

May 11, 2020

The school board meeting of the Berwick Area School Board was held on Monday, May 11, 2020, via virtual zoom meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:18 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. Robert Croop, Mr. Benton Culver, Mrs. Janet Kovach, Mrs. Wendy Kupsky, Ms. Amy Melchiorre, Mr. Greg Michael, Ms. Susan Swartz, Mr. Bill Phillips, tax payers

Moment of Silence - Reflection for victims of covid.

Flag Salute

Presentation: Amy Melchiorre

April 17th - lights at Crispin field in honor of our class of 2020 as well as our first responders and medical professionals.

We have signs from Villager Realty as we have had the last few years. Those signs will be displayed at the high school. The students in the past have picked them up after being on display for 3-5 days, They are set to go on display for June 1st but I am going to contact them to see if maybe we could get them a little earlier, and have them out for the last week in May because one of our newest plans we have scheduled is going to be a senior send-off. This idea came from a few teachers and students really love this idea. We want to plan the senior send-off for May 29th. It will be an opportunity for the seniors to get their caps, gowns and senior tee shirts. We want them to drive thru a parade of teachers and staff district wide. Our idea is to have teachers line the street and parking lots and have the kids drive thru and have them pick up their items and leave.

Jon Morell - What about the kids that don't have cars?

Amy Melchiorre – If they reach out to us, we have school vans. We can pick up and drive thru ourselves. I will reach out to the senior class. If transportation is an issue, we can make arrangements.

Senior signs with their pictures are being done by Campbell's Printing/Matt Getty. The signs will be displayed on Market Street the week of June 1st. There is going to be a special edition in the Press Enterprise similar to the football preview where all of our graduates will be featured and our distinguished honor grads will be highlighted and the speeches of the valedictorian and salutatorian could possibly be posted. We have a schedule with WHLM. They are going to do a senior sendoff sort of thing. I am going to be recorded saying each graduate's name. They are going to play the senior's names all week long in little segments. On June 12th they are going to do our whole graduation. I think they said possibly at 1 pm. Steve and I are going to be working

on our own virtual graduation. Meeting tomorrow to put a plan in place for that. The intent is to air that on June 12th. Talking to the seniors and their class advisors, they would still like to have the ceremony if at all possible at Crispin Field, even if it is just the graduates spaced out across the field with the stage so they can get their diploma. We will do whatever we are allowed to do. We have not cancelled anything yet. We haven't been able to establish a date. It will be a quick turnaround as soon as we are given the go ahead. We will probably plan it all within a week. They will already have their caps and gowns. They love the idea of the sendoff and they want to get together for the last time even if it is just the graduates.

Scholarships we will do like we do every year except we won't have the ceremony. We will deliver the scholarships and awards to each senior individually to their house.

Prom – Think Big is a fund raising network and they are hosting a virtual prom as a fundraiser. The local Teen Center in Berwick has signed on for this and they will be handling the logistics of it but it will be available to all Berwick students if they want to participate in it. There is a lot to it. They want to have staff there. It should be a pretty fun event. We haven't cancelled the prom. We are just waiting to see if it's something that we can pull it off at a later date. The intent is to have it on school grounds possibly in a fenced are behind the middle school, next to the varsity gym or possibly on the football practice field with tents. We are going to keep it outside and keep it simple. If we can follow through with the prom will do so too. Everything we are doing will be posted on our website when it is final. I will do an all call and inform everybody of what is going on.

Wayne Brookhart – We got word that Berwick Area High School for the third consecutive year is listed as one of US News and World Report Best High Schools. In 2017, we got the National Blue Ribbon School and the US News and World Report recognition. 2018 and now 2019 we will have it again. Congratulations to all the staff members. When the high school gets an award, it recognizes the elementary schools, middle school and high school, all the teachers, administration and support staff. Congratulations in particular to Ms. Melchiorre and your staff.

Question from public: If graduation takes place, it sounds like parents cannot come. So, if that is the case, can Atlantic Broadband be contacted to have it televised or recorded or cd's made?

Ms. Melchiorre – That has been our intent, not sure if it will be live streamed thru our district or thru a network. Our intent is to record the ceremony.

