

January 13, 2020

The combined work session/board meeting of the Berwick Area School Board was held on Monday, January 13, 2020, in the Line Street Administrative Office. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by President, Mrs. Susy Wiegand.

**PRESENT:** Mrs. Susy Wiegand, Mr. Keith Hess, Ms. Carol Bodwalk, Mr. Joseph DeMelfi, Mrs. Maryann Kovalewski, Mr. Jon Morell, Mrs. Brenda Post, Mr. Ronald Robsock, Mrs. Sandra Slavick

**ABSENT:** None

Also **PRESENT:** Mr. Wayne Brookhart, Ms. Renee Gomez, Attorney Bull, Mr. Steven Christian, Mr. Robert Croop, Mr. Benton Culver, Mrs. Wendy Daily, Mrs. Pamela Hegland, Mrs. Janet Kovach, Mrs. Wendy Kupsky, Mrs. Jennifer McHale, Ms. Amy Melchiorre, Mr. Joseph “Bo” Orlando, Mr. Randy Peters, Mr. Patrick Sharkey, Ms. Jill Shipman, Mr. Greg Billig, Mr. Jason Warner, Mrs. Tanya Cleaver, Ms. Susan Swartz, tax payers

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Flag Salute**

**Reading of the Minutes:**

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Jon Morell, we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meetings on December 2, 2019 and December 16, 2019 as everyone had received copies prior to the meeting. Correction to December 16, 2019 minutes. Should say Carol Bodwalk. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - none and no abstentions.

**Business Manager’s Report**

**Financial Report; Treasurer’s Report:**

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Jon Morell, we approve the financial report and the treasurer’s report as presented. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

**Budgetary Transfers: Approval**

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Jon Morell, we approve the budgetary transfers as presented, pages 29-35. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

**Presentation of the Bills:**

On motion of Maryann Kovalewski, seconded by Ronald Robsock, we pay the bills as listed.

ROLL CALL VOTE: “Ayes” – Jon Morell, Carol Bodwalk, Sandra Slavick, Maryann Kovalewski, Joseph DeMelfi, Ronald

Robsock, Brenda Post, Keith Hess, Susy Wiegand  
 “Nays” – None  
 “Abstaining” – None

Motion carried.

**Business: Renee Gomez**

- I will defer to Mr. Brookhart in his Superintendent report.

**Superintendent’s Report: Wayne Brookhart**

- High School Drama Department will be performing the Addams Family Musical on March 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> in the High School Auditorium. Show times will be 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets may be ordered on the following website: [our.show/bahs-addams](http://our.show/bahs-addams). They will be online this year. We will try to do it this way this year. We want to thank First Keystone Bank for their continued support of the musical. It was very well received and very well attended last year. I encourage everyone to go out and see it. We will make sure we post that address for the tickets online.
- 2020-2021 school calendar will be presented for the first reading in February. At this point the proposed first day of school will be August 20<sup>th</sup>. We will have in-service before that. It needs to go through two readings. We will try to finish it up by March. If you have any thoughts on the calendar, let me know. Usually there is not a whole lot that moves around in it, however, we have had Fair week off for the last seven or eight years. That followed a report that we had done that showed that our attendance dropped significantly at the high school down to about 72%. When we were going to school, we kind of follow what Vo-Tech does, Bloom and Central. Now we have a whole week off. The administrators don’t but the district does. We can have decisions on that. The first day has been before Labor Day for quite some time now, at least as long as I have been here as do all the schools in Columbia and Montour County. We all send to the same Vo-Tech. It is in policy that we try to stay as consistent with the districts that send to Columbia Montour Vo-Tech and with the Tech School itself as best we can. We have some deviation in contract with service that it will not be identical, but we do try to work it out. We shared our first draft on Friday with all the Superintendents.  
 Ronald Robsock - I have a question with the calendar. I know some schools in the area during Thanksgiving they have the entire week off. Would you consider having off the entire week of Thanksgiving?  
 Wayne Brookhart - It will come to you for approval. The problem when you start taking more days, it feels good when you are taking them but you have to add them to the end.  
 Ronald Robsock - We have teacher in-service days, too.  
 Wayne Brookhart - We can certainly take a look at it. I am going to propose what I hear through the administration and if we feel the Board wants us to go in a certain direction, we will do it. You get the final vote.  
 Sandra Slavick - You do have to be careful about what days you take off at the beginning of the school year because you’re losing time in preparation for the State Assessments. Yes, we can add it on at the end but that is not going to help us with academics prior to the State Assessment.  
 Jon Morell and Sandra Slavick - Maybe the Wednesday as a travel day.

