



Whitmore Lake Public Schools
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Organizational/Regular Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2021 – Virtual per E.O. under MCL333.2253 – 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Meadows (*President*); *Green Oak Township*, Michelle Kritzman (*Vice President*); *Northfield Township*, Laura Schwennesen (*Treasurer*); *Northfield Township*, Lisa McCully (*Secretary*); *Northfield Township*, Lee Cole (*Trustee*) left at 8:30 p.m.; *Northfield Township*, Bob Henry (*Trustee*); *Green Oak Township*, and Frank Zolenski (*Trustee*); *Green Oak Township*

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Superintendent, Tom DeKeyser, Director of Finance & Operations, Denise Kerrigan, MS/HS Principal, Jill Henry, Elementary Lead Teacher and Literacy Coach, Heidi Roy-Borland, High School Dean of Students, Linda Lupi, Director of Student Services, Melissa Heuker, Community Relations & Recreation Director, Maria Carter-Ewald, and Athletic Director, Brad McCormack

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff, parents and members of the community

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:02 p.m. by Trustee Laura Schwennesen. She also noted members are attending the meeting remotely from Northfield or Green Oak Township.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by Mr. Meadows; supported by Mr. Henry.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Trustee Schwennesen, called for nominations for the position of President for the 2021 calendar year.

Mrs. Schwennesen nominated John Meadows for President of the Board; then inquired if there were any additional nominations for President.

Motion to close nominations and cast a vote for the nomination of John Meadows as President of the Board through December 2021 was made by Mrs. Schwennesen; supported by Mrs. Kritzman

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

Motion to nominate Michelle Kritzman as Vice President of the Board through December 2021 was made by Mrs. Schwennesen; supported by Mr. Henry.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

Motion to nominate Lisa McCully as Secretary of the Board through December 2021 was made by Mrs. Kritzman; supported by Mr. Meadows.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

Motion to nominate Laura Schwennesen as Treasurer of the Board through December 2021 was made by Mrs. Kritzman; supported by Mr. Meadows.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council Representative, Jacob Medina, was not able to attend. Superintendent DeKeyser shared members are active and planning modifications to the traditional winter festivities.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2020 Board of Education Special Meeting, the December 14, 2020 Board of Education Regular Meeting and the December 14, 2020 closed sessions was made by Mrs. McCully; supported by Mr. Cole.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

Motion to approve fund transfer of \$289,580 in payments from Accounts Payable; further to approve the transfer of \$432,470 from Accounts Payable to cover the payrolls of December 15, 2020, and December 31, 2020 made by Mrs. McCully; supported by Mr. Cole

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

Reaffirm Instructional Delivery

Motion to approve the January Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Reconfirmation Report was made by Mr. Meadows; supported by Mrs. Kritzman.

Superintendent DeKeyser updated the Board, sharing student engagement levels were in the mid-nineties during December. He also shared WLPS will continue to follow the original plan and offer in-person instruction for all students and parents who selected the option.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

NEW BUSINESS

2022 New York City Trip Proposal

Motion to approve the 7th – 12th grade band, choir, and drama students' overnight trip proposal to New York City for 4 days, beginning April 28, 2022, submitted by High School Music Director Elisa Fixler was made by Mr. Henry; supported by Mrs. Schwennesen.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

Financial Report

Director of Finance & Operations, Denise Kerrigan, updated the Board with information regarding the December 31, 2020 financial report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent DeKeyser shared the following:

- 1) Winter Athletics – Athletic Director, Brad McCormack updated Board members on dates and requirements outlined by MHSAA for winter sports. He also shared the bowling and swimming teams have resumed practice, while the contact sports cannot resume until February 1, 2021. Contact sports; basketball, cheer, wrestling, and ice-hockey are restricted and must adhere to no contact, wear masks at all times, and maintain 6 feet of social distancing during practice.
- 2) Staff Development – Building Administrators have been engaging with math teachers on a revision to the math curriculum, sharing the focus has been in grades five through eight and with products to align with high school math. He also shared they will be submitting ideas to Board Committees for review.
- 3) Recognized and thanked Board members for their service to WLPS and the community, and welcomed Frank Zolenski as the newest Board member. He also shared a plaque that will be presented to past board member Ken Dignan, on behalf of WLPS and the School Board.
- 4) COVID-19 vaccination – information received from WCHD regarding rollout plans for phase 1(a), high risk employees, 1(b)(a) employees over fifty years of age, and 1(b)(b) employees under fifty years of age. Hope to begin vaccination for phase 1(a) employees at the end of January 2021.
- 5) LCA – five year contract ends June 2021. The process for another contract has begun. LCA is interested in another five year contract. Would like to present new contract to the Board in February and a lease agreement in March.

- 6) Building Trades School – A Board has been selected, changing their name to “Building Trades High School” with grades 9th through 12th.
- 7) WLPS Mid-Winter Break Friday, February 12, 2021 – Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Planning to promote remote learning for the remainder of the week or adding professional development for staff to protect our students and staff.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Board acknowledged the items of other information. They also thanked the Transportation Department for all their hard work and for achieving another 100% pass rate for School Bus Safety Inspection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Theater, unless an Executive Order requires the meeting to be held virtually.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Cole shared he recently attended a Northfield Township Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting. He also shared they are expecting to receive a grant to provide a 20' X 40' area workout station for the community.

Mrs. Kritzman announced how grateful she is to see students are back in school for in-person instruction.

Mr. Zolenski thanked everyone for their support on the Board and shared he is looking forward to serving on the Board and the community.

Mr. Meadows thanked Mrs. Schwennesen for the nomination as Board President for 2021. On behalf of all the members of the Board he also thanked her for her years serving as President of the Board.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn into closed session meeting at 7:58 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations was made by Mrs. McCully; supported by Mr. Cole. Roll call vote: Mrs. Kritzman – yes, Mrs. McCully – yes, Mr. Meadows – yes, Mrs. Schwennesen – yes, Mr. Zolenski – yes, Mr. Cole – yes, Mr. Henry - yes. Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

Call to Order

Open session call to order at 8:30 p.m. by President John Meadows

Office Personnel Negotiations

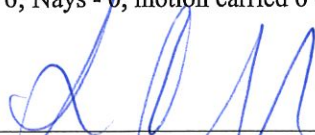
Motion to approve the ratification of the contract agreement between Whitmore Lake Public Schools and the Office Personnel Association, MEA/NEA for the time period beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023 with an effective date of January 1, 2021 was made by Mr. Meadows; supported by Mrs. Schwennesen. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 6; Nays – 0, motion carried

Administration Contract

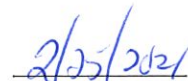
Motion to approve the contract of the Superintendent, Tom DeKeyser with compensation for additional administrative positions noted therein, dated January 18, 2021 and to extend contract to June 30, 2023 was made by Mrs. Schwennesen; supported by Mrs. Kritzman. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 6; Nays – 0, motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Organizational-Regular Meeting at 8:33 p.m. made by Mr. Henry; supported by Mr. Zolenski. Ayes - 6; Nays - 0, motion carried 6 - 0.



Lisa C. McCully, Secretary, Board of Education
Whitmore Lake Public Schools



Date