Reading of the Minutes:

On motion of Jon Morell, seconded by Keith Hess, we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting on April 13, 2020 as everyone had received copies prior to the meeting. 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 Carol Bodwalk, 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 Brenda Post and Jon Morell, we approve the budgetary transfers as presented. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

Presentation of the Bills:

On motion of Ronald Robsock, seconded by Keith Hess, we pay the bills as listed.

ROLL CALL VOTE: “Ayes” – Keith Hess, Jon Morell, Carol Bodwalk, Sandra Slavick, Maryann Kovalewski, Joseph DeMelfi, Ronald Robsock, Brenda Post, Susy Wiegand
 “Nays” – None
 “Abstaining” – None

Motion carried.

Business: Renee Gomez – I will defer until the Superintendent’s report.

Superintendent’s Report: Wayne Brookhart

Letter to Secretary of Education Rivera from Speaker of the House Turzai.

- There was a letter that was written to Secretary of Education Rivera from Speaker of the House Turzai to be prepared that we would be able to go back to school in the fall with hastier planning and sense of urgency. It was very strongly worded. It is a situation to follow between the House, the Senate and the Education Department. For where we are going in the fall as far as public education.

School District affiliation as Columbia County District

- Our school district affiliation under any chart, grant and anything that comes out of the Department of Education is that we are a Columbia County School District. We are with IU 16.

Agriculture course

- We put out an ad for a teacher. Wendy Kupsky – We advertised for that even through it is not a course that is not necessarily for this year. It is something that we are looking at moving towards to an Ag CTC program in the future. We wanted to specify any science degree with currently with that certification.

Budget in Harrisburg is due on June 30th.

- The report we saw today is they want it done earlier but they want to do it in two parts. Five or six month budget depending on when it is passed, which would run us through the middle of next fiscal year approximately thru or December. We have no idea what the second half will look like. We are very uncertain as we said last month. We have a little more certainty locally.

Renee Gomez – Local revenue from our initial projections in March, we are seeing a decrease of approximately \$1.5 million which is an 8% decrease.

Wayne Brookhart - We know that some of that will be balanced out by some of the expenditures that we don’t have and a grant that we still haven’t received from the Salem Gatehouse project that was listed now as an expenditure but not a revenue projection. So, that number for the current year, the 19-20 will tighten up but then next year you are looking

at a \$1.5-\$1.6. That is something that we'll have to start working on shortly.

Update on technology (Chrome Books and Connectivity)

- Wendy Kupsky – 96 students at the Middle School did not pick up their devices.
Gregory Michael – We distributed 90% of the devices to all of our students. There are less than 100 to go. At this stage, we are calling home and reaching out to those families.
Wendy Kupsky – We sent out a schedule for the student to connect with their teachers starting last week. It was the first week. Some of the things that I have been hearing from the parents about getting students on schedule was that this is definitely helping. The order has been placed for the rest of the devices going from K-4.

Expansion of Cyber to K-12 option.

- Wendy Kupsky – Moving ahead we want to make sure that our community knows that we are going to provide as many options for the educational environment for all of our district students. As you know, we are making sure that we have connectivity for all of our students by providing all of our students with Chrome Books and connectivity to the internet. Depending on what happens with the coming school year in the fall, hopefully we get to go back to school, but just in case we are not, we are making sure that all students have devices and connectivity. If a parent chooses that is not the direction that they feel comfortable with, we want to make sure that those parents know that we also are providing a K-12 cyber program.
Wendy Daily – Currently, I do run a cyber-program from grades 6-12. This will be our 7th year. In light of the situation, and we have been talking about it for some time now, we will be expanding that to service K-5. That will be an entirely different curriculum. It is a very good curriculum. It is the curriculum that even PDE has sponsored that students are able to utilize right now through our IU. I have worked with it previously. I am going to try to recoup the students who have left our district to attend another cyber. We were never able to do this before because they didn't service that population. I think it is a very good program for our elementary students.

Closure of Holy Family

- I sent a letter to all of the parents expressing our disappointment. It was a great building. We also worked well together but also expressing our hope that we can ease the transition as best as possible. Mr. Morisco from Holy Family has expressed interest in reaching out and allowing students to see the buildings when the restrictions are relaxed. We will certainly allow the students to see the buildings and make them as comfortable as possible when we are hopefully allowed to reopen.

