

May 10, 2021

The board meeting of the Berwick Area School Board was held on Monday, May 10, 2021, via virtual zoom meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 (virtual), Mrs. Brenda Post, Mr. Ronald Robsock, Mrs. Sandra Slavick

ABSENT: None

Also **PRESENT:** Mrs. Wendy Kupsy, Attorney Bull, Mrs. Renee Jilinski (virtual), Mrs. Janet Kovach, Mr. Steven Christian, Mr. Robert Croop, Mr. Benton Culver, Mrs. Wendy Daily, Mrs. Pamela Hegland, Ms. Amy Melchiorre, Mr. Gregory Michael, Mr. Joseph Bo Orlando, Mr. Trevor Palmatier, Mr. Randy Peters, Mr. David Robbins, Mr. Patrick Sharkey, Ms. Jill Shipman, tax payers, Susan Swartz, Heather Getkin

Moment of Silence

Flag Salute

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 12, 2021 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

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

Budgetary Transfers

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Carol Bodwalk, we approve the budgetary transfers on pages 19-21. Motion carried. All members voting "Aye". "Nay" - None and no abstentions.

Presentation of the Bills:

On motion of Maryann Kovalewski, seconded by Keith Hess, 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 Jilinski

Last week I discussed about the PlanCon and the reports that were included.

Superintendent's Report: Wendy Kupsky

We are moving forward with all of our scheduled plans. Prom is scheduled for this weekend. Both the musical and graduation will be following the current guidelines of the Governor. Upcoming changes will not take place until May 31st. At this time, we are not planning on changing anything. Our last day of school is May 27th and it is a half day for students. Graduation is May 28th at Crispin Field with a rain date of May 29th.

Randy Peters – 1st grade received a book called “Once upon a poodle”. The author (Chrysa Smith) was at West Berwick Elementary to talk about how to write a book. Students received a signed book.

Jill Shipman – 4th grade students will have a drive by. They will receive yard signs to place in their yards. On May 21st (career day), Choe Mehring (NASA Flight Director) will be joining us.

Patrick Sharkey – Autism awareness and acceptance day. Students and staff participated in dress down day wearing red for acceptance and blue for awareness. We collected over \$200. It will be donated and used to send students that are impacted with autism to Camp Victory. We would like to do it district-wide next year.

Gregory Michael – Twenty eight students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society last week. The advisor is Maria Kingery. Outdoor end of the school year concerts will be held next week. 7th and 8th grade members will perform May 17th. 5th and 6th grade members will perform on May 18th. Both concerts will begin at 5:30 p.m. under the direction of Amanda Zieger, Kathleen Holdren and Amy Pocius.

Amy Melchiorre – Lots of things are going on in May. We have concerts. We are doing the senior drive thru again this year on May 26th. Students have placed in the FBLA competition and PA Junior Academy of Science competition.

Tom Bigler Journalism competition, sponsored by Wilkes University. We had “Outstanding News Coverage” – Dylan Smith, “Outstanding News Article” – Carly Hill, “Outstanding Sports Article” – Zander Switzer and “Outstanding Layout and Design” – Emily Getty. All took 1st place.

Pamela Hegland – Meal programs. Drop out Hunger will provide food pantries for our students that are attending our summer camp from June 7th -24th. We have the Teen Center that will be the Summer Food Giveaway Program from June 7th – August 9th. That will be held on Mondays from 11am-noon. Flyers will go home to parents on May 17th. We are in the process of securing lunch box meals through the Teen Center for our ESY students as well as our students who will be attending our School Based Behavioral Team at West Berwick Elementary.

Wendy Kupsky – Governor Wolf’s administration received approval to extend the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (PEBT) benefit eligibility. No application is required. The third round of benefit will be mid-July for the families that are eligible. The paperwork was submitted.

Melissa Price from State Farm donated 50 masks to the school district.

Mandate waiver program – This would allow public schools to apply to PDE for a waiver for many state imposed mandates. PDE can approve if public schools can prove the instructional program will improve or the school will operate in a more effective efficient, more economical manner. We will need to provide data for this. This is one of the bills that is currently in the Senate committee for approval.

President Biden met with his team and are still continuing to propose a 41% increase in education. Some topics from the subcommittees are American History/Civics education, Transgender Students Issues, Social/Emotional Learning which is SEL and Mental Health. There is support for the PELL grant and IDEA, which is special education, an improved pathways for students and adults.

