



Respectful, Responsible, Safe & Prepared

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES June 8, 2021 Regular Meeting

Pursuant to the regulations, the regular Board meeting was held on the above date in the Waupaca High School Performing Arts Center 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 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 thanked the members of the public for taking time to attend tonight's meeting. He added that there is a public comment period a little later on and he will outline guidelines at that time for those who wish to speak.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Johnson expressed their congratulations to all of the 2021 graduates. He added that it had been cleared two to three weeks earlier by our health advisors that the Board members and Administration would not have to wear masks during the presentation of the diplomas; that decision was not made at the time of the ceremony.

He then asked Board member Steve Klismet 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 Performing Arts Center: Stephen Johnson, Dale Feldt, Steve Klismet, Mark Polebitski, Patrick Phair, Betty Manion, and Steve Hackett. However, Board member Mark Polebitski left the meeting towards the end of the public comment period at approximately 5:51 p.m.

Also Present:

Present in the WHS Performing Arts Center: Ron Saari, Sandy Lucas, Mark Flaten, Laurie Schmidt, Michael Werbowski, Jen Erb, Laura Colbert, John Erspamer, Jody Pankratz, Joe Sbertoli, Eric Conner, Becky Liegl, Melissa Durrant, Joni Eisentraut, and many members of the public. Virtually present via Google Meet: Carl Hayek, Megan Sanders, Mandi Salter, Wendy Vanden Bush, Cathy Wilhite, Carol Beyer-Makuski, and TCH Daily News.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Betty Manion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Public Comment:

Board President Stephen Johnson advised the members of the public that those who wish to make public comment should provide their name and whether they are a resident of the School District of Waupaca. He added that they should speak clearly, advised that this is not a time for dialogue with the Board members but just for comment, and that the audience should not comment on the speakers.

Board member Patrick Phair said he was speaking very passionately at the May 21, 2021, Special Board meeting when he misspoke. He apologized to everyone for the comments he made and said it will never happen again.

Several members of the community advised that they were very upset with Board member Patrick Phair's behavior as well as the comments he made at the May 21, 2021, Special Board meeting and they believe he overstepped the boundaries. They added that there are consequences for bad behavior (ex. students are reprimanded when being vulgar). Many demanded that Mr. Phair's conduct should not go unpunished and some suggested that he should resign.

A couple of community members also felt Board member Mark Polebitski's comments at the May 21st meeting were inappropriate as well and that he and Board member Patrick Phair were bullying the others.

Many members of the public thanked the District's employees, Administration, and School Board for everything they've done this school year in keeping their children safe and healthy by following the health advisors' recommendations, including the wearing of masks. A couple of individuals felt that the Board's decision to overturn the mask mandate was made because of political pressure. Some added that while Board member Phair's comments were inappropriate, they appreciated his apology, and because of his many years of service to the District and community, feel his resignation would not be appropriate.

Some parents said they attended this meeting because of a rumor that the Board might reverse its decision to make wearing masks optional for summer school, and believe every parent should have a say and that it should be a parent's choice whether their children wear masks.

A parent asked that the Administration stop the bullying going on in the schools.

Students Gracieanna and Lillianna Liegl each spoke in support of the creation of a Junior Varsity Middle School Trap and Skeet Club.

Some parents stated that they feel the Board and Administration are not hearing parents and students and that their input is not valued, which needs to change.

Several parents asked why they cannot come to the prom's grand march, or heard that the grand march has to be outside and not in school, even though graduation and the 8th grade promotion ceremonies were held in the High School Fieldhouse. They asked if they could please come and see their children.

Review of Board Meeting Norms:

The Board reviewed their collective commitments.

Consent Agenda:

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

Minutes:

May 11, 2021, Regular Board Meeting

May 20, 2021, Special Board Meeting

May 21, 2021, Special Board Meeting

Financial Reports:

Accounts Payable Approval: \$2,273,535.07, and Building Fund Payable: \$0.00

Cash Receipts: \$818,068.49

Updated Staffing Changes for 2021-2022

Resignations:

Chris Rasmussen – WMS Family and Consumer Science Teacher

Tyler Norton – WLC .5 FTE Physical Education Teacher

Hires – Summer 2021:

Samuel Petkovsek – IT

Gracieanna Liegl – IT

Anna Pulvermacher – IT

Kyle Pulvermacher – IT

Final Approval of Summer School Staffing – 4K-Grade 8

Final Approval of Summer School Staffing – Grades 9-12

Extended Contract Requests

Open Enrollment Applications

Activity Proposal for a 6th-8th Grade Junior Varsity Trap and Skeet Club

Activity Proposal for a Tennis Club

2021-2022 WIAA Membership Renewal

2021-2022 WASB Membership Dues

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Saari then specifically pointed out to the two students who had spoken in support of the Middle School Trap and Skeet Club that it was approved in the Consent Agenda.