School re-opening parameters

- We don't know anything concrete or definitive. It is early. We are either going to do what we have done and be tradition, which we are not being encouraged at this point, or we are going to be K-12 cyber where everyone is at home. I don't think anyone of us sees that is a great option or a good option, or there will be something in the middle with some social distancing and the types of things that we are asked to do now. Two of those options come with tremendous decisions that need to be made and looked at. We were asked by the Department of Education to get that mind set out to everyone including parents and staff that things will look different.

Wendy Kupsky – With the closing of Holy Family and with the social distancing and us still being in the red, we are providing, as of June, online registration at Berwick. It is an option that is going to be available.

Wayne Brookhart – The parents have my number, they have Mrs. Kupsky's number if they have questions. They can contact principals or if it is an enrollment question, they can call right to Mrs. Conrad in Child Accounting as well.

School calendar

- That may be more fluid than in the past. There could be some changes with the Bloomsburg Fair if it is still on. We hope it still is. The Speaker of the House sent a letter to the Secretary of Education specifically referenced after Labor Day as we should be looking to come back. Keep in mind that the school calendar at this point has been approved. It is something that you may have discussion on as we get more information from the Department of Education and the Governor.

Lunch Distribution – Renee Gomez

- To date we have distributed 51,468 meals from March 17th to present. March we distributed 10,757 meals, in April 28,066, and May so far 12,645. When school was in session we provided meals Monday through Friday. Since the announcement of closure on March 13th we provide meals for Saturday and Sunday. Although distribution is presently only 2 days a week, the meals are bundled. This is not a reduction of meals being distributed, just a reduction of days for distribution.

Single Audit Report – Renee Gomez

- The Single Audit Report has been filed with the Federal Audit Clearing House. Normally, we are to have submitted this by March 31, 2020. Due to the pandemic, an extension was granted by the President for a six month extension. As a reminder, the MD&A is written by the District which is located on pages 3-10. Additionally, the findings are on page 74 from the Auditor and the District's response is on page 78. There was one finding however it was corrected, which was previously communicated. The auditors must include the issue the discovery with the system regarding the liability balance but again it was corrected the day in which we found it, but still needs to be reported as our financial position changed. I previously reported this when we finalized our AFR.

Salem Track- We have had the Salem Track unlocked.

- The initial word from the Secretary of Health and Harrisburg was for walking and running. Since the weather has gotten warmer, we have had some instances with young people. We recognize the temptation. We are going to get some signs made saying no group activities, practice social distancing, and no organized sports of any kind. We made a commitment to the community to keep it open when it was first built because it was heavily funded by the Community Foundation, donors and some private sponsorship. So that is the case, if it is the will of the Board we will close it. The other piece to this was, we have another tract that is not enclosed. This one is better for our senior citizens to go out and exercise, walk, run. We are trying to follow with what Harrisburg says. I am open to however you want me to proceed.

Benton Culver – Right now, signs are being made by DeFebo Graphics.

Keith Hess – The Ag course that we are looking at starting, is that in addition to what we send kids to Central for? Are we bringing the kids back from Central?

Wendy Kupsky – It is to bring them back and provide our own program.

Keith Hess – Do we have anything from the Secretary of Education to what the possible returning in the fall might look like say if you are in the yellow county, green county, do we have any guidance because I didn't receive anything.

Wayne Brookhart - Not so much in the level of the colors that the Governor put out but he did put something out with based on what you may need to anticipate with social distancing even within the classroom, keeping your students 6 feet apart which creates a huge thing that would impact our classes sizes, the amount of days you can actually be here, wearing masks, lunch in the cafeteria and your transportation will be impacted. To answer your question, I didn't see anything in the three colors yet.

Keith Hess – They need to come up with a plan soon if we need to spend money doing it.

Wayne Brookhart – I hope they tell us soon.

General:

G-1 Approval to award the bid for Food Service for the 2020-2021 school term to The Nutrition Group, Irwin, PA with a guarantee to the district of \$150,265.08. (attachment – Section 10 Cost – Financial Proposal) (ROLL CALL)

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Brenda Post, we award the bid for Food Service for the 2020-2021 school term to The Nutrition Group, Irwin, PA with a guarantee to the district of \$150,265.08.

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.

Nutrition Group was a team player in this crisis.

Approve Items G-2 through G-3 With One Motion

G-2 Approval to nominate Susy Wiegand for CSIU Board of Directors Representative for the term of July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2023.

