

**Northwest Area School District
School Board Meeting
September 20, 2023**

The Northwest Area Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on September 20, 2023 in the library 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, Mr. Beleski, Mrs. Biller, Dr. Brunn, Mr. Sutliff, and Mr. Lanza. Attorney Angela Evans, Mr. Long, Mr. Miner, Mr. Mills, Mrs. Kratz, 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, safety, and litigation.

1. Approve of Minutes

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

- a. Regular School Board Meeting/Executive Session -August 23, 2023
- b. Special School Board Meeting - September 14, 2023

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

2. Comments: No Comments.

3. Reports

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

- a. Treasurer's Report - August 2023
- b. Cash Flow - August 2023
- c. Cafeteria - August 2023

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 September 2023 - \$301,237.22
- b. Prepays - August 2023 - \$369,635.40

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

5. Superintendent's Comments –

Informational Item: The Northwest Area School District has been awarded a grant of \$1,000 in continued support of the United Way of Wyoming Valley's Nurses's Pantry.

Mr. Long recognized and presented a certificate from PSBA to Mr. Beleski for serving eight years on the Northwest Area Board of Directors, and Mr. Lanza for serving sixteen years.

Mr. Long thanked faculty, staff, administrators, students, parents, emergency personnel, transportation contractors, and drivers for the recent situation with the bomb threat and dismissal. Mr. Long noted that it went very well, and the plan was effective. Administrators are reviewing the situation, and looking for ways to make our plan even more effective. Mr. Long reported that students in all grades did well during this difficult situation. Secondly, Mr. Long publicly thanked Secretary of Transportation, Mike Carroll for doing a great job for the Northwest community by expediting the completion of a local bridge. The bridge at Muhlenberg Corners was not scheduled to be completed until the end of October, but due to the bussing issues, that was too long of a wait. Mr. Carroll was able to have the bridge open for traffic on September 14, 2023.

6. Administrative Reports –Members of the Senior Class of 2024 presented their proposal for a class trip to Sky Lake in Windsor, New York.

Acting Special Education Director, Mrs. Kratz reported that the school year is off to a good start. The Special Education Audit has been moved to March of 2024, instead of November 2023.

Athletic Director/Assistant Secondary Principal, Mr. Mills reported that it has been difficult to schedule sports games due to the unavailability of transportation, officials, and other schools having full schedules. Mr. Benson commented that it is a good idea to have the Homecoming parade scheduled for a later time due to practice schedules. High school principal, Mr. Miner announced the following upcoming events at Northwest Area: October 3, 2023 - National Honor Society, and October 10, 2023 - Presentation on Social Media Safety and Sextortion by Victims' Resource Center for parents - time to be announced. Mr. Miner thanked Mr. Mills for his partnership and all that he has done for the district, and wished him the best of luck in his new position at Millville School District.

7. Policy/Procedures -

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

- a. Approved the MOU with the Commission on Economic Opportunity which operates the Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank for the 2023-24 school year.

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. Appointed Desiree Morris as a Northwest Virtual Academy Monitor for the 2023-24 school year.
- b. Approved the FMLA request of Employee # 5654, effective on an intermittent basis between August 31, 2023 and February 29, 2024.
- c. Approved the FMLA request of Employee # 9385, effective August 10, 2023 through November 10, 2023.
- d. Approved the FMLA request of Employee # 5931, effective on an intermittent basis between August 31, 2023 and February 29, 2024.
- e. Approved the resignation of Mary Herbert as mentor to Madison Goodrich, Elementary Life Skills Teacher.
- f. Appointed Mark Masakowski as Mentor to Madison Goodrich, Elementary Life Skills Teacher, for the 2023-24 school year.
- g. Appointed Mark Masakowski as Mentor to Shannon Mizikoski for the first half of the 2023-24 school year.
- h. Appointed Atchley Stackhouse as mentor to Ashley Cragle, high school Art Teacher for the 2023-24 school year.
- i. Appointed Zachary Lukashefski as mentor to Leah Kubasek, long term Chemistry Substitute Teacher for the first half of the 2023-24 school year.
- j. Approved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Marie Adams, part time cafeteria employee, effective immediately.
- k. Approved to post and advertise for a part time cafeteria employee.
- l. Approved to post and advertise for an anticipated long term, day to day substitute teacher for Social Studies/English.
- m. Approved to post for a mentor to Hannah Stepanski, Speech Pathologist, for the 2023-24 school year.
- n. Appointed Connie Johnson for the Accounts Payable position.
- o. Accepted the resignation of Grace McMurtrie as a part time cafeteria employee, effective August 24, 2023.