Please check your building website for any changes.

Covid numbers in our County still maintain at substantial range.

On motion of Sandra Slavick, seconded by Brenda Post and Maryann Kovalewski we add the addendum to the agenda. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

Wendy Kupsy - Next month, we will be in the high school auditorium for the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Heather Getkin – Last week of school?

Wendy Kupsy – May 27th is the only half-day. High school will have a different schedule because of the Keystones. Ms. Melchiorre will post the schedule.

Agenda

General:

G-1 Acknowledgement of Matthew Shrader as Trustee for the CS Trust, effective at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Acknowledgement was given for Matthew Shrader as Trustee for the CS Trust, effective at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

G-2 Approval to enter into a food service contract with The Nutrition Group for 2021-2022 school year. (ROLL CALL VOTE)

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Maryann Kovalewski we approve to enter into a food service contract with The Nutrition Group for 2021-2022 school year.

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.

G-3 Approval of the Ala Carte pricing recommendations for the 2021-2022 school year. (enc.)

On motion of Jon Morell, seconded by Keith Hess and Brenda Post we approve the Ala Carte pricing recommendations for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

Academic Affairs:

AA-1 Acknowledgement of holding the May 28, 2021 graduation ceremonies at 7:00 p.m. at Crispin Field with a rain date of May 29, 2021.

Acknowledgement was given for holding the May 28, 2021 graduation ceremonies at 7:00 p.m. at Crispin Field with a rain date of May 29, 2021.

AA-2 Approval of the tentative list of graduates for the 2020-2021 school year. This includes all possible graduates. Some of the students may not meet graduation requirements. (enc.)

On motion of Ronald Robsock, seconded by Brenda Post and Maryann Kovalewski we approve the tentative list of graduates for the 2020-2021 school year. This includes all possible graduates. Some of the students may not meet graduation requirements.

Maryann Kovalewski – What are we doing to try to get them graduated that are within the possibility?

Amy Melchiorre – We started evening classes three weeks ago.

Maryann Kovalewski – So this is a spin-off of Saturday school?

Wendy Kupsy – They also have the opportunity to do it in the summer.

Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

Budget & Finance:

BF-1 Acknowledgement of PlanCon Part H and PlanCon Part K approvals received from Pennsylvania Department of Education. (enc.)

Acknowledgement was given for PlanCon Part H and PlanCon Part K approvals received from Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Buildings and Grounds:

BG-1 Approval of the summer worker program.

On motion of Jon Morell, seconded by Keith Hess we approve the summer worker program. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye”. “Nay” - None and no abstentions.

Personnel:

Approve Items P-1 through P-10 With One Motion

- P-1 Approval to appoint Janet Kovach as School Board Secretary for a four year term, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025.**
- P-2 Approval for employee #2769 to take unpaid days on April 15, 2021, May 7, 2021 and May 19, 2021. (enc.)**
- P-3 Approval for employee #2886 to take unpaid days on April 12-16, 2021, April 19-21, 2021. (enc.)**
- P-4 Approval for employee #2704 to take an unpaid day on April 22, 2021. (enc.)**
- P-5 Approval to accept the resignation of Lauren Pavone as Special Education teacher, effective June 29, 2021. (enc.)**
- P-6 Approval of the following teachers for the district summer school program. The program will run 4 hours per day for 12 days. Teachers will be paid at the instructional rate at \$26.50.**

Elementary

**Brianna Young
Amanda Savage
Andrea Zajac
Lauren Pavone
Valarie Anderson**

**Felicia Canouse
Kathryn Terdiman
Dave Webb
Elizabeth Stout**

**Domenique Verrastro
Karen Preston
Diane Croop
Jen Craig**

Middle School

**Joanna Calvert
Elizabeth Frye
Amy Daniel**

**Marisa Boschetto
Joseph Kovalewski
Megan Davenport**

**Maria Kingery
Daniel Krouse
Harlee Mowery**

High School

**Bernadette DiPippa
Heather Melito**

Nicholas Dawson

Christine Dent

P-7 Approval of the following aides for the district summer school program. Compensation will be at their current rate of pay.

