

**Northwest Area School District  
School Board Meeting  
November 15, 2023**

The Northwest Area Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on November 15, 2023 in the auditorium of the Middle/High School. Mr. LeValley, School Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The following members were present during the meeting: Mr. LeValley, Mr. Benson, Mrs. Biller, Dr. Brunn, Dr. Yarnell. Attorney Angela Evans, Mr. Long, Mr. Miner, Mr. Mills, 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 6:00-7:00 PM to discuss Personnel and safety.

1. Approve of Minutes

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

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

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

2. Comments: No comments.

3. Reports -

Mrs. Biller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benson to approve the following reports:

1. Treasurer's Report - September 2023
2. Cash Flow - September 2023
3. Cafeteria Report - September 2023
4. Treasurer's Report - October 2023
5. Cash Flow - October 2023
6. Cafeteria Report - October 2023

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

4. Payment of Bills

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

1. General Account list of bills for November 2023 - \$349,689.68
2. Prepaids - October 2023 - \$215,376.50

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

5. Superintendent's Comments – Mr. Long noted that if you have never experienced our Veterans' Day Program at Northwest, you should attend next year. It is a phenomenal program. Thanksgiving dinners are coming up at all of the buildings, so if you have an opportunity, Mr. Long would be happy to meet you at the school. Mr. Long reported that Mr. Amos started as the elementary principal, and is doing a great job! Mr. Long also reported that Mr. Lukachinsky is here this evening, and will be officially starting on November 26, 2023. Mr. Long noted that he will be happy to have a full administrative team again. Mr. Long reminded everyone that snow is coming and he will be putting an app out this week of where to look for delays and cancellations. Lastly, next Wednesday, November 22, 2023 is a half Act 80 Day.

6. Administrative Reports – Mrs. Kratz reported that the Special Education Department is busy getting ready for PASA, audit preparations, and concluding meetings for the first marking periods. Mr. Miner thanked Mr. Malacari and Mrs. Lukowski for the organization of the annual Veterans' Day Program. Our older AP students presented to our elementary school students. Mr. Miner received a phone call from the Post Commander at the VFW which said that the veterans felt respected, and are anxious to come back next year, with more people. Mr. Glahn had Attorney Al Flora in his classroom as a guest speaker. Attorney Flora was a chief public defender in the George Banks case in front of the Supreme Court. This was a great learning experience for the students. The Aevium Club is still active. They were at Wyoming Valley West for the Green Bracelet Project for recognizing student leaders who could provide a safe atmosphere for students with mental health issues. Lastly, Mr. Miner thanked Mr. Shoemaker and his staff for getting doors set up with alarms, so that they can not be propped open.

7. Policy/Procedures -

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

- a. Approved 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 Dr. Yarnell for the following:

- a. Appointed Andrew Hanadel as a Huntington Creek Recovery Center Tutor for the 2023-24 school year.
- b. Accepted, with regret, the retirement of Lynn Sutliff, full time Pre-K Paraprofessional, effective January 2, 2024.

- c. Accepted the interim approval to post and advertise for a full time Paraprofessional for Pre-K.
- d. Accepted the interim approval to post for a Social Studies Chairperson.
- e. Appointed Bryan Glahn as the interim Social Studies Chairperson for the 2023-24 school year.
- f. Approved Vito Malacari as Interim Athletic Director for the 2023-24 school year, effective November 8, 2023, with prorated salary, per the Northwest Area Extra Curricular Salary Schedule.
- g. Approved for Maria Hoeffner to attend the 2024 PDE Data Summit, March 11-13, 2024, at an approximate cost of \$800.
- h. Appointed Deidre Jo Gommer as a part time cafeteria employee, effective with the receipt of required paperwork.
- i. Appointed Jaxson Yapple as a part time Computer Technician, effective November 16, 2023, as per the Northwest Area Educational Support Personnel Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- j. Appointed Melissa Allard as the part time Non Instructional Aide, effective with the receipt of required paperwork, as per the Northwest Area Educational Support Personnel Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Upon roll call vote, all present voted yes, with the exception of Mr. Beleski who voted no to item f., motion passes.

9. Finance – No Report

10. Buildings & Grounds/Safety

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

- a. Appointed Matthew Lukachinsky as the Act 44 Coordinator, effective November 28, 2023 for the 2023-24 school year.

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

11. Education/Curriculum – No Report

12. Co-Curricular –

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

- a. Appointed Greg Mullins as a Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach for the 2023-24 school year/season, pending required clearances, at no cost to the district.
- b. Approved a cooperative sports agreement with the Benton Area School District for varsity girls wrestling at no cost to the district.
- c. Appointed Heath Hines as an Assistant Track and Field Coach for the 2023-24 school year/season. (\$3,800)
- d. TABLED: Recommend and move to appoint the following Junior High Boys Basketball Coaches for the 2023-24 school year, pending required clearances: (\$4,400)
  1. Scott Miner (\$2,700)
  2. Ted Sadowski (\$1,700)
- e. TABLED: Recommend and move to appoint the following Volunteer Boys Basketball Coaches for the 2023-24 school year/season pending required clearances:
  1. Taylor Yapple
  2. Charleigh Miner

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 Mrs. Biller for the following:

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

1. Shannon Mizikowski - IU Guest Teacher
2. Stefany Lyall - IU Guest Teacher
3. Jacqueline Hettes - Substitute Teacher
4. Meghan Morris- Substitute Teacher
5. Alma Czarnecki - IU Guest Teacher

6. Evan Judge - 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 - No Report
18. I.U. Update - Mr. Long noted that Mr. Lanza will be installed as President of the IU Board.
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 Mrs. Biller, and unanimously by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pete Lanza, Board Secretary