Wayne Brookhart - We do that as a half day now. We will bring you the first draft next month.

- Mr. Dave Bacher, Executive Director of the Columbia Montour Vo-Tech School is resigning to become an Assistant Principal at Shikellamy. Mr. Hess will talk a little bit about that in his report. I would urge the Board to engage in whatever discussions as possible about the soon-to-expire Articles of Agreement. They expire at the end of this fiscal year and to have these decisions as soon as possible because there is a district that has objected and the Articles of Agreement say that if a district objects then you need to look to redefine what is in that. Mr. Hess, is that how you have heard it?

Mr. Hess - It will be a discussion point when we get to the Vo-Tech part.

Wayne Brookhart - It's coming and whatever your thoughts are, you have two representatives, Mrs. Kovalewski and Mr. Hess, and you have an alternate, Mrs. Slavick. Make sure they are aware of what your thoughts are. That's a big thing to redefine those Articles. They have been in place for about 50 years. They have been modified several times. Initially, Millville was not a part of it. Now Benton is questioning their future at Vo-Tech so I think we have to make some decisions here.

- Governor Wolf will provide his mandated budgetary address on February 5, 2020. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's final approved budget is due on June 30<sup>th</sup>. More than likely we will not see it then. It usually come in July. One time it came 6-8 months later. The Governor's address is important because it gives you an idea of the things he wants to fund at higher levels. He probably won't get what he asks for, but if he does ask for a certain level you can usually be assured that he is going to have a strong push to get at least something in that area. There are different line items you have to look at. There is a special education line item and there is a basic education formula that is the bulk of it. That is where we get most of our money. He has been pretty consistent recommending increases and has gotten them usually not at the level he has looked for. The accountability block grant is always another important thing to watch. The name has changed. That brings several hundred dollars to the district.
- Booster audits are in your packet. They'll be posted on the district web site tomorrow.
- Renee Gomez - Our food service will require a Request For Proposal (RFP) to be completed for this year. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) mandates this every five years for those who contract food service with outside providers to put an RFP out. Presently, we are with the Nutrition Group. I am in the process in preparing the RFP. It has to go to PDE for approval prior to us posting it. There is a set timeframe that it needs to be out and to solicit the information. I expect something in February to be out for the new school year.

Jon Morell - Can we turn that around in that amount of time?

Renee Gomez - Yes. PDE issues you the timeline, the RFP itself, everything is standardized, all the forms. The vendors are used to it. We are ahead of the game. Others don't put it out until April.

Wayne Brookhart - We may not get a lot of vendors this time because we have someone in place. It's hard to say. Last time we got 5 or 6. Many of our employees are Nutrition employees.

Renee Gomez - When we started with Nutrition Group, we had 32 district employees. Now we have 10.

Wayne Brookhart - The rest went to Nutrition. They had a choice. All new ones go on to Nutrition Group.

Jon Morell - It's good it is outlined for you. That makes it easier.

- Student recognition from fall activities will be held in February at our regular Board meeting. We will bring in our athletes and from any other activities that we feel should be recognized in a public meeting. We usually do that at least twice a year. Usually All Conference or All State recognition.
- We are in the midst of contract discussions with the Berwick Area Education Association, as mandated by Act 88. Act 88 mandates by January 11<sup>th</sup>, you have to have had your first session. We have done that. We have complied. If we don't have an agreement by February 25<sup>th</sup> we will be under State mandate mediation at that point. Hopefully we will have an agreement by then. Then, there is non-binding arbitration. There are many things under Act 88. Right now, we are just at the start of official negotiations.
- Mr. Croop will be providing a presentation on current achievement levels and a summary of academic programming in February. We have some new Board members now and a few that have been on before and have come back. Our high school students now have 18 Advanced Placement course offerings. We have Dual Enrollment opportunities at Bloomsburg University, Luzerne County Community College and Lackawanna College. We are still in STEM Magnet at Bloomsburg University along with our core curriculum, honors level courses and electives.
- The Board has expressed interest in returning to a work session and a regular session of the Board each month. In order to do this, a few minor policy revisions will be necessary and a revision to the approved Board meeting dates will need to be made.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None.