On motion of Ronald Robsock, seconded by Maryann Kovalewski, we nominate Susy Wiegand for CSIU Board of Directors Representative for the term of July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2023. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye” except Susy Wiegand. “Nay” - None and Susy Wiegand abstaining.

G-3 Appointment of Susy Wiegand as voting delegate for the PSBA Delegate Assembly for the November 7, 2020 meeting.

On motion of Maryann Kovalewski, seconded by Brenda Post, we appoint Susy Wiegand as voting delegate for the PSBA Delegate Assembly for the November 7, 2020 meeting. Motion

carried. All members voting “Aye” except Susy Wiegand. “Nay” - None and Susy Wiegand abstaining.

Academic Affairs:

AA-1 Approval of the revision of graduation requirements effective with the 2020-2021 school year. Under this revision, required credits would remain the same with Social Studies requirements being reduced to 3. (ROLL CALL)

On motion of Brenda Post, seconded by Keith Hess, we approve the revision of graduation requirements effective with the 2020-2021 school year. Under this revision, required credits would remain the same with Social Studies requirements being reduced to 3.

Joseph DeMelfi – How did that come up with social studies being 3 credits?

Wayne Brookhart – Three credits are more consistent with districts throughout the State and in our IU. Very few districts, that I have found, have four in the core meaning math, science, English and social studies. It creates a little more flexibility for kids as they schedule. We are still keeping the overall requirement the same, so they won’t need less credits. They just won’t have that fourth requirement in social studies credit.

Question from William Phillips – With the reduction in credits, will that affect the staff at all in reduction in staff?

Wayne Brookhart – They still need the same amount of credits. Don’t know what the plans are at this point but overall the staffing needs are the same with the amount of credits being the same.

ROLL CALL VOTE: “Ayes” – Carol Bodwalk, Sandra Slavick, Maryann Kovalewski, Joseph DeMelfi, Ronald Robsock, Brenda Post, Keith Hess, Jon Morell, Susy Wiegand

“Nays” – None

“Abstaining” – None

Motion carried.

AA-2 Approval to implement an Agriculture Course beginning with the 2020-2021 school year and to pursue Pennsylvania Department of Education approval of Agriculture as a CTE Program. (ROLL CALL)

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Maryann Kovalewski, we approve to implement an Agriculture Course beginning with the 2020-2021 school year and to pursue Pennsylvania Department of Education approval of Agriculture as a CTE Program.

Jon Morell - Are we going to offer this in 2020-2021?

Wendy Kupksy- It is a scheduling option based on the fact that we had two science teachers retire this year. We have two science openings so if we can have somebody with this certification this year hired to fulfill that need then moving forward we will be able to plan for those classes.

Jon Morell – So the agenda item says approval to implement an Agriculture Course, won't 2021 be the planning year and it will be implemented in 2021-2022

Wayne Brookhart - You can offer a course before you are approved as a CTE program.

Sandra Slavick – I think that is jumping the gun, don't you need a planning year?

Discussion followed.

Joseph DeMelfi – If you approve the course it would be under the science program?

Wendy Kupsky – Correct.

Amy Melchiorre – The enrollment booklet was already approved in March. That is what is going to be available online for scheduling. The students haven't scheduled yet, if we need to add it, it can be added. I don't know if we would start the CTE yet or just add Ag classes.

Wendy Kupsky – It's not adding the whole CTE. We haven't even applied for that.

Amy Melchiorre – It's just adding the opportunity to take the Ag classes as an introductory level. If they are interested then they would be able to sign on to the CTE the following year. It's contingent on if we get an Ag teacher.

Wayne Brookhart – You can either way, you can extend a year to prepare for a CTE or you can try to start elective course the first year for any students that are interested and apply for the CTE during the year. You can follow either tract. I understand your goal is to bring the kids back and have the program here. You have to decide on what you want to support as a board and your administration has to make the decision on how you want to precede.

Joseph DeMelfi – How about the content of the course? Do we have an idea on what that would include?

Wendy Kupsky – No. When we discussed this in academic affairs, it was to advertise for someone with an Ag certification because we have two science positions open. So when I'm planning for next year, my thought process was looking for an Ag certification to fill one of the positions so we don't have to hire another science teacher next year to try to fulfill that CTE piece of it. I was requesting an Ag certification this year so we don't have to add another science next year.

