



Respectful, Responsible, Safe & Prepared

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 11, 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 virtually via Google Meet, Live Stream, and by phone. The meeting was also broadcast on TV Channel 991.

The purpose of the Board Meeting Minutes are 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 John Erspamer to lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Johnson at 5:16 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Stephen Johnson, Dale Feldt, Steve Klismet, Mark Polebitski, Patrick Phair, and Steve Hackett. Betty Manion was virtually present via Google Meet.

Also Present:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Ron Saari, Sandy Lucas, Mark Flaten, Carl Hayek, Steve Thomaschefskey, Ella Waite, Michael Werbowsky, Jen Erb, Laura Colbert, John Meyer, John Erspamer, Carrie Naparalla, Sandy Robinson, Dr. Kelly Pucillo, David Wood, and Dr. Dorrie Happ. Virtually present via Google Meet: Laurie Schmidt, Jody Pankratz, Megan Sanders, Jamie Trzebiatowski, Hannah Rowe, Mandi Salter, and Becky Liegl.

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:

Mr. David Wood, Dr. Kelly Pucillo, and Dr. Dorrie Happ all spoke with regard to the Administration's recommendation to make mask wearing indoors optional for summer school starting June 14, 2021. They each requested that the District continue with its current COVID mitigation strategies, including continuing with the wearing of masks while indoors through at least summer school, and until consensus among the medical community is reached indicating that it is safe to not do so. They all thanked the District for its COVID mitigation efforts to date and the work that has been done in keeping the schools open for in-person learning.

Review of Board Meeting Norms:

The Board reviewed their collective commitments.

Consent Agenda:

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

Minutes:

April 13, 2021, Regular Board Meeting
April 16, 2021, Policy Committee Meeting
April 26, 2021, Special Organizational Board Meeting

Financial Reports:

Accounts Payable Approval: \$2,352,178.01, and Building Fund Payable: \$0.00
Cash Receipts: \$1,039,959.69
Treasurer's Report – Total Cash per Reconciliation: \$10,813,104.18
Budget to Actual Comparison by Fund Groups:
Fund 10 Ending Balance: \$11,408,764 [2019-2020: \$9,504,941]
Fund 21 Ending Balance: \$361,847 [2019-2020: \$7,499]
Fund 27 Ending Balance: -\$1,484,983 [2019-2020: -\$2,087,759]
Fund 38 Ending Balance: \$0 [2019-2020: \$0]
Fund 41 Ending Balance: \$70,247 [2019-2020: \$70,000]
Fund 49 Ending Balance: \$166,695 [2019-2020: \$185,465]
Fund 50 Ending Balance: -\$37,985 [2019-2020: -\$111,707]

Updated Staffing Changes for 2021-2022

Resignations:

Alissa Garcia – WLC Ed. Asst. – Spec. Ed.
Haley Nelson – WLC Food Service Class 3A
Joe Sbertoli – Director of Co-Curricular Activities/Athletics
Laura Colbert – WMS Principal

Hires – 2021-2022 School Year:

Mackenzie Loken – CEC Grades 5/6 Teacher
Brittany Schnobrich – WLC Title I Reading Teacher
Trevor Leopold – Director of Co-Curricular Activities/Athletics

Transfers/Changes:

Devon Feldt – CEC Grades 6/7 Teacher to CEC Grades 7/8 Teacher
Ty Natzke – CEC Grades 6/7 Teacher to CEC Grades 7/8 Teacher
Brianna Hass – CEC Grades 3/4/5 Teacher to CEC Grades 5/6 Teacher
Holly Olsen – CEC Grades 3/4/5 Teacher to CEC Grades 3/4 Teacher
Catherine Seifert – CEC Grades 3/4/5 Teacher to CEC Grades 3/4 Teacher
Kelly Doss – WHS Food Service Class 3B to WLC Food Service Class 3A
Amber Koski - .5 FTE 4K Teacher and CEC .5 FTE Special Education Teacher to .5 FTE 4K Teacher and WLC .5 FTE Special Education Teacher

Extra-Curriculars – 2020-2021 School Year:

WHS Volunteer Coaching Positions:

Ryan Makuski – Baseball
Payton Mix – Softball
Dean Sondrol – Softball
Michael Olinger – Softball
Janet Flater – Softball
William Lannyk - Softball
Gina Buchmiller – JV Softball
Jeremy Koehler – Girls Soccer

Approval of Graduating Seniors

Preliminary Approval of Summer School Staffing – 4K-Grade 8 and Grades 9-12

Preliminary Approval of Class III Field Trips

4K Contracts with Sunny Day Child Care & Preschool, Trinity's Tiny Treasures Preschool, and CAP Services, Inc.