**General:**

**G-1 January is School Director Recognition Month. In Pennsylvania the cornerstone of local school governance is the 4,500 school directors who serve the commonwealth's 500 public schools. These unpaid local volunteers work many hours each week on school business so that students in Pennsylvania receive a quality education.**

**We thank the Berwick Area School Board Members for their time and dedication to our school district.**

(A certificate was given to each board member)

**Approve Items G-2 through G-9 With One Motion**

**G-2 Approval to accept a \$1,000 grant from the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation for the Newspapers in Education program for the 2019-2020 school year.**

- G-3 Approval of the resolution indicating that the Berwick Area School District will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of its public schools for the 2019-2020 fiscal year by more than the index established by the Department of Education for the district of 3.6%. (enc.)**
- G-4 Approval to accept a \$130 donation from the American Ukrainian Citizens Club for the Berwick High School Rifle Team.**
- G-5 Approval to accept a \$150 donation from the B.P.O.E No. 1138 for the Berwick High School Rifle Team.**
- G-6 Approval of the job description for Wellness Coordinator. (enc.)**
- G-7 Approval to accept a \$250 donation from the Garibaldi Society for the Boys Volleyball Team.**
- G-8 Approval to accept a \$500 donation from the Garibaldi Society for the Berwick Swim Team.**
- ~G-9 Approval to accept a \$200 donation from the First Keystone Bank for the Modernaires.**

On motion of Maryann Kovalewski, seconded by Keith Hess, we approve G-2 through G-9 With One Motion. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

#### **Extra Curricular:**

- EC-1 Approval to establish the Constitution/Bylaws and Business Plan for a Berwick Football Booster Club. (enc.)**

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Maryann Kovalewski, we table the motion.

Keith Hess - I think we should work and revise our policy before we except any groups.

Joseph DeMelfi - I looked this over and it looks fairly complete. Are you talking about revising our booster club policy?

Keith Hess - Policy # 915 Booster Club Policy. Our policy.

Wayne Brookhart - Is there a part that is inconsistent with this? Is that what you are saying?

Keith Hess - There are certain things. I don't feel that we should be requiring our parents to be paying a membership fee for any club, is one thing. They do donate their time and their services.

Sandra Slavick - Are there any other booster clubs that require a payment?

Keith Hess - There might be one or two that require.

Joseph Bo Orlando - Band, basketball and PINE. It's a small fee.

Wayne Brookhart - Back to the question, is this or is it not consistent with policy?

Keith Hess - It is consistent with the policy, but I think a couple of us members want to look at the policy. I personally recommend doing a policy committee.

Wayne Brookhart - We haven't discussed this yet. How do our members know that?

Keith Hess - I talked to a few members individually.

Susy Wiegand - Do we have to review our booster club policy internally before we take any action?

Keith Hess - I would like to review our policy before we take any action on this, or frankly, on any others.

Jon Morell - If, as a Board, we want to change our policy, anything we change in our policy may make what is proposed here inconsistent with the new policy.

Keith Hess - That gives them time to fix anything.

Jon Morell - If we decide to approve our policy as it is, then the next meeting this can be approved.

Keith Hess and Maryann Kovalewski - Exactly.

Susy Wiegand - So, we are we tabling this?

Joseph DeMelfi – Bo, is there any rush? There are some off season things in this booster club.

Joseph Bo Orlando - We are having the banquet February 9<sup>th</sup> and they wanted to announce to all the parents that want to get involved. There really wasn't anything last year.

Joseph DeMelfi - So, if we wait until February, it's not a major problem?

Joseph Bo Orlando - No, but they would like to get it done.

Keith Hess - Form a policy committee and schedule a meeting between now and the February meeting.

Sandra Slavick - When is our next meeting?

Wayne Brookhart and Susy Wiegand - I think February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Sandra Slavick - Their football banquet is the 9<sup>th</sup>? That's after the fact.

Maryann Kovalewski - Perhaps you can tell them that we are discussing this and that we can provide additional information to them. We just don't want to discourage parental participation.

Jon Morell – So, here is a suggestion, if we are not going to approve the constitution and the bylaws, can we say that we are authorizing them that there will be a Berwick Football Champions Club? We will table the constitution and the bylaws until after we look at our policy. At least we can tell Bo and they can tell the parents that there is going to be a club. The bylaws may have to be changed once we look at our policy.

Keith Hess, Sandra Slavick, Maryann Kovalewski - I think that is fair.

Jon Morell - So, we are going to have a club. The bylaws that you presented may have to be changed based on any changes we make to our policy. At least you can announce it at the banquet that there will be a club.