Upon roll call vote, all present voted yes, with the exception of Dr. Brunn who voted no on item n., motion passes.

9. Finance –

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

- a. Approved the agreement with the Luzerne Intermediate Unit for Partial Hospitalization Therapeutic services for the 2023-24 school year.
- b. Approved the agreement with Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, Inc. for prevention/education services for the 2023-24 school year, at a cost of \$3,000.
- c. Approved the agreement with Graham Academy for the 2023-24 school year.
- d. Approved the the Music Therapy Services Agreement with Back Mountain Music for the 2023-24 school year at a cost of \$100 for each Music Therapy Session of forty five minutes, and fifteen minutes parent or school consultation time.
- e. Approved the Dental Agreement with Geisinger for the 2023-24 school year.
- f. Approved the following 2022 Fairmount Township Real Estate Refunds:
 1. \$426.60
 2. \$111.24
- g. Approved the settlement agreement and release between the Northwest Area School District and student number 920085.
- h. Approved the request of Joseph F. Long Jr. to attend the Accelerated Learning Superintendent Workshop in Gettysburg, PA October 18-20, 2023, at no cost to the district.

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

10. Buildings & Grounds/Safety - No Report

11. Education/Curriculum –

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

- a. Approved the class trip to Sky Lake in Windsor, NY for the 2024 seniors.

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 James Martin as an Assistant Cross Country Coach for the 2023-24 school year/season. (\$2,500)
- b. Appointed the following Baseball Coaches for the 2023-24 school year/season, pending required paperwork: (1 Varsity Assistant @ \$3,800 and 1 Junior High @ \$3,800)

1. Joe Riley - \$2,200.00
 2. Paul Voyton - \$2,200.00
 3. Adam Mason - \$2,200.00 - Junior High
 4. Tom Ide - \$1,000.00
 5. Joe Bednarek - Volunteer
- c. Approved to amend motion 12c. from the August 2023 board meeting to the following:
“Approved to post for Assistant Junior High Coaches for the following sports for the 2023-24 school year/season:
1. Baseball - (1 @ \$3,800)
 2. Softball - (1 @ \$3,800)
 3. Track and Field - (1 @\$3,800)
- d. Appointed the following Softball Coaches for the 2023 school year/season:
1. Derek Miller- \$2,300
 2. Kyle Purdy - \$1,500
 3. Bruce Baker- \$2,800 - Junior High
 4. Lou Legiros- \$1,000
- e. Appointed the following Track and Field Coaches for the 2023-24 school year/season: (3 Assistants * \$3,800 and 1 Junior High Coach * \$3,800)
1. Andrew Hanadel - Junior High \$3,800
 2. Roy Phillips - \$3,800
 3. Gareth Henderson - \$3,800
 4. Samuel DeFinnis - Volunteer

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

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

13. Transportation: No Report.
14. Additions to the Substitute List - No Report.
15. Tabled Items - No Tabled Items
16. Legislative – No Report.
17. West Side CTC - Mr. Benson reported that at the last meeting there was a presentation for the freshmen class.
18. LIU Update - No meeting in September 2023.
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 Mr. Sutliff, and unanimously by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pete Lanza, Board Secretary