Sheltering and Mass Care Facilities Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Farmington

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Communications:

Recognitions:

Mr. Saari recognized the important observances during the month of May which include last week's Teacher Appreciation Week and School Nutrition Employee Week, National School Nurse Day tomorrow, and it is Mental Health Awareness Month. Board President Johnson expressed his gratitude to all of the groups for what they have done and continue to do for our students.

Donation:

On behalf of the District, Mr. Saari thanked Fawn and Dan Johnson for their generous donation of musical instruments to the WHS Band. A motion was made by Patrick Phair and seconded by Steve Hackett to accept, with gratitude, the donation from Mr. and Mrs. Johnson as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

District Administrator's Report:

Mr. Saari provided updates relating to vaccinations, the Strategic Plan, the Grant Writer, and on Congressman Mike Gallagher's visit to Waupaca. He inquired of the Board if they would be attending the High School Graduation Ceremony, and advised that the Administration is tentatively planning an end of the year celebration.

Mr. Saari would like to schedule a Board Retreat sometime in June, and possibly a standing Board Retreat immediately prior to the monthly regular Board meetings.

Mr. Saari advised of the next steps relating to Middle School Principal Laura Colbert's resignation and that a transition plan is in place. We are going to miss Mrs. Colbert and wish her the very best.

Monitoring:

Teacher Appreciation Video and Follow-up:

A video put together by Mrs. Colbert in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week was shared. In addition, each of the District's Principals advised how their school showed their appreciation to their teaching staff throughout the week.

Director of Teaching and Learning Mark Flaten shared an example of the amazing work that has been done by our teachers over the last two years relating to curriculum standards and targets per grade, with the goal that by next year the mapping exercise will be completed for all grades and content areas.

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Flaten advised that summer school consists of: 1) continuous progress for grades 9-12 on only targets that need to be completed, which are on a pass/fail basis; and 2) enrichment type courses for 4K-Grade 12.

Board Reports:

Student Representative Report:

Ella Waite advised that everyone is excited for the end of the year, but the motivation to continue to get good grades is dissipating. The spring athletes are happy to be back playing, the Link Crew is starting again, and Student Council officers were elected last week.

Upcoming Meetings and Other Activities:

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

May 21, 2021 – Special Board Meeting – 9:30 a.m.

June 6, 2021 – High School Graduation Ceremony – 2:00 p.m.

June 8, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting – 5:15 p.m.

Recommendation to Approve and Adopt the Following Policies:

Committee Chairperson Patrick Phair advised that the Policy Committee recommended that the full Board approve and adopt the following policies as presented, and Mark Polebitski seconded the recommendation:

- W323 Special Observance Days (NEOLA 2221)
- W330 Curriculum Development (NEOLA 2210) (as amended)
- W333 Religion in the Curriculum (NEOLA 2270)
- W341.41 Human Growth and Development (NEOLA 2414)
- W342.1 Programs for Students with Disabilities (NEOLA 2460)
- W342.3 Programs for Gifted and Talented Students (NEOLA 2464)
- W342.4 Parent and Family Member Engagement in Title I Programs (NEOLA 2261.01)
- W342.5 Title I Services (NEOLA 2261)
- W342.7 Cooperating Agencies (NEOLA 9500.01)
- W342.8 Section 504 Plans and Services for Students with Disabilities (NEOLA 2460.01)
- W343.45 Start College Now Program (NEOLA 2271.01)
- W343.46 Early College Credit Program (NEOLA 2271)
- W345.61 Early Graduation (NEOLA 5464)
- W345.6/W345.62/W345.64 Graduation Requirements (NEOLA 5460)
- W345.7/W345.8 Promotion, Placement, and Retention (NEOLA 5410)

The recommendation carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Administration:

Annual Cell Phone Expectations Report:

Middle School Associate Principal John Meyer reviewed the Cell Phone Rule and data relating to violations at WMS during this school year. Amendments to the Rule needed to be made due to COVID restrictions within the school and the students not being able to use lockers, but the outcomes remained the same. A documentation log was also created. WMS staff was pleased with the success of the Cell Phone Rule in that it teaches digital citizenship and recommended no changes. Mr. Meyer added that there may be a spike in violations next year as they will have to re-teach the Cell Phone Rule because the use of lockers will be reinstated so the students will not be allowed to carry their backpacks with them.

