

**Northwest Area School District
School Board Meeting
December 6, 2023**

The Northwest Area Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on December 6, 2023 in the high school of the Middle/High School. Mr. LeValley, School Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

The following members were present during the meeting: Mr. Lanza, Mr. LeValley, Mr. Benson, Mrs. Biller, Dr. Brunn, Mr. Pierontoni, Mr. Sutliff, Mr. Beleski, Dr. Yarnell. Attorney Angela Evans, Mr. Long, Mr. Miner, Mr. Lukachinsky, Mrs. Kratz, Mr. Amos, Mrs. Straub, Mr. Sorber, Mr. Shoemaker, and Ms. Hurst were also present.

Mr. LeValley reported that there was an Executive Session held from 6:00-6:30 PM to discuss personnel, litigation, and co-curricular.

1. Approve of Minutes

Mr. Lanza made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Biller to accept the minutes of the following previous meeting:

a. Regular School Board Meeting/Executive Session -November, 2023

Upon voice vote, all present voted yes, motion passes.

2. Comments: No comments.

3. Reports - No Reports.

4. Payment of Bills

Mr. Lanza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pierontoni to approve the payment of the following bills:

1. General Account list of bills for December 2023 - \$272,420.90
2. Prepaids - November 2023 - \$1,511,786.55

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes.

5. Superintendent's Comments – Mr. Long noted that our thoughts and prayers are with the Benton School District, who lost a young student in a car accident. Northwest went through a similar situation about a year ago. Mr. Long will be reaching out to Benton's Superintendent to express our thoughts and prayers. Secondly, Mr. Long congratulated Mr. LeValley, our board

president, and noted that he did a tremendous job last year. Mr. Long also announced that it is good to be fully staffed again. Mr. Amos has now been here for his second month, and Mr. Lukachinsky recently started, and is fitting in well, and learning from Mr. Miner each day. Dr. Yarnell added that the elementary students like Mr. Amos. Mr. Long reminded everyone that it is that time of year to watch for snow delays. Lastly, Mr. Long wished everyone the happiest of holidays.

6. Administrative Reports – Mr. Amos invited everyone to the Intermediate School’s Holiday Singalong Concert which will be held on December 7 at the high school auditorium at 7:30pm. Also, on December 15, the students will be performing at Bonham’s Nursing Home. Also, on December 14 is the PTO’s Drive Through Tree Event at the Primary School at 5:30pm. Each classroom at the Primary School is decorating a tree for the event. It is a fundraising event, and trees will be donated to families who aren’t able to get a tree. Mr. Lukachinsky noted that he has been at Northwest since November 28, and students and staff have been welcoming and Mr. Miner has been a tremendous mentor. Mrs. Kratz was pleased to announce that our December childcount has been submitted, received and approved by PDE. Mrs. Kratz also noted that she is continuing to prepare for the audit, and the testing list is growing on a daily basis. Mr. Miner reported that on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, we had our annual Northwest CAN event. We had 18 alumni this year, and it is our 12th annual event. Mr. Miner shared that his highlight this year was with a student who may not have been the best student in high school, but the student spoke specifically about teachers in the building who impacted him.. Mr. Miner thanked the Shickshinny American Legion for serving 39 families this year. Lastly, Mr. Miner invited everyone to Breakfast with Santa sponsored by YIP and the Ranger Foundation.

7. Policy/Procedures -

Mr. Pierontoni made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Biller for the following:

- a. Approved the second reading of the revisions to Policy # 123.1, Management of Athletes with Concussions and Return to Play

Upon roll call vote, all present voted yes, motion passes.

8. Personnel

Mr. Benson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beleski for the following:

- a. Approved the FMLA request of Employee # 9287, effective December 18, 2023 through March 18, 2024.
- b. Approved to rescind the sabbatical request for the purpose of education for Employee # 1728 for the second semester of the 2023-24 school year.
- c. Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Keri Nafus, Jump Start Coordinator,

effective December 22, 2023. *Attachment*

- d. Approved to post and advertise for a Jump Start Coordinator.
- e. Approved the Statement of Charges pertaining to Employee # 9342.
- f. Approved to rescind the following motion from November 15, 2023:
Recommend and move to appoint Bryan Glahn as the interim Social Studies Chairperson for the 2023-24 school year.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes

- 9. Finance – Mr. Sutliff made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Biller for the following:
 - a. Approved the Fairmount Township real estate tax refund in the amount of \$110.36.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes

- 10. Buildings & Grounds/Safety - No Report

- 11. Education/Curriculum –

Dr. Yarnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pierontoni for the following:

- a. Approved the Educational Field Trip Request of Ms. Stackhouse and approximately ten students to attend a Community Workshop Project in Hershey, PA February 10-11, 2024, at no cost to the district.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes

- 12. Co-Curricular –

Mr. Benson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beleski for the following:

- a. Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Leigh Bonczewski, Head Varsity Football Coach. *Attachment*
- b. Approved to post and advertise for a Head Varsity Football Coach for the 2024-25 school year/season.
- c. Approved to post for a Head Varsity Coach for the following sports for the 2024-25 school year/season:

1. Field Hockey
2. Cross Country
- d. Appointed Matthew Meade as the Junior High Boys Basketball Coach for the 2023-24 school year/season, at a stipend of \$4,400.
- e. Appointed Taylor Yapple as a Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach for the 2023-24 school year/season, at no cost to the district, pending receipt of required clearances.
- f. Appointed Jenna Tutorow as a Volunteer Track and Field Coach for the 2023-24 school year/season, at no cost to the district, pending receipt of required clearances.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes.

13. Transportation: No Report.
14. Additions to the Substitute List -

Mrs. Biller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benson for the following:

Appointed the following substitutes for the 2023-24 school year pending the receipt of required paperwork:

1. Recommend and move to appoint the following substitutes for the 2023-24 school year pending the receipt of required paperwork:
 1. Thomas Adams - Substitute Nurse
 2. Todd Phillips - Teacher

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes.

15. Tabled Items - No Tabled Items
16. Legislative – No Report.
17. West Side CTC - No Report
18. I.U. Update - Mr. Lanza noted that there will be a new president. Minutes are available.
19. New Business – No new business.
20. Solicitor's Report – No Report.
21. Comments - Mr. Long reported that we had a family who lost everything in a house fire. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. We have reached out to get clothing sizes, and Mr. Long has reached out to the Greater Pittston Santa Squad for clothing and gifts for the family.
22. Adjourn – Dr. Yarnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pierontoni, and unanimously by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pete Lanza, Board Secretary