

WESTFIELD ACADEMY AND CENTRAL SCHOOL

WESTFIELD, NEW YORK 14787

Regular Business Meeting
Board of Education
LGI – 7:00 PM

Minutes
February 8, 2021

Members Present: Steve Cockram (Zoom) Wendy Dymant
Barbara Fay Phyllis Hagen
Deanne Manzella Kimberly Maras
Tom Tarpley

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Michael Cipolla (Zoom), Dennis Corsaro (Zoom), Dr. Mary Rockey (Zoom), Corey Markham (Zoom), Molly Anderson (Zoom), David Prenatt (Zoom), Joan Caruso (Zoom), Tracy Bennett (Zoom), Linda Dunn (Zoom), George Holt (Zoom), Jennifer Johnson (Zoom), Barb Kittle (Zoom), Mara Rubin (Zoom), Steve Rudnicki (Zoom), Sue Scriven (Zoom), Hyla Stellhorn (Zoom), Megan Hegna (Zoom), Karin Cockram (Zoom), Jacob Alonge (Zoom), Josh Brumagin (Zoom), Tina Winslow (Zoom), Lauren Ryan (Zoom)

Board President Wendy Dymant called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 7:00 pm, led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3.0 Presentations

3.1 Patterson Library Presentation – Joan Caruso

Mrs. Caruso, President of the Patterson Library Board of Trustees answered questions and misgivings regarding the WACS contribution of \$11,000 yearly to the Patterson Library.

The Patterson Library has recently hired a new director and she will be starting in the near future. Mrs. Caruso advised the District made a formalized connection by issuing a contribution to the library in 1932. The contribution was increased to \$11,000 in 1972 and has remained the same since. Mrs. Caruso stated the library has been extremely responsible with their financial spending and does not have the intention to ask for more monies.

In 2019, the library's budget was \$319,000. The library relies on three basic revenue sources. A third of the budget comes from donations from the village (\$39,500), the town (\$47,000), and the school (\$11,000). Another third of the budget is from endowment contributions and the final third is from fundraising. The village recently increased their contribution in 2021 to \$40,000.

Mrs. Caruso outlined a few of the benefits of the library. She stated there are many benefits to having a local library. The Patterson Library offered 43 young adult sessions, 212 children's sessions, 18 children's summer reading program sessions, and 3 young adult summer sessions in 2020. The library reaches out to the school to register students for a library card. Students use the library resources for research projects. Music students have performed in our reading room for a different venue. School tutors meet at the library to tutor students who have been suspended or placed on home instruction. Students also volunteer at the

Call to Order

Presentations:

Patterson Library

library for their WAVE hours. This is only a fraction of services offered to students and the community of Westfield.

Mrs. Caruso advised the Board that if the District were to retract their contribution, the library would be forced to make programing cuts such as the summer reading program, eliminate a children's librarian, or the print book budget line. Recently, the library lost \$5,000 in endowment funds and will be looking for other funding sources to make up the loss.

Mr. Tarpley asked if a vote was held in the community regarding the contribution from the District to the library.

Mrs. Caruso advised that in previous school budget votes, the line item for the library contribution has been outlined in the budget proposal. Taxpayers do vote with that in mind. Mrs. Caruso did not know of a specific vote held for the contribution. Mrs. Caruso stated the library and district have both been audited and she cannot believe an auditor would not have caught it.

Mr. Tarpley stated he was not questioning the amount or what it is used for just if it has been voted on.

President Dymont voiced that if the library is receiving money from the village and town, she cannot imagine the contributions are done illegally.

Mrs. Kittle reviewed two types of funding. The library contribution from the District is a donation to the library. The NYSED 259 law requires a separate proposition vote and is not part of the school budget. The District would administer the vote during school budget vote. If the separate proposition were to pass, the District would then collect the monies from the taxpayers for the library.

Mr. Tarpley inquired about the library's charter. The library is listed as an Association, but Mr. Tarpley wanted to make sure it was not a Free Association or if that was the same thing and requirements of a donation verses NYS259 law.

