

**West Greene School District
1367 Hargus Creek Road
Waynesburg, PA 15370**

The West Greene School District Board of Education held their **regular meeting** on **Thursday, October 22, 2020**, at the West Greene Junior-Senior High School, 1352 Hargus Creek Road, Waynesburg, PA at 7:00 PM.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chad Scott, President and led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Jan Berdine – P
Daniele Frye – P
Rob Inmon – P

Joe Coss – A
Marie Gillispie – P
Mary Jane Kent – P

Ryan Crouse – P
Michael Hildreth – P
Chad Scott – P

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- **MOTION BY** Berdine, **SECOND BY** Gillispie, to approve the agenda.
VOTE: ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED.

NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

- October 8, 2020 Litigation

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **MOTION BY** Kent, **SECOND BY** Crouse, to approve the **September 24, 2020**, regular meeting minutes.
VOTE: ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED.

- **MOTION BY** Hildreth, **SECOND BY** Gillispie, to approve the **October 8, 2020**, Athletics, Building & Sites and Educational Planning committee meeting minutes.
VOTE: ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED.

BOARD ACTION TAKEN AT THE OCTOBER 8, 2020, COMMITTEE MEETINGS AS A MATTER OF RECORD

POLICY

- 1.) **MOTION BY** Berdine, **SECOND BY** Frye, to approve the revised COVID-19 Decision Tree as presented with the revision date of October 8, 2020.

VOTE: 7 YEA; 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT (Crouse, Hildreth)

MOTION CARRIED.

ATHLETICS

- 1.) **MOTION BY** Coss, **SECOND BY** Berdine, to approve holding the 2020 Homecoming Dance at the Jacktown Fairgrounds on October 24, 2020 between 6:00 PM and 10:00 PM.

VOTE: 7 YEA; 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT (Crouse, Hildreth)

MOTION CARRIED.

BUILDING & SITES

- 1.) **MOTION BY** Coss, **SECOND BY** Berdine, to authorize and direct Peacock Keller to file an appeal to the Commonwealth Court, of the September 28, 2020 Order of the Court of Common Pleas of Greene County, in the matter filed by Liokareas Construction Company Inc., at No. 813 A.D. 2014.

VOTE: 7 YEA; 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT (Crouse, Hildreth)

MOTION CARRIED.

REPORTS

Brian Jackson, Superintendent

Mr. Jackson reported that the construction project (STEM wing and District Office) is coming to a close. The chemistry room is awaiting overhead lamps. The District Office is almost complete. Mr. Jackson, Mr. McDermitt and Mr. Simms are doing a feasibility study for a gun range. A five year plan is getting put together for Capital Projects. The Greene County CTC hired a new Emergency Response Teacher, Dan Halliday.

Jessica Bissett, Business Manager

Total litigation cost at the end of September is \$633,000. The auditors are in the process of performing the local audit for the 2019-2020 fiscal year and should be wrapped up by the end of next week.

Eric Gaydos, Academic Director

Data from systems collections for PIMS is a lot cleaner. He presented a comparison analysis of the enrollment figures from October 1, 2019 and October 1, 2020. Low income enrollment has increased. LCD touch screen displays were purchased for the Elementary Center through grant monies. The U.S. Department of Education has denied Georgia the right to a waiver for accountability for standardized testing. Pennsylvania was going to apply for this waiver but has pulled their application. Keystone testing preparations are continuing and PSSA testing in the spring. The PA Future Ready Index profile is online. The old data was rolled over as there was no data to report from the spring of 2020. PSBA will interview several teachers and administrators to discuss the District's new renovation and program. Core curriculums are being analysed.