Wayne Brookhart – They will be teaching general science this year.

Joseph DeMelfi – Does Central have an Ag CTE program?

Wendy Kupsky – There are two in our area that does. Central and Benton.

Joseph DeMelfi – Do we have students going to those schools for this program?

Wendy Kupsky – Yes. All of our students go to the Central program.

Joseph DeMelfi - How many is that?

Wendy Kupsky – 10-12.

Joseph DeMelfi – I can see us doing a course. You need to get the content together. I can see us doing a course as an elective this year and going from there.

Wayne Brookhart – I think that was the intent.

Susy Wiegand – We are going to approve this course for the 2020-2021 and then still open to possibly doing a CTE in another year or so if we have enrollment of kids.

Wayne Brookhart – The benefit of doing it this way that Mrs. Kupsky and Mr. Croop proposed is that you get an idea of the demand of the Ag program. If we have someone who can teach general science or Ag and you don't have any kids that are going to take the Ag then you know maybe you don't want to move forward with the program/CTE then you use the teacher in the general courses in science. That was really the intent. It seemed to be a good plan.

Joseph DeMelfi – Wendy, do you feel comfortable with the course being offered this year?

Wendy Kupsky – A class as an elective yes if we find a teacher.

Jon Morell – Are you going to need a third science teacher?

Wendy Kupsky - No.

Jon Morell -This person will do both, general science and Ag?

Wendy Kupsky – Correct. I understand what you are saying, if we hire two sciences this year without hiring someone who has an Ag certification, yes possibly next year it could change our budgeting process.

Jon Morell – If you get someone with an Ag certification and they are teaching Ag are you still going to need a general science teacher next year?

Wendy Kupsky – If you look further down on the agenda, we have another person who we are recommending to hire who has a dual certification.

Wayne Brookhart – I know a lot of the classes that the teacher is departing had very low class sizes, they were remedial. I think it will work itself out well through scheduling.

ROLL CALL VOTE: “Ayes” – Sandra Slavick, Maryann Kovalewski, Joseph DeMelfi, Ronald Robsock, Brenda Post, Keith Hess, Jon Morell, Carol Bodwalk, Susy Wiegand
 “Nays” – None
 “Abstaining” – None

Motion carried.

AA-3 Approval to expand the Berwick Cyber Academy to Grades K-12. (ROLL CALL)

On motion of Joseph DeMelfi, seconded by Carol Bodwalk, we approve to expand the Berwick Cyber Academy to Grades K-12.

ROLL CALL VOTE: “Ayes” – Maryann Kovalewski, Joseph DeMelfi, Ronald Robsock, Brenda Post, Keith Hess, Jon Morell, Carol Bodwalk, Sandra Slavick, Susy Wiegand
 “Nays” – None
 “Abstaining” – None

Motion carried.

Approve Items AA-4 through AA-5 With One Motion

AA-4 Approval of the tentative list of graduates for the 2019-2020 school year. This includes all possible graduates. Some of the students may not yet meet graduation requirements. (enc.)

On motion of Brenda Post, seconded by Joseph DeMelfi, we approve the tentative list of graduates for the 2019-2020 school year. This includes all possible graduates. Some of the students may not yet meet graduation requirements. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

AA-5 Approval of the District’s Summer School Programs. The programs will be funded by the students. There will be no cost to the district.

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Maryann Kovalewski, we approve the District’s Summer School Programs. The programs will be funded by the students. There will be no cost to the district. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

Personnel:

P-1 Approval to hire Trevor Palmatier as High School Assistant Principal at a salary of \$72,000 prorated effective June 1, 2020, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork. (ROLL CALL)

On motion of Joseph DeMelfi, seconded by Carol Bodwalk, we hire Trevor Palmatier as High School Assistant Principal at a salary of \$72,000 prorated effective June 1, 2020, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork.

Wendy Kupsy – 6 ½ years of teaching experience at Milton, 7 years as administration, he was a Principal at Bloomsburg School District. He has 1 year at Bloomsburg University. His salary was based on experience. He was the number one choice. He is very excited to be part of the administration and part of the community.

Jon Morell – Why June 1st?

Wendy Kupsy – We moved the person out of my position effective June 11th. The high school will be operating without an assistant principal.

Wayne Brookhart – The high school is going to have a lot of work and they are already behind. Discussion followed.