Communications:

Recognitions:

Mr. Saari shared with the community that Waupaca High School was recognized as a Level III Advanced Placement Pacesetter School by the Wisconsin Advanced Placement Advisory Council for impressive student AP access and excellence in AP exam scores in the State during the 2019-2020 school year. A big thank you goes to the counselors and AP teachers for all of their hard work.

District Administrator's Report:

Mr. Saari provided updates relating to vaccinations and the Grant Writer's successes. He advised that the Waupaca Learning Center and Middle School were recognized by the DPI as well as the Rtl Center for achieving Gold Level status in reading, math, and PBIS – a great accomplishment.

Mr. Saari advised that the High School graduation was this past Sunday, and although there was a short power outage (so it was unable to be recorded), it was a great ceremony. Also that the end of the year celebration and breakfast for staff takes place tomorrow morning which will also honor our retirees and educational anniversaries.

Mr. Saari reminded the Board to complete the WASB Board Self-Evaluation Survey so that it can be shared at an upcoming retreat.

Board member Steve Hackett asked if the parents will be able to see their children at either of the proms. Mr. Saari advised that there are two proms – a District prom from 7-9 p.m. at the High School with the grand march being held outside, and the second prom is at the Indian Crossing Casino. Board President Stephen Johnson reminded everyone that this item is not on the agenda so further discussion will have to be deferred to Administration.

2021-2022 Budget Update:

Director of Business Services Carl Hayek updated the Board on the District's 2021-2022 budget relating to the request that stipends be given to all teachers in August. At this time, the state of the State's budget presents three major problems for school districts: 1) the State is holding \$350 million in an escrow account for future usage, which may be misappropriated; 2) there will be no revenue cap increase; and 3) school districts are expected to use ESSER funds to balance their budgets, which of course cannot be used for salaries and fringe benefits. Therefore, he advised that it would be fiscally irresponsible to pay bonuses to teachers in August, as the State budget will never be ready by August and it will most likely be October before we will know more. The budget as he previously presented is a balanced budget.

Monitoring:

Special Population Updates:

Director of Student Services Laurie Schmidt provided a report outlining enrollment data and services offered for our students of special populations such as students with disabilities, students with 504 plans, English learners, and students identified as homeless. This data is collected by the DPI in cycles to focus on equity for all student populations and she highlighted five of those equity markers.

She pointed out the areas of eligibility for District special education services, and advised that a 504 Plan, which is an accommodation plan, is a federal level law. The District does not meet the state criteria for mandated English learners, but the students we do have identified as English learners speak Spanish and Chinese. Homeless student counts vary greatly, but the number of students identified as homeless consists of approximately 40-50 families. But, unfortunately, the percentage of homeless students and families in our community is greater than we think it is. She and Grant Writer Greg Grohman are working on a grant for another District vehicle to assist homeless students.

Co-Curricular Activity Planning/Self Audit:

Director of Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities Joe Sbertoli provided a summary of the many adjustments that were required for the 2020-2021 school year so our students could participate in activities, which also included virtual meetings and live streaming of events. The new Activities Code of Conduct was implemented and head coaching evaluations were completed. The Wall of Excellence & Military Service Recognition is in place and ready to begin with the 2021-2022 school year with nomination forms available online; however, the location has yet to be determined. Mr. Sbertoli also outlined goals set for the 2021-2022 school year including helping with transitioning the new Activities Director. Board President Stephen Johnson thanked Mr. Sbertoli for his service to the District.

Board Reports:

Student Representative Report:

None.

Upcoming Meetings and Other Activities:

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

June 9 – End of the Year Celebration – 7:15 a.m.

~~June 15, 2021 – Special Board Meeting – 5:15 p.m.~~ (there is a conflict so this needs to be rescheduled)

June 22, 2021 – Board Retreat – 5:15 p.m.

~~July 13, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting – 5:15 p.m.~~ (Mr. Saari requested that this be moved to July 20th but there is a conflict with that date so it will be rescheduled)

Sale of CESA 5 Property in Vesper, WI:

The CESA 5 Board of Control unanimously approved the sale of real estate in Vesper, WI, but it also needs the approval of three-fourths of the school boards in CESA 5 to do so as well. A motion was made by Steve Klismet and seconded by Dale Feldt to approve the Resolution per Wisconsin State

Statute 116.055 – Sale of CESA 5 Property in Vesper, WI, as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Administration:

Graduating Seniors Celebrations Report:

High School Principal Michael Werbowsky advised that the graduating class of 2021 met many unique challenges during this past year and provided a listing of the many accomplishments they achieved. However, the number of students earning college credits, dual credits, and CNA requirements decreased because of COVID protocols here at the District as well as at the other institutions. He highlighted that one student completed the GMAW Welder Basic Certificate – this is the first student ever to receive this certification. 126 graduates walked the stage but there will be a total of 142 ultimately receiving a diploma.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Steve Klismet to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

_____ Date _____
Stephen Johnson, President
Board of Education

_____ Date _____
Elizabeth Manion, Clerk
Board of Education