Jared Edgreen, School Police Officer

Mr. Edgreen worked with CCI to get a quote for a few new cameras in the Elementary Center to cover blind spots. He also worked on obtaining a quote to get camera coverage for the football field. Both projects will be covered with the \$30,000 PCCD grant. On October 2, he trained the remaining Special Education teachers in their recertification for Safety Care. This brings the total up to 15 staff members who are trained. The district-wide evacuation and emergency floor plans he created last month are being printed on vinyl media by Kayla Hildreth and Tim Barnes by using the new printer in the STEM wing. Each classroom will have a vinyl cling near each exit. The administration now has mobile access to the camera and gives the ability to monitor them from remote locations. He was invited to Mrs. Garlick's classroom to speak to the students about first aid kits, their importance, and how to stop traumatic bleeds. He thanked Mr. Rychtarsky for recommending a grant opportunity through the Highway Traffic Safety Network. The Prevention of Underage Drinking grant offers school police officers a breathalyzer for use in education of the students and possible probable cause incidents. The breathalyzer was received earlier in the week. He thanked Mrs. Ullom for her help on a grant through the Greene County Memorial Hospital Foundation that had a deadline of Tuesday this week. The grant was awarded to West Greene on Wednesday afternoon. The grant will pay for Emergency Evacuation Chairs. These chairs will aid non-ambulatory individuals in safe egress during an emergency situation. The district will be receiving three of these chairs, and they will be placed on the top floors, near stairwells. The fire drill went according to plan, and he will be providing support for the Homecoming Dance on Saturday at the Jacktown Fairgrounds.

Scott Sakai, Junior-Senior High School Principal

School might have been different in the spring, but some traditions still remain. Students weighed in and decided that they still needed to recognize the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year. Last year's teacher of the year is Mr. Timothy Barnes. Virtual financial aid night was held September 21. There have been several virtual college visits and college fairs available to the students, as well as NCAA webinars. Mrs. Cowden has been keeping the students informed via email, the school counseling website, school facebook page, and school website. The PSAT was administered on October 14 to all 10th grade students and any interested 11th grade students. The NOCTI pre-test was administered on Oct 17, to the student completers in the Animal, Food and Natural Resource class and the Ag-Mech class. Six students qualified to take the test. West Greene had a great night of football for the Homecoming and Senior night game. Thank you to Mr. Simms for making what could have been a gameless night into an incredible evening, after Monessen canceled and Brownsville stepped up to the challenge. All 19 Fall Senior athletes were recognized prior to the game and he congratulated the newly crowned Homecoming Queen, Alison Thomas. Some upcoming events: Mrs. Wilcox and the Junior class will be participating in the virtual "CHEMFEST 2020" in the auditorium. Mrs. Wilcox applied for a grant through the Carnegie Science Center to give the Juniors a virtual opportunity to experience science demonstrations and also hearing from major companies that incorporate chemistry in their daily businesses. Mrs. Wright and the Ag students have begun their annual fruit sale. The sale will run until November 18. Fall Harvest Day is scheduled for October 30. Mrs. Wright, Mr. Snyder and Ag students are working hard on preparing for the festival and following all COVID guidelines. The end of the marking period for the first quarter is scheduled for October 29, and report cards are being distributed on November 4.

Don Painter, Elementary Principal

With cold and dreary weather in the near future, Mr. Bissett will generate an Indoor Physical Education Plan for the elementary school. His plan includes activities that minimize close proximity activities, shared equipment and disinfecting of equipment between classes. Face coverings will be worn during gym with monitored face covering breaks permitted. Mr. Bissett will still attempt to get students outside when the weather allows. Cornerstone Care is looking for students who would be interested in doing a rap for their Smile 4 Life video this year. The Smile 4 Life program will be providing virtual lessons this year in place of their in person oral health program. Mr. Bruno has selected a few students to do the rap and Mr. Painter will share the video at the committee meeting in November. The 3rd annual "Braggin' Board" is up and ready for all of our elementary hunters to display pictures of their successful hunts this year. Any student in the elementary school who legally harvests any game this year is encouraged to bring in a picture no larger than 5 X 7 to be added to the wall.

Jim Elsenheimer, Director of Food Service

The cafeteria is running at 75 to 80 percent participation for school breakfast and lunch. The weekend food program will begin next week. The free lunch program will operate the entire school year. Once construction is completed, the Junior-Senior High School pantry will be up and running.

