

**Northwest Area School District  
School Board Meeting  
November 17, 2021**

The Northwest Area Board of Education held its regular meeting on November 17, 2021 in the auditorium of the Middle/High School. Mr. Bonczewski, School Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

The following members were present during the meeting: Mr. Benson, Mr. LeValley, Mrs. Biller, Dr. Brunn, Dr. Yarnell, Mr. Bonczewski, and Mr. Beleski. Mr. Long, School Solicitor, Angela Evans, Mr. Miner, Mr. Mills, Mrs. Kratz, and Ms. Hurst were also present.

Mr. Bonczewski reported that there was an Executive Session held from 6:00PM-7:00PM to discuss contract issues and legal matters.

1. Approve of Minutes

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

a. Regular School Board Meeting/Executive Session - September 29, 2021

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

2. Comments: No Comments

3. Reports

Dr. Yarnell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Biller to approve the reports.

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

4. Payment of Bills

Dr. Yarnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benson to approve the payment of the following bills

a. General Account list of prepaid for October 2021 - \$561,530.89

b. General Account list of bills for November 2021 - \$524,917.81

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

5. Superintendent's Comments – Mr. Long congratulated Mr. Lanza, Mrs. Biller and Dr. Yarnell. for being elected to the board. Also, congratulations to Mr. Pierontoni who was elected as a new member of

the board. Mr. Long thanked Mr. Bonczewski for his work as a board member for six years, and noted that the district has improved in many ways under his leadership. Mr. Long reminded everyone that we still need to take precautions to keep our students, faculty and staff safe. Also, Mr. Long noted that he's received many calls regarding holiday events. Mr. Long has worked closely with elementary principal, Mr. Yarnell to plan activities for the children including musical and PTO events. When finalized, a schedule of events will be sent out. Any questions should be directed to the elementary offices. Mr. Long announced that for changes to the school schedule, please stay tuned to WNEP, WBRE, and the Northwest APP. The reorganization meeting will be held at 6:30PM, followed by the regular meeting at 7:00PM on December 1 in the Library. Our District Justice will be here to swear in new board members.

6. Administrative Reports – Mrs. Kratz was excited to share the news of the opening of the Life Skills Store, which is located in the cafeteria. Students are learning merchandise recognition, ordering, inventory, and purchasing. Mrs. Kratz noted that it's an amazing event and is the beginning of a transition activity. Mr. Miner introduced Mr. Barchik and his students who demonstrated the use of drones which have been a part of the STEM program. Mr. Miner thanked the board for their support in purchasing equipment for the STEM program. Mr. Mills noted that the fall sports season is over and winter sports will start on Friday. The Cooperative swimming program with Berwick is close to being finalized. Mr. Miner announced that the Northeast Pennsylvania Geological Society is in the process of digitizing the Northwest Area school yearbooks back back to 1942. Residents of the area will be able to go to the Historical Society to view the yearbooks. Mr. Miner also noted that the CEO Weinberg Food Bank is adding the Weekend Backpack Program, and more than eighty students are being fed through this program. Mr. Bonczewski asked if donations can be made to the program. Mr. Miner noted that donations can be made directly to CEO Weinberg and the information would be added to the Northwest App. Mr. Miner added that Northwest is one of the only districts whose students help with the monthly distribution of food. Mr. Bonczewski added that the program continues throughout the summer months. Mr. Bonczewski also noted that it's a tremendous giveback to the community, and thanked Mr. Miner for taking the lead with the program. Mrs. Kratz added that the Life Skills program uses profits from their store to purchase items for the Backpack Program. Life Skills inventories the items, orders items, packings, Dr. Yarnell asked if there's a place on the website for listing volunteer opportunities. Mr. Miner agreed.