ROLL CALL VOTE: “Ayes” – Joseph DeMelfi, Ronald Robsock, Brenda Post, Keith Hess, Jon Morell, Carol Bodwalk, Sandra Slavick, Maryann Kovalewski, Susy Wiegand

“Nays” – None

“Abstaining” – None

Motion carried.

P-2 Approval to hire Robert Calarco Jr. as Head Varsity Boys’ Basketball Coach for the 2020-2021 season at a stipend of \$5,000. (ROLL CALL)

On motion of Joseph DeMelfi, seconded by Brenda Post, we hire Robert Calarco Jr. as Head Varsity Boys’ Basketball Coach for the 2020-2021 season at a stipend of \$5,000.

Amended: on motion of Jon Morell, seconded by Joseph DeMelfi, we hire Robert Calarco Jr. as Head Varsity Boys’ Basketball Coach for the 2020-2021 season at a stipend of \$5,000. This stipend will be contingent of playing the basketball season.

Jon Morell – Amend to say if we have a basketball season. I would be fine hiring him, but if we don’t have a 2020-2021 season. We need to say that if for some reason there is not a 2020-2021 season, he will get it in 2021-2022.

Wayne Brookhart – Your language is contingency upon there being a 2020-2021 basketball season. Attorney Bull, is that right?

Attorney Bull – Yes.

Joseph Bo Orlando – How does that affect the summer ball?

Jon Morell – They don't get an addition stipend for the summer program. They just get for the season.

Discussion followed.

Jon Morell – I make the motion that we amend P-2 to say approval to hire Robert Calarco Jr. as Head Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach for the 2020-2021 season at a stipend of \$5,000. This stipend will be contingent on the playing of 2020-2021 basketball season.

Seconded by Joseph DeMelfi.

ROLL CALL VOTE: "Ayes" – Ronald Robsock, Brenda Post, Keith Hess, Jon Morell, Carol Bodwalk, Sandra Slavick, Maryann Kovalewski, Joseph DeMelfi, Susy Wiegand

"Nays" – None

"Abstaining" – None

Motion carried.

P-3 Approval to hire Gary Turse as full time, 2nd shift Custodian, effective May 12, 2020. Compensation will be at a rate of \$12.00 an hour.

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Maryann Kovalewski, we approve to hire Gary Turse as full time, 2nd shift Custodian, effective May 12, 2020. Compensation will be at a rate of \$12.00 an hour. Motion carried. All members voting "Aye". "Nay" - None and no abstentions.

P-4 Approval to hire Christine Readler as Professional Employee, effective at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork. Ms. Readler will be employed as a High School Science Teacher at the Master's Step 13, based on the collective bargaining agreement. (ROLL CALL VOTE)

On motion of Joseph DeMelfi, seconded by Carol Bodwalk, we hire Christine Readler as Professional Employee, effective at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork. Ms. Readler will be employed as a High School Science Teacher at the Master's Step 13, based on the collective bargaining agreement.

ROLL CALL VOTE: "Ayes" – Brenda Post, Keith Hess, Jon Morell, Carol Bodwalk, Sandra Slavick, Maryann Kovalewski, Joseph DeMelfi, Ronald Robsock, Susy Wiegand

"Nays" – None

"Abstaining" – None

Motion carried.

Wendy Kupsky- We are hiring her on the step based on her the certifications she has. It is very hard to replace chemistry and physics teachers.

P-5 Approval to hire Steven Strzyzynski as Professional Employee, effective at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork. Mr. Strzyzynski will be employed as a High School Science/Special Education Teacher at the Master’s Step 1, based on the collective bargaining agreement. (ROLL CALL VOTE)

On motion of Ronald Robsock, seconded by Maryann Kovalewski, we hire Steven Strzyzynski as Professional Employee, effective at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork. Mr. Strzyzynski will be employed as a High School Science/Special Education Teacher at the Master’s Step 1, based on the collective bargaining agreement.

ROLL CALL VOTE: “Ayes” – Keith Hess, Jon Morell, Carol Bodwalk, Sandra Slavick, Maryann Kovalewski, Joseph DeMelfi, Ronald Robsock, Brenda Post, Susy Wiegand

“Nays” – None

“Abstaining” – None

Motion carried.