Keith Hess and Maryann Kovalewski **withdraw their motion and second.**

**On motion of Maryann Kovalewski, seconded by Keith Hess, we make a motion to propose the formation of a parent club for football boosters. All members voting "Aye". "Nay" - None and no abstentions.**

## **Transportation:**

### **Approve Items T-1 through T-3 With One Motion**

**T-1 Approval of the following as school bus drivers for Fishing Creek Transportation for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school term.**

**Doralee Mead  
Gregory Lutz**

**Robert Avery  
~Shawn Betz**

**Thomas Snyder**

**T-2 Approval of Alyce Marks as van driver for Fishing Creek Transportation for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school term.**

**~T-3 Approval of George Ruvarac as van driver for Bower Bus Company for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school term.**

On motion of Jon Morell, seconded by Keith Hess and Maryann Kovalewski, we approve T-1 through T-3 With One Motion. All members voting "Aye". "Nay" - None and no abstentions.

**Personnel:**

**Approve Items P-1 through P-7 With One Motion**

**P-1 Approval to hire Lanny Conner as assistant Track Coach, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork. Compensation will be at a stipend of \$2,000.**

**P-2 Approval to accept the resignation of Samantha Norton as Musical Acting Coach, effective immediately. (enc.)**

**P-3 Approval to accept the resignation of Ann DeMelfi as a day to day substitute teacher. (enc.)**

**P-4 Approval to change the status of Hayley Brown from part-time paraeducator to substitute paraeducator. Compensation will be at the rate of \$8.72 per hour. (enc.)**

**P-5 Approval of the following as day to day substitute teachers, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork. Compensation will be at the rate of \$15.71 per hour.**

**Krysta Moyer**

**Alexus DegBrina**

**P-6 Approval to accept with regret the retirement of Laurie Drake as full-time paraeducator, effective May 1, 2020. (enc.)**

**P-7 Approval for employee #2522 to take unpaid Family Medical Leave (FMLA) from March 17, 2020 through May 31, 2020. (enc.)**

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Maryann Kovalewski, we approve P-1 through P-7 With One Motion. All members voting "Aye" except Joseph DeMelfi abstaining on P-3. "Nay" - None and Joseph DeMelfi abstaining on P-3.

**Reports:****Committee Reports:****Academic Affairs** – Sandra Slavick

- We have started to have some meetings to discuss some things and I hoped to meet with Mr. Croop this week again but we had a snow cancellation.

**Athletic Committee** – Ronald Robsock

- I would like to wish Frank Sheptock the best of luck at Bloomsburg University. Mr. Sheptock was our football coach for three years and also the Athletic Director. I'm sure he will do a good job at Bloomsbury University.
- We did have a meeting in December after the Board meeting and we discussed the Heartland Conference. Copies of revenue were passed out to the Board members. Attendance for home football games are way down. Discussed ways to try to get attendance back up. Discussion followed about girls' and boys' sports in each conference. Berwick will play again Southern Columbia on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Orlando, could you talk to the Lehigh Valley Schools to see if they want to play us in boys' volleyball?

Bo Orlando - The only problem is that there is only one AA team there. Most of them are 6A. I've reached out and have not heard back.

Ronald Robsock - Have you talked to Delaware Valley and North Pocono?

Bo Orlando - We played them during District 2. My fear was that if you leave District 2 that there is a policy they just passed that in the Wyoming Valley Conference that once you are out you are out. Then, we couldn't get any games there. I don't know if that ties with the Lackawanna League. We can reach out. We know that we can't come in because of the new two year cycle. They couldn't change in the middle of a two year cycle. We have a little bit of time.

Ronald Robsock - So, we would have to wait two years then to get a volleyball schedule?

Bo Orlando - No, if we decided to go to the Heartland Conference.

Wayne Brookhart - To change leagues unless someone leaves the Heartland then we could possibly take their place. They are just starting.

Joseph DeMelfi - Didn't we say Mr. Robsock in our meeting that the cycle begins in 2022?

Wayne Brookhart and Bo Orlando - Yes.

Joseph DeMelfi - So, we have two years before we can do what we need to do to move. We should now try to head off the boys volleyball situation which you are doing. You are trying to contact District 11.

Ronald Robsock - Our junior high teams have to drive all the way up to Wilkes Barre, Pittston and Dallas when they can play teams down here?

Joseph DeMelfi - Because of the conference affiliation, but if we move conferences that will take care of that.

Susy Wiegand - I think we have some time. Mr. Orlando is trying to get us all the information. We will figure this with time.

**Budget Committee** – Keith Hess

- We met tonight and discussed about the index which was on the tonight's agenda.