Stephanie Heller	Nadine Daily	Jerri Bogart	Diane Stashko
Sheri McClafin	Karla Seidle	Loralei Oviatt	Jessica Vajda
Julie Watts - sub			

P-8 Approval to add Kerri Troiani to the day to day substitute teacher list for the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork. Compensation will be at the rate of \$15.71 per hour.

P-9 Approval to add Garrett Dinelli to the day to day substitute teacher list for the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork. Compensation will be at the rate of \$15.71 per hour.

P-10 Approval of the status change for Trevor Palmatier from Assistant Principal at the High School to 5th and 6th Grade Principal at the Middle School, effective July 1, 2021. Compensation will be at a salary of \$77,491.00.

On motion of Keith Hess, seconded by Carol Bodwalk we approve Items P-1 through P-10 With One Motion. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye” except Maryann Kovalewski who absented on P-6. “Nay” - None and abstention from Maryann Kovalewski on P-6.

P-11 Approval to hire Shayla DiPasquale as Temporary Professional Employee, effective at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. DiPasquale will be employed as Special Education Teacher at the Bachelor’s Step 1, \$42,837.00. (ROLL CALL VOTE)

On motion of Sandra Slavick, seconded by Maryann Kovalewski we approve to hire Shayla DiPasquale as Temporary Professional Employee, effective at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. DiPasquale will be employed as Special Education Teacher at the Bachelor’s Step 1, \$42,837.00.

Wendy Kupsky – All three are replacements (P-11, P-12 and P-13)

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.

P-12 Approval to hire Corinne Hock as Temporary Professional Employee, effective at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Hock will be employed as Special Education Teacher at the Bachelor’s Step 1, \$42,837.00. (ROLL CALL VOTE)

On motion of Sandra Slavick, seconded by Maryann Kovalewski we approve to hire Corinne Hock as Temporary Professional Employee, effective at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Hock will be employed as Special Education Teacher at the Bachelor's Step 1, \$42,837.00.

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.

Addendum:

P-13 Approval to hire Kylie Brockway as Temporary Professional Employee, effective at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Brockway will be employed as a Secondary Social Studies/Citizenship Teacher at the Bachelor's Step 1, \$42,837.00, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork. (ROLL CALL VOTE)

On motion of Sandra Slavick, seconded by Keith Hess we approve to hire Kylie Brockway as Temporary Professional Employee, effective at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Brockway will be employed as a Secondary Social Studies/Citizenship Teacher at the Bachelor's Step 1, \$42,837.00, pending receipt of appropriate paperwork.

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.

Old Business:

Maryann Kovalewski – We will have to have the Buildings and Grounds do some research before our next meeting about the proposed tree planting over by Thompson's Run. What we did not know at the time is the Model Act 167 Storm Water Management Ordinance. The Susquehanna River tributaries are most likely going to apply here. There are certain restrictions that we are going to have to follow and certain permits that we are going to have to comply with because of DEP regulations. When Berwick High School was being built or right before that, the Army Core of Engineers was called in to do a study because of drainage issues and potential ground fields. That report is probably in our archives somewhere and as a precaution, we should review that and see what that report said about the drainage issues back then and what steps we have taken now. Also about the Model Act 167, making sure we are following all the necessary steps.

Joseph DeMelfi – The group that was here to present, would they not have checked like Mrs. Kovalewski has talked about?

Benton Culver – I will contact them to confirm. I don't want to speak on their behalf.

Joseph DeMelfi – Are we bringing them back?

Benton Culver – The conversations are still in process. It's just a matter of finalizing some things.

Joseph DeMelfi – I need to have them here at our next meeting.

Maryann Kovalewski – These questions are to prevent bigger headaches down the road.

Joseph DeMelfi – I understand that. This is a professional group. I'm sure they are very competent. I'm sure they are aware of statutes.

Susy Wiegand – Committee of the Whole will be back in person in June.

Benton Culver – I will touch base with Justin.

Susy Wiegand – I would like to see them at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

New Business:

Joseph DeMelfi – What are we doing with Charter school tuition? Has that moved at all?

Wendy Kupsy – It is a political issue for how the funding is calculated. We continue to reach out. The numbers are coming down.

Susy Wiegand – Election of Slate of Candidates for CSIU.

Public Comment: None

Summarization of Executive Session: Susy Wiegand

One legal item.

Next Meetings:

Committee of the Whole – June 7, 2021 5:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

Board Meeting – June 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Janet K. Kovach, Secretary to the Board