Wendy Kupsky – Has certification in 7-12 in special education. He also carries that general science piece of it that we were discussing earlier. This is a great combination hire for the high school. He has been subbing. He just graduated. He got is bio first and then went back for his special education.

Discussion Item: School Calendar 2020-2021

Wayne Brookhart The school calendar is always fluent in PA with the snow and floods and the types of things we deal with like the pandemic this year. I just wanted to emphasize that this is a year when we find that your school calendar does have to be altered and the delivery of instruction may be altered the upcoming year. We wanted to get this out publicly.

Susy Wiegand – We have in the past started the school year after Labor Day when we had the construction of West Berwick Elementary School. This year we don’t know what things are bringing so that may be something that we may want to start to consider. I have been in conversations with others in the region and it has been a comment to many of the meetings. Some of the districts are considering starting after Labor Day.

Wayne Brookhart – When the Speaker of the House puts it out there in writing you know that it is going to be a discussion topic.

Joseph DeMelfi – We have to wait and see what they say before we decide it.

Susy Wiegand – Correct.

Reports:

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs:

Robert Croop – Agriculture, K-2 reading, Title 1, next year scenarios, middle school, types of software for next.

Athletics – Ronald Robsock- Mr. Orlando, and update on district 2 on fall sports?

Joseph Bo Orlando – Nothing from PIAA, nothing from district 2. As of right now, they are saying we can get together by July 1st. We can get together but I think that is going to be pushed back.

Budget – Keith Hess

Met last Thursday. Touched on the projected shortfall for the current year 2019-2020 which is almost \$1.2 million. Because of State law, there are a lot of costs that are still cemented. We can't reduce employee costs, bus contracts and food costs. We may save on the electric bill and heat. She used the 2018 figures that hopefully shows the best projection for local revenue since that was the market downturn year. We are looking at \$1.5 million reduction in local revenue, \$1.9 million overall with some consideration of some expenses we can reduce. We are projecting \$1.6 million deficit. However, we gave them the green light to go figure what we can do like put off uniforms for all sports for a year, whatever we can reduce. We hopefully will know more by next month by reviewing how much local we bring in. I haven't heard anything new from the State if we were getting any stimulus money. The State is mandating more and more things and it costs money. They are talking about freezing property taxes. Overall it is not a bad thing but however they need to compensate to overcome that.

Joseph DeMelfi – I think you guys are doing a good job considering the circumstances. We have to look at everything. I am not talking about eliminating anything. I am talking about reducing costs. If we can wait a year or two, then we should do that because of the situation we are in.

Keith Hess – Right now, we are going to move forward with the capital renovations that need to be done like the HVAC. We are going to cut whatever we can realistically cut.

Renee Gomez – The only other thing we discussed is the reserved football tickets. We discussed the upcoming football season with the uncertainty of not knowing how athletics are going to play out. Our reserved seat ticket holders usually received invoices over the summer starting in July. We will not be sending any out. All admission to football games, in the event it does occur, will be charged general admission. Those seats will be open to the general public. Anyone that is a reserved seat ticket holder will not lose their seat. The list will still be maintained and those seats will still be made available the following football season. In this year, due to the uncertainty we will be charging general admission and the seats will be open to anyone in the public.

Keith Hess – We are not looking to cut programs; we are just trying to cut from within. We do not want to take anything away from our kids if we can avoid it.

Question from public – With the new safety measures, will we be adding additional buses or bus routes to eliminate some of the crowding?

Keith Hess – We are waiting for direction from the Department of Education on how many people we can put together.

Wendy Kupsky – It has been part of our discussion. It is something that we are considering.

Buildings and Grounds – Jon Morell

Benton Culver – We are trying to prepare for a summer cleaning. We are going to try to break down rooms a little quicker than normal. We are still dealing with food distribution. We are still doing the normal summer maintenance.

Question from public – You have over \$7 million in your budgetary reserves for next year, can you tap in that to make up the shortfall?

Keith Hess – Yes. The problem is that you have to cut as much as we can between now and next year. We are looking a \$1.2 this year and \$1.6 next year. You will have a better part of \$3

million. Unless the State gives us additional money, our only source to generate revenue is property taxes. If we keep it at the index it is \$600,000 per tax increase. You will have to raise taxes for 6-7 years and that is not counting whatever else comes along.