Mrs. Hagen asked why it mattered.

Mr. Tarpley responded "In case a community member brings it up."

Mrs. Caruso advised if the library were looking at a NYS259 law, then the library would need to obtain 25 signatures to start the proposition and a separate vote. The library is not looking at obtaining this type of funding at this time. Mrs. Caruso stated the District is not legally bound to contribute to the library, but it is a donation or gift. She encourages all board members to visit the library and see the programs offered.

Mrs. Hagen stated the library is a gift to our community that she appreciates.

Mr. Tarpley thanked Mrs. Caruso for clarifying the monies donated to the library and giving an overview of library's programs and services. President Dymont stated the library is an essential resource for our community that provides lifelong learning. Schools cannot completely educate students without the support of the Patterson Library. It is a valuable resource to our community.

3.2 Budget Study Session I - General Support, Transportation, and Building and Grounds

Mr. Corsaro reviewed the General Support area of the proposed budget, which is based on numbers currently available. Mr. Corsaro stressed this is draft #1 of the budget and changes will be made and discussed as necessary. Mr. Corsaro and Mr. Cipolla will compare a few areas to previous years to decide if amounts need to be adjusted.

Mr. Brumagin reviewed the Building and Grounds portion of the budget. He highlighted equipment that needs to be replaced. There is an increase for Building Code Compliance, gym inspections, sealing of gym floors, and sealing of the parking lots that were repaired last year.

Mr. Alonge reviewed the Transportation portion of the budget. The budget includes replacement tools and a vehicle jack. In the future, the lift will need to be replaced as it leaks fluid and needs repairs. Mr. Alonge feels it would pass inspection this summer for the next school year. Mr. Alonge will review the budgeted fuel amount. Mr. Alonge advised vehicles are on a 10-year replacement program. He also is looking at trading-in the Chevy Impala for a vehicle that would be more versatile to the District, including all-wheel drive.

4.0 Information and Discussion Items:

4.1 Communications to the Board

- a. Letter from Senator Borrello
- b. School Budget/Board Member Election
Budget Public Hearing – May 10, 2021
Budget Vote – May 18, 2021
There will be three seats up for election.

4.2 Discussion Items – None

a. Music Reopening Letter

Mr. Cockram drafted a Music Reopening letter to be mailed to N.Y.S. elected officials. President Dymant thanked Mr. Cockram for his second well-crafted letter. Mr. Tarpley would like to see the letter published in the local papers and shared with local radio stations. The letter will also be shared with the E2CCB consortium for other districts to reference. BOE members discussed sharing the letter with SUNY Fredonia.

Moved by Phyllis Hagen and seconded by Thomas Tarpley that the Westfield Academy and Central School District Board of Education hereby approves the letter and mailing of letter to state officials. (The motion carried 7-0.)

5.0 Reports:

5.1 Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cipolla reviewed the graduation rate that was recently published on the State's website. Mr. Cipolla highlighted the District Goals and the cascading process to carry on the goals throughout the District.

Budget Study Session I

Information and Discussion Items

Letter from Senator

Borrello

School Budget/Board Member Election

Music Reopening Letter

Reports

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cipolla asked if Board members would like the Athletic survey released to community members at this time. He advised COVID-19 communications have slowed down and felt it would be acceptable to send it out in the near future. Board members agreed.

Mr. Cipolla advised the Maple Grove football program has inquired about joining WACS, Chautauqua Lake, and Brocton's football program to create a regional program. This would bump the class to B2, which would travel towards Erie County and could provide an increased opportunity for the Modified and J.V. programs. If the program were developed, then it would then be presented to Section 6 for approval for the 2021-22 school year. This is an inquiry for a 1-year opportunity at this time. Mr. Cipolla will update the Board as details are discussed. Mr. Cipolla stressed this is only at the inquiry stage of the process.

Mr. Tarpley asked Mr. Cipolla to have the District's Athletic Director reach out to Brocton and Chautauqua Lake's Athletic Directors as well.