- We are doing preliminary budget talks.
- Discussed where our substitute staffing was at this point.
- Capital projects.
- The next meeting will be determined on if we do a Committee of the Whole or not.

#### **Buildings and Grounds Committee – Jon Morell**

- No meeting.
- Benton Culver - Right now with the Gateway project, we are waiting on the operation and maintenance manuals, once we receive them we will start the project close out documentation.
- We are going to keep T Ross's retainage's for the time being because there is site work to be done in the Spring (another seeding). It's not a lot.
- The middle school roof project is done. We were done with that before Christmas.
- I met with Trane to discuss the HVAC replacement. In the high school, we are looking to immobilize in the last week in May for a scheduled start the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June. Hoping to start right away once school is out. We already defined our layout areas where we want to be.
- Throughout the buildings we have been doing some projects, trying to clean things up in the buildings, bathrooms, painting, and ceiling tiles.
- A couple athletic things we have done.
- We got the middle school indoor batting cage up and running again. We installed some batting cages out at the Baseball Field that are permanent so we won't be replacing metal cages year after year due to weather. We did one at the Softball Field that is a batting/pitching area for warm ups.
- The Varsity gym we have to do a minor repair over there. A piece of board that broke. We need to replace that.

Ronald Robsock - When does our field turf at Crispin Field have to be replaced?

Benton Culver - Right now the turf is in good shape. We have been G maxing it and it is testing fine. Right now we are not looking at this football season but best case would be next football season if we can get it in the budget. It is playing fine.

Joseph DeMelfi - How long has that been? 10 years?

Benton Culver - It is going on 12 years.

#### **CSIU – Susy Wiegand**

- I will be attending my first meeting January 22<sup>nd</sup>. I will let you know how I did. It was very interesting on how the process goes. They interview you.

#### **Vo-Tech – Keith Hess**

We had our meeting. We found out Friday that Mr. Bacher has resigned. We will be discussing his replacement at the next meeting which will be on January 21<sup>st</sup>. We had a reorganization meeting, so that is done. Benton wants to know where we stand in regards to their proposed changes of the Articles of Agreement which expires the end of June. I did send out a copy of their proposed changes to the Board members. There is one change that I agree with, and that is based upon new State law. They changed Vocational Technical School to Career Technical Center. That's fine. Other than that, my personal opinion is leave it as is.

Ronald Robsock - Does Benton want to have half day academics at Vo-Tech?

Keith Hess - Yes. That is one of the things they proposed. However I did research since that time, if the seven districts go to the half about model, the law Section 1113 of the School Code will come into effect. What that means, the teachers that get furloughed at Vo-Tech will be subject, if there is an opening in their level of certification, they are the first people we hire. This will only apply to professional employees which are teachers. Ideally what the law says if the classes are kept intact they would like to keep the teacher to remain with the class. In this situation it is very unlikely. If that is not, then it is based on the seniority in the area of the certification. However, those teachers have the right to transfer indefinitely but there has to be an opening in their certification; however, they must have it stated in writing that they do remain interested if a position would come open. If they do get transferred they must be credited for their sick time accumulated from the sending entity along with the years of service. The years of service will determine where they fall in the pay scale. The districts that are proposing the half time about will probably absorb the least amount if any of anyone that gets furloughed.

Maryann Kovalewski - There are multiple problems with the half day model. There are benefits but there are many problems. The biggest one is loss of instructional time and transportation costs and logistics will be a nightmare for all of the districts. They are going to lose academic time. It may have benefits, I think in the case in our local districts, I think it would do more harm than good to switch to a half day model.

Keith Hess - I have been out and about in the community and I have not heard one person say that we should go that way.

Maryann Kovalewski - Same here.

Wayne Brookhart - From hearing what I hear, I don't know anyone that likes the half day. I don't like the half day.

Joseph DeMelfi - We went in support of the Vo-Tech expansion based on the current model. Is that correct?

Keith Hess - Yes. The only thing we did not address was the Articles of Agreement. That's what they need the answer on. We already agreed to still support them regardless. The Benton answer has to be decided. That's going to be determined by what Southern is going to do. We have to replace the director. I hate to say that but we are in a holding pattern.

Joseph DeMelfi - Even if those two schools back out, I still think going to a half day model will still cause major problems.

Keith Hess and Maryann Kovalewski - Absolutely, it would.

Jon Morell - What is Benton trying to get out of a half day?

Sandra Slavick - Benton is losing kids.

