

**Northwest Area School District
School Board Meeting
September 29, 2021**

The Northwest Area Board of Education held its regular meeting on September 29, 2021 in the auditorium of the Middle/High School. Mr. Bonczewski, School Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

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

Mr. Bonczewski reported that there was an Executive Session held from 6:00PM-6:30PM to discuss personnel and contract issues.

1. Approve of Minutes

Mr. Lanza made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Biller to accept the minutes of the following previous meetings:

- a. Regular School Board Meeting/Executive Session - August 25, 2021
- b. Special School Board Meeting for hiring/Executive Session - September 23, 2021

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

2. Comments: A visitor to the meeting asked about names not being included on the public's agenda and attachments not included. Mr. Bonczewski stated that all names would be read aloud. Attorney Evans stated that if there is a specific attachment in which she would like to see, that she could request it. Becky Piestrak asked for an explanation of the MOU, item (g) under Personnel. Mr. Bonczewski explained that it is an agreement from two years ago in which certain certifications would allow employees in the bargaining unit a pay raise. Mrs. Piestrak noted that it would be helpful to have copies of attachments from the agenda. Attorney Evans noted that we could talk about that moving forward.

3. Reports

Mr. Lanza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benson to approve the reports.

Upon voice vote, all present voted yes, motion passes

4. Payment of Bills

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

- a. General Account list of prepaid for August 2021 - \$762,838.96
- b. General Account list of bills for September 2021 - \$587,921.79

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

5. Superintendent's Comments – Mr. Long announced that he worked with Talon to revise the Radiological Plan for 2021-22. Assignments of busses have been added to the plan. Mr. Long added that the district is in need of substitute teachers. Anyone having a four year degree can work with the IU in the Guest Teacher Program. Mr. Long also announced that the administrative team is working on the Comprehensive Plan which will be on the website upon completion.

6. Administrative Reports – Ms. Kratz reported that Special Education is utilizing the therapy suite OT, PT, and speech. Also, Ms. Kratz noted that new students are moving into the district across all grade levels. Mr. Miner reported that the first marking period is almost halfway through. Mr. Miner invited the board and public to The National Honor Society Induction will be held on October 18 at 7:00PM. Mr. Miner also noted that PSSA and Keystone data has been released. Lastly, Mr. Miner reported that we will keep students updated on the Act 158 graduation requirements for this year's junior class. Homecoming events will begin tomorrow with a bonfire at 6:00PM and then festivities will be held on Friday evening, beginning at 6:30 PM.

7. Policy/Procedures No Report.

8. Personnel

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

- a. Approved the interim action to post for a Mentor for Special Education Teacher, Sierra Sutliff for the 2021-22 school year.
- b. Appointed Taylor Stair as the Mentor for Special Education Teacher, Sierra Sutliff for the 2021-22 school year.
- c. Appointed Cecelia Stritzinger as the Secretary/Receptionist as per terms of the Support Staff CBA, effective with submission of required paperwork.
- d. Appointed Chelsea Mahle as Jumpstart Facilitator for the 2021-22 school year.
- e. Appointed the following Northwest Virtual Academy Monitors for the 2021-22 school year:
 - a. Desiree Morris
 - b. Diana Antolik
 - c. Taylor Stair
- f. Appointed Desiree Morris as a Northwest Virtual Academy Tutor for the 2021-22 school year.
- g. Approved the MOU with the Northwest Area Educational Support Staff Association regarding Article 12, Section A: Wages and Hours #2 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- h. Approved the interim action to post and advertise for a full time

Custodial/Maintenance employee.

- i. Appointed Vito Malacari as a mentor to Matthew Meade, Elementary Physical Education Teacher.

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

9. Finance –

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

- a. Approved the Union Township real estate refund in the amount of \$195.16 due to an abatement.
- b. Approved the contract between Tom Adams and the Northwest Area School District for nursing services at a rate of \$26 per hour for the 2021-22 school year.

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

10. Buildings & Grounds/Safety

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

- a. Approved the revisions to the Radiological Plan for the 2021-22 school year.

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

11. Education/Curriculum –No Report

12. Co-Curricular –

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

- a. TABLED the motion to appoint Lon Hazlet as the Head Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2021-22 school year/season.
- b. TABLED the motion to appoint Kevin Harvey as the Head Varsity Softball Coach for the 2021-22 school year/season.
- c. TABLED the motion to appoint Todd Culver as the Head Varsity Track and Field Coach for the 2021-22 school year/season.
- d. TABLED the motion 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)
 - c. Varsity Assistant Softball (1 * \$3,800 = \$3,800)
 - d. Junior High Softball (1 * \$3,800 = \$3,800)
 - e. Varsity Assistant Track and Field (3 * \$3,800 = \$11,400)
 - f. Junior High Track and Field (1 * \$3,800 = \$3,800)

Upon voice vote, all present voted yes to TABLE all Co-Curricular motions. Motion passes.

13. Transportation – It was noted that the Transportation Committee Meeting was postponed and will be rescheduled.
14. Additions to the Substitute List –
Mr. Benson made a motion, seconded by Mr. LeValley to approve the following:
 - a. Appointed the following substitutes pending required paperwork:
 - a. Heath Hines - IU Guest Substitute Teacher
 - b. Heather Marcalus - IU Guest Substitute Teacher

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

15. Tabled Items:

Mr. LeValley made a motion, Seconded by Mr. Benson to approve the following:

- a. Approved the revised job description for the following positions:
 - a. High School Secretary/Receptionist
 - b. Secretary to the Assistant Principal

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

16. Legislative –Mr. Bonczewski noted that there are many items going through Harrisburg right now, including masking issues. Bonczewski cautioned everyone to wait until they go through the House and Senate and then the governor’s desk.

17. West Side CTC - Mr. Benson noted that there was a meeting on Monday regarding retirement for a staff member and an MOU regarding support staff and substitute calling.

18. LIU Update - Mr. Lanza noted that the new building opened and there will be a meeting held there next Wednesday.

19. New Business – No New Business

20. Solicitor’s Report – No Report

21. Comments - Dr. Brunn presented his views regarding COVID as a member of society, not board member. Following Dr. Brunn’s presentation, Mr. Bonczewski commented that back in August we (the school board) voted for parent choice regarding masking, but the recommendations and guidance moved us to where we are now, requiring everyone to wear a mask. Upon questioning from a member of the community regarding medical documentation, Attorney Evans commented that there would not be a legal debate at the meeting, and that the district follows guidance from PDE, DOH, and guidance from a legal perspective. Attorney Evans clarified that if you have a mask exception that you are requesting, there is a release that needs to be signed so that the district can communicate with a medical professional. Additionally, a parent/community member read The Americans with Disabilities Act. Several community members continued to comment on mask wearing situations. A member of the Lake Lehman community, Jamie Walsh spoke about his choice to hire an attorney due to his belief that there is no justification for students to be mandated to wear masks or be contact traced based on the high survival rates of Covid.

Walsh noted that on October 12 at 7:00PM there will be a community event with Attorney Eric Winter who is an expert on this topic. Lastly, Mr. Long reassured a parent who questioned mask breaks that faculty would be reminded to have breaks.

22. Adjourn – Mr. Benson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Benson, and unanimously by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pete Lanza, Board Secretary