John McDermitt, Director of Facilities

The weight room has been turned over to the custodial staff this week from the STEM project. The team has cleaned the room, reinstalled lighting and flooring and has taken out the old grid work for the ceiling. Lighting was moved approximately two feet higher to keep it out of the way of the lifting equipment. The biology lab has been turned over for occupancy today. He is working on a plan for Mr. Jones so all of his materials can be placed back into his room so he will be able to use it as soon as possible. The chemistry room is still not complete. They are expected to arrive in the middle of next week. Fall preparation has begun for the varsity football field. This includes rolling, reseeding, and applications of fall weed and feed. Low spots have been filled in on the original football practice field and new seed has been put down. Early next week, preparation will begin for the Fall Harvest Festival. As soon as Mrs. Wright hands over the diagram, the custodial staff will set up the tables and deliver electricity for areas that need it. Room 508 (Professional Development center) work is still ongoing. Initial wiring and demolition for the project has been completed and is now in the painting stage of the project.

Bill Simms, Athletic Director

Fall Sports are winding down. Boys basketball has been holding open gyms, and the girls are eager to start as well. 7 & 8 Boys Basketball is set to start at the middle school level next week, the other winter sports' normal start date is November 20. 7 & 8 and Varsity Cheerleaders have performed admirably at the home events. They have worked hard to support our teams, and are looking forward to the winter months as well. 7&8 Softball had a very nice season, finishing the season with an 8-1-1 record. 7&8 Football is playing their final game of the season this evening at Waynesburg. Varsity Football is 3 and 3, and play their final regular season section game against Jefferson-Morgan. The football team received a forfeit win against Monessen, and defeated Brownsville on Senior and Homecoming night last week. All parties adhered to the face coverings and guideline. Varsity Cross Country has been running to prepare for the 2020 WPIAL Championships next week. They completed their regular season, running competitively in most meets. Varsity Volleyball is completing their regular season this evening at Jefferson-Morgan. The girls have qualified for the WPIAL playoffs for the first time in school history! All ticket pre-sale information will be placed on to the district website, social media sites and Booster groups. He congratulated the players and coaches. All schedules will be posted to www.bigteams.com We have met, and discussed a plan/format to have Little League organizations utilize West Greene's facilities. After sharing and discussing our plan with the School Board, a meeting with all Little League officers and coaches to disseminate this plan to them. Mackenzie Wise was named the Greenesports.net player of the week in volleyball, and Brayden Mooney and Elizabeth Brudnock were named as our Herald Standard fall sports athletes. He thanked Mr. McDermitt and his staff for prepping the game and practice fields. He gave a special "thank you" to all of the event workers. He stated that there are a great group of people that assist with making things go smoothly. With all the COVID guidelines, he was very proud of the effort and professionalism that was on display at all events. They had to stay longer this year, and conduct more duties than normal, but each person involved "hit a home run for the district." He thanked Stacy Berdine for selling event tickets for home and away events. With her outstanding efforts, tickets were distributed to fans, pre-sell for away games, and she assisted in organizing Homecoming and Senior Night.

WGEA Representative, Matt Rychtarsky

Mr. Rychtarsky stated that during these unprecedented and unpredictable times, dating back to the spring when this unique situation all began, many WGEA members were amazed by how the administration, faculty, and staff banded together and conquered every challenge that was presented to us in the best interest of our students. During all of this in the spring, for the first time on such a large scale, the faculty felt truly respected, appreciated, and valued as educators by the board and administration, as a whole, not just individual members or just for the things we do to go above and beyond our contractual obligations. This most recent contract proposal from the board is insulting and disheartening and makes many of us realize all of the praise and appreciation we received just a short time ago were merely words, worth nothing more than the letters which make them up. Along with the denial of a contract extension and the length of time between proposals, teachers have continued to do everything expected and more. Much more, in fact. He stated that faculty members spend countless hours outside of the school day designing new curricula, developing virtual learning activities, being trained on new equipment, developing entirely new department programming, hosting virtual field trips, all while risking their health and safety during a worldwide pandemic. Mr. Rychtarsky implored the members of the board to encourage their esteemed colleagues on the negotiations committee to truly show us those words were more than words. That they were meaningful and heartfelt, by giving the teachers a reasonable chance at a contract that is mutually beneficial to both sides. He further stated that if the teachers were in fact valued and appreciated, to prove it. Otherwise, the Education Association, as well as the community, will know the board's stance on the value of their educators based on the board's proposal.

HEARING OF CITIZENS - No response.