Keith Hess - Graduating class is like 36 kids this past year.

Wayne Brookhart - Their kindergarten and first grade are small that they are concerned that if it is expanded at the Vo-Tech that they will draw so many kids to Vo-Tech that they won't be able to offer courses other than just general courses because they won't have enough students to do honors.

Keith Hess - It's not the money, it's the enrollment.

Wayne Brookhart - Is the JOC willing to have one district on one model and the rest on another one?

Keith Hess - No one has really discussed it yet. Realistically it could be negotiating point; however, based upon what few students they do send to Vo-Tech, they are probably going to be charged the same tuition because I don't think Vo-Tech will reduce costs enough to justify it. More discussion followed.

Keith Hess - What is our agreement on these Articles of Agreement? Do you want to leave them as is and make that one minor wording change?

Board verbalized yes.

Keith Hess - I will relay to them next week to make the wording change to Career Technical Center per the new law. To keep it updated, I'm fine with that. Other than that, we will leave it as it.

### **Old Business:**

Maryann Kovalewski - Moment of silent for Mr. Norce who passed away.

### **Public Comment:**

Greg Billig - Thanked Mrs. Kupsky, Special Education Director. Educated the Board on cortical visual impairment (CVI).

Jason Warner - Football. Volleyball.

Tanya Cleaver - Policy change. Does it take two readings to change?

Susy Wiegand - No, change is one.

Wayne Brookhart - New policy is two, change is one.

### **New Business:**

Susy Wiegand - We are trying to change back to two meetings a month. First Monday, making it as a Meeting of the Whole.

Mr. Brookhart - Example was passed out to the Board members. It came to me that you were looking at having a work session and a regular meeting like we did about 8 or 9 years ago. Then we talked about incorporating committee meetings into that, so you are not having so many evenings out. Also, that everybody heard everything that was said at every committee meeting. The way to do that is doing that as a Committee of the Whole if you are interested. I am not proposing this. I'm leaving. I'm retiring. This is a decision for you to make. To get an item to go on the agenda the three committee members would vote for it to go to the agenda. Once you've exhausted your discussion its open up to the floor. Then anybody can talk. At the end you make a decision one two three yes, yes, yes, it goes to the Board the next week. Do you have final say? No. Any five members always have more authority than three. If the following week, if five members feel differently that you that didn't make the agenda, they can bring it back up and approve it. That is all supported by School Code language. Discussion items would be a little bit more substantial. It means you are not going to put it on the agenda next week but you want to discuss it. The benefit of the Committee of the Whole is as the committee members discuss it all nine people hear what you say. You are not coming back to a later meeting to explain it and someone say I didn't know that; I didn't hear that. I wasn't here. Each action item for approval will be presented to the Board by the Administrator representing the committee. The administrative representative to your committee would be Renee for Budget, for academic affairs

would be Mr. Croop, for Buildings and Grounds it would be Benton Culver, and for athletics it would be Bo Orlando and Amy Melchiorre because according to PIAA regulations, the high school principal is in charge of athletics in PA so we include both of you. In case of an absence or a tie, the Board President is the tie breaker. Under general, it would come from the Superintendent or the Board President.

Joseph DeMelfi - To be placed on the agenda, the committee will vote to do that?

Wayne Brookhart - Two to one gets it there. It will necessitate some policy changes. Advantages are, everyone hears what all the decisions are taking place. Very possible, especially with the budget with the extra meeting, that really should be requested from Mr. Wiegand and she says go ahead. Everybody can come any time but if you are not part of the committee you sit out in the chairs in the audience. You may or not do it, it is up to you.

Sandra Slavick and Keith Hess - I would like to give it a try.

Susy Wiegand - I think maybe March. It gives us a month to prepare. We have to modify the meetings.

Wayne Brookhart - I can bring the policy changes. It will be minor. Your committee chair will need to have consistent communication with the administrator. I think that is good and healthy. It will improve communications throughout the district. The final agenda is set by the Superintendent, when Mrs. Kupsy takes over, and the Board President. That is supported by School Code as well.

Susy Wiegand - I think it will make it more transparent to all of us. We are busy. I think it will cut the amount of meetings a month that we have with different committees. I think it is worth a try. In February, bring some policies and maybe start the first one in March and see how it goes.

Summarization of Executive Session:

Susy Wiegand – Personnel discussion and negotiations.

On a motion of Maryann Kovalewski, seconded by Jon Morell we adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye.” “Nay”- none and no abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Janet K. Kovach, Secretary to the Board