

**Northwest Area School District
School Board Meeting
January 18, 2024**

The Northwest Area Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on January 18, 2024 in the high school of the Middle/High School. Mr. LeValley, School Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

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

Mr. LeValley reported that there was an Executive Session held from 6:00-6:45 PM to discuss personnel, litigation, safety and security.

1. Approve of Minutes

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

- a. Reorganization Meeting - December 6, 2023
- b. Regular School Board Meeting/Executive Session -December 6, 2023

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

2. Comments: No comments.

3. Reports -

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

- a. Treasurer's Report - November 2023
- b. Cash Flow - November 2023
- c. Cafeteria Report - November 2023
- d. Treasurer's Report - December 2023
- e. Cash Flow - December 2023
- f. Cafeteria Report - December 2023

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

4. Payment of Bills

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

- a. General Account list of bills for January 2024 - \$639,660.26
- b. Prepaids - December 2023 - \$567,925.91

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

5. Superintendent's Comments – Mr. Long thanked the administrative team, members of the board and the transportation contractors for help with weather related decisions, and noted that making weather related decisions for around 1,000 people, including students and employees is not easy. Currently, our makeup days are Presidents Day and April 4 and 5. With the impending weather, we have already announced that we will be having a Flexible Instruction Day tomorrow. Additionally, the State Education Committee study and fair funding voted 8-7 to send to the Education Committee of the House of Representatives and Senate to develop a different funding formula for all school districts. Northwest Area has been underfunded for the past ten years by close to \$900,000 per year. Mr. Long encouraged everyone to reach out to senators and representatives to push for a fair funding formula to get money to help our district.

6. Administrative Reports – Mr. Lukachinsky reported that Northwest Area students honored veterans over the holiday by making cards for patients in the VA Hospital. Mrs. Kratz noted that the Special Education Department has been busy preparing for the upcoming audit. The first round of file review requested by PDE has been completed. Mr. Amos announced that there will be an Elementary Night at varsity boys and girls basketball games. Prior to that, varsity members of the basketball teams and cheerleaders will come to the elementary schools to read to the students, talk about sportsmanship, and helping teammates. Prizes will be awarded to elementary students at halftime. Mr. Amos is excited to collaborate with the high school. Dr. Yarnell noted that the Intermediate School students were thrilled that there was a basketball practice held at the Intermediate School.

Mr. Miner introduced Mr. Gary Bau, President of the Northwest Foundation, which has been in existence for seven years. Mr. Miner reported that the following grants were awarded: \$1,000 to Mr. Malacari and Mrs. Lukowski to help offset a field trip to Washington, D.C. and the Holocaust Museum, \$660 to Mrs. Minnick and Ms. Morris for a seventh grade field trip to the Lackawanna Coal Mine tour, and \$475 to Mrs. Antolik for Camp Read Alot.

Mr. Bau thanked Mr. Long, Mr. LeValley and the administration for allowing him to continue supporting the teachers and as many students as possible. Mr. Bau noted that over the past seven years, more than \$10,000 has been donated. Beginning last year, a scholarship was awarded on classnight, and will continue annually. The first scholarship recipient was Landon Hufford. Mr. Bau thanked everyone involved with the Foundation. Mr. Bau remarked that Breakfast with Santa has become a big community event, and thanked Mr. Hines for being Santa. The members of the Ranger Foundation are: Mr. Bau, Mr. Miner, representative from the school, Mrs. Voyton, Mr. Hermanofski, and Mrs. Riley. Mr. Bau also thanked the chorus, Mr. DeFinnis, Mrs. Gasper

and the students from YIP who donated \$1,000 last year. Representatives from each of the aforementioned grants were present: Mr. Malacari noted that the trip to Washington D.C is open to the seniors first, and remaining spots are open to the juniors. The funds will help to keep the cost as low as possible for the students. Mrs. Antolik thanked Mr. Bau for the funds to help make Camp Read Alot such an amazing experience for the elementary students. Mrs. Antolik invited everyone to visit Camp Read Alot. Mrs. Minnick reported that students currently in seventh grade haven't had the opportunity to go on field trips due to COVID, and without PTO in junior high, there are limited funds. Mrs. Minnick noted that the students will be excited for a field trip.

7. Policy/Procedures - No Report.

8. Personnel

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

- a. Approved the interim appointment of Janet Stone as a full time Pre K Paraprofessional, effective January 16, 2024.
- b. Approved the interim appointment of Bethany Taylor as Jump Start Coordinator for the 2023-24 school year, effective January 8, 2024.
- c. Approved the interim appointment of Joseph Young, full time custodial maintenance, effective January 15, 2024.
- d. Approved the termination of employee # 9342 effective immediately.
- e. Approved to post for a Drama Director for the 2023-24 school year.
- f. Approved the retirement of Daniel Delfine, effective September 13, 2024.
- g. Approved the request of Joseph F. Long Jr. to attend the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools conference April 25 and 26 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel State College, at a cost of \$295.00 to the district.
- h. Approved to appoint Ryan Amos as the Title IX Coordinator, effective January 19, 2024 for the 2023-24 school year

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 Fairmount Township real estate tax refund in the amount of \$110.36.

- b. Approved the standard mileage rate of 67 cents per mile driven for business use in a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) effective January 1, 2024 as per IRS guidelines.
- c. Approved the resolution indicating the Northwest Area Board of School Directors will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of public schools for the fiscal year 2024-2025 by more than its index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- d. Approved the 2023 Real Estate Refund in the amount of \$366.79

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 Mrs. Biller for the following:

- a. Approved the interim educational field trip request of Mr. Quinn and 4 students to attend the PMEA District 9 Band Festival at Blue Ridge High School, January 11-12, 2024, at an estimated cost of \$1,144.22.
- b. Approved the educational field trip request of Mr. Quinn and 4 students to attend the PMEA District 9 Chorus Festival at Dallas High School, January 24-26, 2024, at an estimated cost of \$945.
- c. Approved the educational field trip request of Mr. Quinn and 2 students to attend the PMEA District 9 Orchestra Festival at Wyoming Valley West February 7-9, 2024, at an estimated cost of \$440.00

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes

12. Co-Curricular –

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

- a. Approved to appoint Stephen Nestorick as Head Varsity Football Coach for the 2024-25 school year/season.
- b. Appointed Meghan Morris as the Head Varsity Field Hockey Coach for the 2024-25 school year/season.
- c. Appointed Gareth Henderson as the Head Varsity Cross Country Coach for the 2024-25 school year/season.
- d. Approved to post and advertise for the following coaching positions for the 2024-25 school year/season:
 1. Varsity Assistant Cross Country Coach - 1 @ \$2,500
 2. Varsity Assistant Field Hockey Coach - 1 @ \$3,800
 3. Junior High Field Hockey Coach - 1 @ \$3,800

4. Varsity Assistant Football Coach - 3 @ \$4,400
5. Junior High Football Coach - 1 @ \$4,400

e. Approved to rescind the following motion from the December 2023:

Recommend and move to appoint 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:

- a. Sierra Wall - Teacher
- b. Lauren Mullery - Teacher
- c. Kelly Littleton - Secretary and Paraprofessional

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

15. Tabled Items - No Tabled Items
16. Legislative – No Report.
17. West Side CTC - Mr. Lanza was elected as President.
18. I.U. Update - Minutes available upon request.
19. New Business – No new business.
20. Solicitor's Report – No Report.
21. Comments -No comments.
22. Adjourn – Mr. Benson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Yarnell, and unanimously by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Lanza, Board Secretary