
- NEOLA Policy 2623 Student Assessment (W346) (as amended)
- NEOLA Policy 2260.02 English Language Proficiency (W346.3)
- NEOLA Policy 2340 District-Sponsored Trips/Field Trips (W352)
- NEOLA Policy 8120 Volunteers (W353.1)
- NEOLA Policy 2531.01 Use of Commercially-Produced Videos/Movies (W361.1)

A motion was made by Patrick Phair, per Committee recommendation, to approve and adopt the 10 NEOLA Policies listed above as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Steve Hackett and seconded by Betty Manion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

_____ Date _____
 Stephen Johnson, President
 Board of Education

_____ Date _____
 Elizabeth Manion, Clerk
 Board of Education