5.2 Business Manager's Report

Mr. Corsaro advised he would be working with Mr. Cipolla and instructional leaders on the next budget presentation. Mr. Corsaro anticipates the 20% aid reduction will be given back to districts, but no timeframe has been given.

Business Manager's Report

5.3 High School/Middle School Principal's Report

Mr. Markham reviewed the student updates including Rotary Student for the month of January, student internships, and Guidance Office updates. He also shared the outcome of the We the People Competition. WACS placed 2nd in NYS and will be participating in the National Competition in April.

Mr. Markham reviewed the sports schedule and anticipated start dates. Wrestling has moved to Spring sports.

Mr. Markham also shared the building instruction numbers for 100% remote, 2-day in building, and 4-day in building instruction models.

HS/MS Principal's Report

5.4 Elementary Principal's Report

Dr. Rockey updated the Board regarding the traffic pattern switch on Meyer Drive. Today was the first day and overall it went well. The general flow of traffic was better as cars were not blocking route 20 during pick-up and drop-off of elementary students in the parent loop.

Elementary Principal's Report

5.5 Director of Curriculum's Report

Mrs. Anderson updated the Board on State Assessments. NYSED is looking at waivers for flexibility in ESSA accountability measures. There is nothing firm and public comments have been closed.

Mr. Tarpley asked for Mrs. Anderson's opinion on if the waiver should be granted. Mrs. Anderson advised that she doubts NYSED collected good data based upon different learning models across the state.

Director of Curriculum's Report

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Mrs. Anderson provided an update on the Panorama Surveys that were completed with students in grades 3-12 in November 2020. In the secondary school, many of the topics surveyed, including students' self-management, growth mindset, teacher-student relationships, school climate, sense of belonging, and valuing of school, had a higher percent favorable response than the national average. In the elementary school, in order to improve the social emotional learning (SEL), Second Step has been implemented in all classrooms, grades Pre-K through 5th grade this school year and will continue to be utilized throughout the school year.

Mrs. Anderson stated the teacher qualification and experience data is above the statewide average in all areas.

6.0 Consensus Items:

6.1 There was no request to withdraw a specific consensus item.

6.2 Moved by Phyllis Hagen and seconded by Thomas Tarpley, to approve the following consensus items: (The motion carried 7-0.)

a. Minutes of the Supplemental Business Meeting of January 25, 2021.

b. Financial Reports

1. Acceptance of the Extra Classroom Fund Report for November 30, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

2. Acceptance of the Treasurer's Reports ending for November 30, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

3. Acceptance of Payrolls:

Date	General	Cafeteria	Federal
12/2/20	\$25,427.53	\$386.50	\$262.18
12/16/20	\$355,528.28	\$5,406.80	\$4,000.61
1/4/21	\$359,989.34	\$6,107.70	\$4,000.61
1/13/2021	\$23,378.27	\$268.82	\$262.18

c. Acceptance of prior Claims Auditor Reports for Payrolls December 16, 2020, January 4, 2020, and January 13, 2021 and Warrants 0029, 0033, and 0035.

d. Acceptance of the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education dated January 21, 2021 through February 3, 2021.