7. Policy/Procedures No Report.

8. Personnel

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

- a. Approved the transfer of Cecelia Stritzinger from Secretary/Receptionist to Accounts Payable.
- b. Approved to post and advertise for a Secretary/Receptionist.
- c. Appointed the following employees as Huntington Creek Recovery Center Tutors for the 2021-22 school year:
  - a. Matthew Mills
  - b. Joseph Long
- d. TABLED THE MOTION TO appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as a part time Paraprofessional, effective with the receipt of required paperwork.
- e. Approved to post and advertise for Huntington Creek Recovery Tutors for the

- 2021-22 school year.
- f. Approved to post and advertise for Homebound Instructors for the 2021-22 school year.
  - g. Appointed the following Homebound Instructors for the 2021-22 school year:
    - a. Ryan Miner
    - b. Matthew Mills
  - h. Approved to post and advertise for a Long Term Day to Day English Substitute Teacher for the 2021-22 school year.
  - I. Appointed Jillian Cienciva as a Business Computer Information Technology Teacher, effective with the receipt of required paperwork.
  - j. TABLED THE MOTION to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as a Long Term Elementary Special Education Substitute, effective with the receipt of required paperwork.

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

9. Finance – No Report

10. Buildings & Grounds/Safety - No Report

11. Education/Curriculum –

Mr. Benson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Yarnell to approve the following:

- a. Approved the trip to Florida for the Class of 2022.

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

12. Co-Curricular –

Mr. LeValley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beleski to approve to approve the following:

- a. Appointed the following Track and Field Coaches for the 2021-22 school year/season:

- a. Gareth Henderson - JH \$3,800
- b. Sam Definnis- Varsity \$3,800
- c. Roy Phillips- Varsity \$3,800
- d. Andy Hanadel- Varsity \$3,800
- e. Gary Mclendon- volunteer
- f. Maddie Mclendon- volunteer
- g. Caleb Fritz - volunteer

- b. Approved to appoint Joseph Zelinske as the Head Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2021-22

school year/season.

- c. Approved to post for the following Coaches for the 2021-22 school year:
  - a. Varsity Assistant Baseball (1 \* \$3,800 = \$3,800)
  - b. Junior High Baseball (1 \* \$3,800 = \$3,800)

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

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

Mr. Benson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Yarnell to approve the following:

- a. Approved the interim action to appoint the following substitutes for the 2021-22 school year:
  - a. Tracie Noss - Custodial/Maintenance
  - b. Virginia Bonomo - Teacher
  - c. Rico Amasarai - Cafeteria

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

- 15. Tabled Items:
- 16. Legislative –Mr. Bonczewski noted that the mask mandate is scheduled to be lifted on December 4, 2021
- 17. West Side CTC - Mr. Benson reported that a new security group was added. The new group is more aggressive than the previous.
- 18. LIU Update - No Report.
- 19. New Business – No New Business
- 20. Solicitor's Report – No Report
- 21. Comments - Mrs. Barchik introduced herself as a retired teacher from Northwest Area. She advocated for the hiring of an art teacher for grades K-6. Mrs. Barchik discussed the benefits of art education in elementary schools.  
On his last day as school board president, Mr. Bonczewski thanked Mr. Beleski, Mr. Benson, and Mr. LeValley for working together on the board for six years. Bonczewski added that the other board members should go to those members for help. Mr. Bonczewski thanked the administration, Attorney Evans, Mr. Long, faculty and staff for everything they do for the district. Bonczewski mentioned the following accomplishments over the past six years: Technology in the classrooms, with each child having a chrome book, STEM program starting to come into place, test scores are coming up, new lights, ceilings, lockers, lunch tables. The district has gone through a fire and a pandemic, but has continued to make Northwest a great place for children to learn. The work that is put in by administrators, teachers and support staff is endless. Northwest is a gem, and we do what's best for the kids. Mr. Beleski noted that Bonczewski is a man of good knowledge, and he learned a lot from him.
- 22. Adjourn – Mrs. Biller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benson, and unanimously by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pete Lanza, Board Secretary