High School Associate Principal Jen Erb reviewed the Cell Phone Guidelines and data relating to violations at WHS, indicating a substantial decrease during the 2020-2021 school year. She doesn't believe this was due to the pandemic, but rather consistency and clarity with the use of cell phones. Cell phones cannot be out during instructional time, but students can use them before and after school, between classes, and during lunch. The students moving up from the WMS are used to the policy, understand it and know the consequences. Many parents were more accepting and understanding of the policy this year as well. Some revisions were made to the outcomes, with the

use of in school suspension making a difference. Due to the positive results, Ms. Erb recommended continuation of the current guidelines.

Summer School Recommendation:

Mr. Saari presented the Administration's rationale for its recommendation to make the wearing of face masks indoors optional beginning with the start of summer school, June 14, 2021. He knows the medical advisors are against this change and appreciates the guidance they have provided. However, the Administration believes we can do this safely because the District's and County's COVID data continues trending in a healthy direction, the vaccination rates of staff and students are high, and the ionization system has been installed in all of our buildings. He advised many Wisconsin school districts are going to the wearing of masks inside optional for summer school. There is risk in everything we do, we are never going to get to zero risk, but the odds are small especially for children. So the Administration recommended that the wearing of face masks indoors be optional starting on June 14th, and they will continue to monitor the data and if things change, will go back to the wearing of masks. All other mitigation efforts will remain as is. Mr. Saari added that this change would also improve the mental health of our students and staff.

Much discussion then ensued among the Board members, Dr. Pucillo, and Dr. Happ. Unless the CDC/Dr. Fauci advises otherwise, the medical professionals will not reconsider the wearing of masks indoors unless we reach herd immunity or everyone becomes eligible to be vaccinated so that families can protect their children. However, Board member Dale Feldt commented that we may never reach herd immunity and some parents won't get their children vaccinated when eligible.

Board members Mark Polebitski and Betty Manion suggested that we err on the side of caution and finish as we started – working with and listening to the medical professionals and let science guide us as we have all along.

Board member Patrick Phair stated that summer school is voluntary for everyone (both students and staff) and at the time of sign-up they knew masks were required. In addition, if we make this change now, it may change their mind if they want to attend or teach.

When asked if he has received any feedback from students, Mr. Werbowsky commented that some students are frustrated that they have to wear face masks while at school because when out in the community many kids are not wearing masks.

Board President Stephen Johnson added that he respects all of the commentary, and that we are at some point in the future going to have to change our mitigation efforts. He suggested that we should consider establishing a threshold when it would be necessary to go back to the wearing of masks. The numbers now in our District and County are fantastic so maybe it is time to make some adjustments with some thresholds. The medical professionals commented that we need consistency so people continue to follow the guidelines.

A motion was made by Patrick Phair and seconded by Steve Hackett to continue the mandate of wearing face masks indoors through summer school 2021. The motion carried on a 4-2-1 roll call vote, with Steve Hackett, Betty Manion, Patrick Phair, and Mark Polebitski voting yes; Steve Klismet and Stephen Johnson voting no; and Dale Feldt abstaining.

Onboarding Process for New Board Members:

Mr. Saari reviewed the New Board Member Orientation Checklist which was created to aid in the onboarding of new School Board members. He added that the WASB New Board Member Handbook is a great resource. Mr. Saari suggested that a Board Retreat should be held annually after the Reorganizational Meeting to discuss the various items.

Board Member Patrick Phair inquired about a mentor being assigned to new Board member Steve Klismet. Board President Johnson advised that he is still considering who that may be, and advised that they have to be cautious that the mentor/new Board member don't persuade one another regarding items coming before the Board.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Betty Manion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

_____Date_____

Stephen Johnson, President
Board of Education

_____Date_____

Elizabeth Manion, Clerk
Board of Education