7.0 Public Comment - None

8.0 Action Items

8.1 Old Business

Consensus Items

Withdraw of Consensus Item

Approval of Consensus Items

Approval of Minutes

Financial Reports

Acceptance of Extra Classroom Fund Report

Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports

Acceptance of Payrolls

Acceptance of Claims Auditor Reports

Acceptance of CSE/CPSE Report

Public Comment

Action Items
Old Business

8.2 New Business

- a. Moved by Phyllis Hagen and seconded by Thomas Tarpley that, upon the recommendation by the Superintendent, the Westfield Academy and Central School District Board of Education hereby approves the warrants 0029, 0033, and 0035 as presented. (The motion carried 6-1, Deanne Manzella opposed.)
- b. Moved by Phyllis Hagen and seconded by Thomas Tarpley that, upon the recommendation by the Superintendent, the Westfield Academy and Central School District Board of Education hereby declares the enclosed lists of library books and VHS tapes surplus and requests disposal of the items. (The motion carried 7-0.)
- c. Moved by Phyllis Hagen and seconded by Thomas Tarpley that, upon the recommendation by the Superintendent, the Westfield Academy and Central School District Board of Education hereby approves the Freshmen Class online fundraiser "Gift'n Things" through Creative Sales Company to run from March 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021. (The motion carried 7-0.)
- d. Personnel Items:
 1. Moved by Phyllis Hagen and seconded by Thomas Tarpley that, upon the recommendation by the Superintendent, the Westfield Academy and Central School District Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Melissa Zastrow as Modified Track Coach for the 2020-21 school year, effective February 9, 2021. (The motion carried 7-0.)
 2. Moved by Phyllis Hagen and seconded by Thomas Tarpley that, upon the recommendation by the Superintendent, the Westfield Academy and Central School District Board of Education hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement with the Westfield Teachers' Association regarding the extension of the contract currently in effect. (The motion carried 7-0.)
 3. Moved by Phyllis Hagen and seconded by Thomas Tarpley that, upon the recommendation by the Superintendent, the Westfield Academy and Central School District Board of Education hereby approves the extension of the Superintendent of Schools' contract as agreed upon between Westfield Academy and Central School District and the Superintendent of Schools. (The motion carried 7-0.)
 4. Moved by Phyllis Hagen and seconded by Thomas Tarpley that, upon the recommendation by the Superintendent, the Westfield Academy and Central School District Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Scott Cooper as the basketball shot clock operator for the 2020-21 school year and the modified boys' basketball coach for the winter

New Business

Approval of Warrants #0029, 0033, and 0035.

Disposal of Library Books and VHS Tapes as surplus

Approval of Freshman Fundraiser

Personnel Items:
Approval of Resignation of Melissa Zastrow, Modified Track Coach

Approval of MOA with WTA

Approval of Extension of the Superintendent of Schools' Contract

Approval of Resignation of Scott Cooper as Basketball Shot Clock Operator and Modified Boys' Basketball Coach

2021 season, effective January 28, 2021. (The motion carried 7-0.)

9.0 Board Member Commentary:

Mrs. Manzella is pleased to hear student internships are available. She feels that students can participate and develop good habits, skills, and it is helpful finding a job.

Mrs. Manzella is also proud of the District regarding We the People and the results of the competition. Congratulations to the team and thank you to the chaperones and organizers for taking care of our kids. Mrs. Hagen agreed with Mrs. Manzella's comments.

Mr. Tarpley highlighted President Biden's interview this past Sunday in regards to the closure of schools as a National emergency. Mr. Tarpley agrees with the President. However, he feels that WACS was not part of the emergency because the District was the first in the County to bring students back into the building. He is pleased with the efforts and leadership shown by the staff.

Mr. Cockram spoke regarding the We the People program. He feels it is amazing to see the kids' understanding of how our government works.

Mr. Cockram provided an update from the C.C.S.B.A. Legislature group. He stated the State thinks the fiscal doom and gloom is not as bad as originally projected.

Mr. Cockram stated it was good to have discussion with the Patterson Library and this might be the time to increase the District's donation.

Mrs. Maras thanked the Elementary for the little things that are being done with students.

10.0

Moved by Phyllis Hagen and seconded by Thomas Tarpley, to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:32 pm for discussing matters of negotiations and matters of leading to the employment of an individual. There is no anticipated business after Executive Session. (The motion carried 7-0.)

Moved by Phyllis Hagen and seconded by Thomas Tarpley, to return to Regular Session at 10:22 pm. (The motion carried 7-0.)

11.0

Moved by Phyllis Hagen and seconded by Thomas Tarpley, to adjourn the February 8, 2021 Westfield Board of Education meeting at 10:23 pm. (The motion carried 7-0.)

Board Member
Commentary

Recess into Executive
Session

Return to Regular
Session

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,



Lauren Ryan, Pro Tem