Wayne Brookhart – Whenever you tap into your fund balance to fill a budget gap that starts your deficit the following year. It's like paying your bills out of the savings account. You have to be careful with it.

Jon Morell – You have to be careful of one time source revenue/money.

CSIU – Susy Wiegand

Virtual meeting. They approved their budget. They approved the contract for Mr. Kurelja. If we need any resources from the IU, do not hesitate to contact them. They are looking for options for the districts.

Vo-tech – Keith Hess

Virtual meeting. We are in the middle of a director search right now. Virtual interviews were done. We will be doing second interviews. The Benton negotiations are still on going. They are trying to do distance learning as best as possible.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Acknowledgment and Condolence: Susy Wiegand

Two deaths - Lanny Conner and Cindy Shoemaker.

Public Comment:

Susan Swartz – Award the district got from the US News and World Report as one of the best high schools in America, I didn't catch the years.

Wayne Brookhart – 2017, 2018 and 2019. We will get the plaques and banners like we got before for this year. We are extremely pleased with the success of the high school. I think it reflects the whole district. Those kids come through our system. Congratulations to everyone.

Susan Swartz – How are you getting all the connectivity for the students, even the ones that don't have internet?

Wayne Brookhart – That's planning for next year. We are doing the best for this year. Some of the things are on order. That will be for 2020-2021.

Wendy Kupsky – It's MiFi's.

Susan Swartz – I understand you don't want to go in the reserves on a regular basis for your operating expenses, but this is an extraordinary year. Hopefully you are not going to be down as much in your revenue in future years. Are you fearing this is going to be a continuing situation?

Keith Hess – We will probably be dipping into it anyway. We have no guarantees for tomorrow.

Jon Morell – They are talking about a 7-10 year financial recovery because of what is going on here with people being out of work.

Wayne Brookhart – We are referring to fund balance instead of reserves. They are different pots of money. We have seen districts dipping into their fund balance and spiral very quickly. Yes, it is something to look at but it should be the last resort.

Keith Hess – We don't want a 20-25 % tax increase because we spent our savings down paying our operating cost.

Renee Gomez – A lot of things for the 2020-2021 school year have already been decided from the State such as the adjusted index that the district receives. The index is announced in September. September 2020 for the following school year. That is usually what drives that. We anticipate that the index is going to be extremely lower based off the economic conditions, which will impact the following school year the most. The State issues the index. In the past the index dropped by over two points. There is more of an impact to come.

Summarization of Executive Session: Susy Wiegand

Student situation and Collective Bargaining Teacher Negotiation Contract.

Joseph Bo Orlando – Questioning the Basketball Coach moving forward.

Wayne Brookhart – The other coaches have not been approved yet for next year.

Joseph DeMelfi – We have not approved any coaches for next year, is that correct?

Wayne Brookhart – The assumptions are that the prior coaches are coming back. We make a decision at the end of each season.

Jon Morell – I think it should be contingent on everybody else when we rehire them.

Wayne Brookhart – I think that is the decision that you have entered into tonight to some extent. That's a legal topic.

Joseph Bo Orlando – The spring coaches got their first pay, but I didn't know what you agreed on for their second pay.

Wayne Brookhart – The second pay will be decided before the end of the fiscal year. We are trying to determine what the State said to us, exactly what that means.

Ronald Robsock – When does the first check go out to the fall coaches?

Rene Gomez – I believe it is the first pay in September or the last one in August. We have a stipend payout schedule.

Keith Hess – We haven't approved the fall-winter coaches yet.

Attorney Bull – I think that before the fall coaches are officially hired, even though the thinking is to continue from the previous season, I think the board needs to make a decision about paying them in the event the season is not held as the spring sports weren't held. That needs to be determined before the night they are being hired, so we don't have an issue that they are an employees at that point but they are hired under that condition that the season is actually held.

Wayne Brookhart – I think by hiring Mr. Calarco tonight even with the contingency, you essentially said to him he is on the path of Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach to be able to start to talk to the kids and say I am the coach. The circumstances will determine what path the season takes. He can act as Head Basketball Coach now. Mr. Calarco will be treated like any other head coach for the 2020-2021 season would be. We just haven't acted on them yet.

On a motion of Jon Morell, seconded by Joseph DeMelfi we adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. All members voting "Aye." "Nay"- none and no abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Janet K. Kovach, Secretary to the Board