

**Northwest Area School District
School Board Meeting
February 15, 2024**

The Northwest Area Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on February 15, 2024 in the library of the Middle/High School. Mr. LeValley, School Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

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

Mr. LeValley reported that there was an Executive Session held from 6:15-6:45 PM to discuss personnel, litigation, finance and co-curricular.

1. Approve of Minutes

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

a. Regular School Board Meeting/Executive Session -January 18, 2024

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

2. Comments: No comments.

3. Reports -

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

- a. Treasurer's Report - January 2024
- b. Cash Flow - January 2024
- c. Cafeteria Report - January 2024

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

4. Payment of Bills

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

- a. General Account list of bills for February 2024 - 627,450.95

b. Prepaids - January 2024 - \$314,161.58

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

5. Superintendent's Comments – Mr. Long reported that the Governor has presented his budget for the state, and noted that it's supposed to be a historic financial windfall for the educational world, but it was not here, at Northwest. The Governor's projection for Northwest Area was a \$61,000 increase over last year's funding. Mr. Long said that he feels this is a travesty. The unfunded mandates from the state, increase in transportation costs, and many other things aren't even covered by this increase. The court ordered the legislature and Governor to develop fair funding, and Mr. Long does not find this to be fair. Northwest ranked 496 of 501 schools in Pennsylvania in the increase. Mr. Long stated that we need everyone's help. We need our faculty, staff, and parents to get involved in getting the funding straightened out. Mr. Long said that we have great kids and a great district, and we want our fair share. Mr. Long encouraged everyone to contact the Governor's Office, your state representative, and senators. Tomorrow, Mr. Malacari, Mr. LeValley and Mr. Long will be meeting with our state representative to bring his attention to this matter, so that he can advocate for us. Mr. Long congratulated our winter sports' teams for continued success. The girls basketball team, under the direction of Jaxson Yapple, had a decent year, despite injuries and retooling of the team, with only a handful of returning players. Mr. Long congratulated our boys team for their fourth consecutive title. Lastly, the Musical, The Adam's Family, will be presented April 26-28, 2024.

6. Administrative Reports – Mr. Lukachinsky shared the following information: Northwest has been recognized by College Board for earning College Board's AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science Principles. Departments have been working on budget preparations and course offerings for 2024-25. The High School Comprehensive Planning team met to work on the building level plan for 2024-25. On February 16, we will be holding an assembly for marking periods one and two awards. Thank you to Mrs. Ziegler and the Guidance Department for their hard work. On March 1, we will be hosting an area - wide event called, "The Talk." The event will be held at Northwest Area through our Aavidum Club. Mrs. Kratz reported that the final audit was submitted today. Mrs. Kratz was pleased to report that 86 of 101 students, ages fourteen and older, reported that they were receiving the education they need through their iep's.

7. Policy/Procedures - No Report.

8. Personnel

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

- a. Appointed Ashley Cragle as Drama Director for the 2023-24 school year.
- b. Approved the Certified Act 93 Agreement for Elementary Principal, Ryan Amos.
- c. Approved the Certified Act 93 Agreement for Assistant Secondary Principal, Matthew Lukachinsky.
- d. Approved the interim appointment of Rick Cisney, full time custodial maintenance, effective February 5, 2024.
- e. Approved to appoint Dr. Marrison Anderson as a Homebound Instructor for the 2023-24 school year.
- f. Approved a one year extension of the current 2019-2024 Northwest Area Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- g. Approved the FMLA request of employee number 9433, March 7-14, 2024.

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

9. Finance – Mr. Sutliff made a motion, seconded by Dr. Yarnell for the following:

- a. Approved the 2023 Fairmount Township Real Estate Tax Refund in the amount of \$264.54.
- b. Approved the 2023 Fairmount Township Real Estate Tax Refund in the amount of \$670.04.
- c. Approved the approved/rejected exoneration requests for the 2023-2024 Occupational Taxes for inclusion in the minutes per exoneration resolution adopted by the board in June 2023. (Detailed listing available upon request from the Business Office)
- d. Approved the agreement with Thomas Adams to provide LPN nursing services to a District student, effective November 17, 2023. **Attachment**
- e. Approved the budget of the Intermediate Unit #18 for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. **(attachment emailed)**
- f. Approved the purchase of a dishwasher for the high school cafeteria, at a cost of \$32,176. (ESSERS)
- g. Approved the request of Ms. Shiptoski to attend the Pennsylvania School Nurse Conference, March 22-24, 2024, at an estimated cost of \$615.

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 Mr. Quinn's field trip request to attend the PMEA Regional Band Festival at an estimated cost of \$615.
- b. Approved the field trip request of Ms. Stackhouse to the FFA State Convention at Penn State University, June 11-13, 2024, at no cost to the district.
- c. Approved the field trip request of Ms. Stackhouse to the State Legislative Leadership Conference in Harrisburg, PA, March 24-26, 2024, at an estimated cost of \$320.
- d. Approved for Student #919409 to attend Benton Area School District's Rehabilitation Aide program (15.999).

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes

12. Co-Curricular –

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

- a. Appointed the following Volunteer Softball Coaches for the 2023-24 school year/season, at no cost to the district, pending receipt of required paperwork:
 1. Lisa Ninotti
 2. Joshua Nafus
- b. Appointed Lindsey Quinn as the Assistant Varsity Field Hockey Coach for the 2024-25 school year/season, pending required clearances. (\$3,800)
- c. Approved the Girls Track and Field co-op agreement with Millville School District.
- d. Approved the following Assistant Football Coaches for the 2024-25 school year/season, pending required clearances:
 1. Lyle Newell - \$3,750
 2. Jason May - \$3,750
 3. Darian Twynan - \$3,750
- e. Approved the following Junior High Football Coaches for the 2024-25 school year/season, pending required clearances:
 1. Eric Zagata - \$2,200
 2. Thomas Ide - \$2,200
 3. Peter Borum - Volunteer

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

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

13. Transportation: No Report.
14. Additions to the Substitute List -
Mr. Benson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sutliff for the following:

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

- a. Susan Vosik Pekala - IU Guest Teacher

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

15. Tabled Items - No Tabled Items
16. Legislative – No Report.
17. West Side CTC -Mr. Pierontoni reported that there were nine candidates for a nursing teaching position, and there is a candidate who will be recommended to hire.
18. I.U. Update - Mr. Lanza reported that the IU rate has gone down. Minutes available upon request.
19. New Business – No new business.
20. Solicitor's Report – No Report.
21. Comments -Mr. Malacari thanked the board for ratifying the contract. There was a lot of working together to do what's best for the district.
22. Adjourn – Dr. Yarnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sutliff, and unanimously by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Lanza, Board Secretary