PERSONNEL

1. **MOTION BY** Kent, **SECOND BY** Berdine, to approve the following individual as a substitute support worker, in the respective areas, for the 2020-2021 school year, all appropriate paperwork is on file:
Kathy Stickle, 225 Easy Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370 (Secretary/Clerical/Instructional Aide/Cafeteria Worker)
VOTE: ALL AYES **MOTION CARRIED.**
2. **MOTION BY** Gillispie, **SECOND BY** Berdine, to eliminate a 6-Hour Cafeteria Worker position, effective October 28, 2020.
VOTE: ALL AYES **MOTION CARRIED.**
3. **MOTION BY** Gillispie, **SECOND BY** Berdine, to hire Tiffany Collins as a 5-Hour Cafeteria Worker, all appropriate paperwork is on file, effective October 26, 2020.
VOTE: ALL AYES **MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **MOTION BY** Gillispie, **SECOND BY** Crouse, to approve the following individual as a substitute teacher in the respective areas of certification for the 2020-2021 school year pending physical examination, clearances, receipt of the Act 168 Release form and satisfactory results from a pre-employment drug test:
Emma Gasti, 135 Glenn Lane, Brownsville, PA 15417 (Special Education PK-8 and Elementary Childhood PK-4)
VOTE: ALL AYES **MOTION CARRIED.**

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

1. **MOTION BY** Kent, **SECOND BY** Inmon, to accept the Greene County Career and Technology Center JOC's hiring of Dalton Fraser as Technology Technician, effective January 1, 2021, to support each of the five Greene County School Districts with the cost of \$5,791.54 to be paid by each School District to support the technology technician position for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

VOTE: 7 YEA; 1 NAY (Scott); 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED.

2. **MOTION BY** Gillispie, **SECOND BY** Crouse, to approve the following individuals as Curriculum Leaders for the 2020- 2021 school year:

Shelly Richardson (Intermediate Elementary)

Erin Shiflett (Primary Elementary)

Tiffany Hart (Kindergarten)

VOTE: 7 YEA; 0 NAY; 1 ABSTAIN (Hildreth); 1 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED.

ATHLETICS

1. **MOTION BY** Kent, **SECOND BY** Berdine, to approve Gary Whyte as the Head Junior High Wrestling Coach for the 2020-2021 sports season, pending physical examination, clearances, receipt of the Act 168 Release form and satisfactory results from a pre-employment drug test.

VOTE: ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED.

2. **MOTION BY** Berdine, **SECOND BY** Hildreth, to approve Austin Crouse as an unpaid volunteer Assistant Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach for the 2020-2021 sports season, pending clearances.

VOTE: 7 YEA; 0 NAY; 1 ABSTAIN (Crouse); 1 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED.

POLICY

1. **MOTION BY** Crouse, **SECOND BY** Hildreth, to approve the first reading of the following policy as written:
Policy No. 819 Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response

VOTE: ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED.

2. **MOTION BY** Gillispie, **SECOND BY** Kent, to approve the Intermediate Unit 1 School District Health and Safety Plan as updated October 7, 2020.

VOTE: ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED.

BUDGET

1. **MOTION BY** Crouse, **SECOND BY** Berdine, that the following invoices be approved as submitted:

General Fund Paid List - \$ 11,487.80

General Fund Unpaid List - \$152,579.35

Capital Projects Unpaid List - \$ 16,000.00

Cafeteria Fund Unpaid List - \$ 13,871.94

VOTE: ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED.

2. **MOTION BY** Berdine, **SECOND BY** Frye, that the following payrolls be approved as submitted:

September 25, 2020 - \$266,160.15

October 9, 2020 - \$259,988.99

VOTE: ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED.

3. **MOTION BY** Hildreth, **SECOND BY** Kent, to approve the following invoices/pay applications related to the STEM Renovation:

• Doody Engineering P.C. (CM) September 2020 invoice - \$ 5,962.50

• A-1 Electrical (Electrical) Pay Application # 4- \$125,217.00

• MASSCON, Inc. (General Construction) Pay Application #5 - \$242,202.50

• Wheels Mechanical (Plumbing) Pay Application #5 - \$ 16,438.50

• Eckles Architecture September 2020 - \$ 7,037.98

• A.J. Demor and Sons (Prime Contract) Pay Application #5 - \$179,265.60

• A.J. Demor and Sons (Reduce Retention to 5%) Pay App. #6 - \$ 32,164.50

VOTE: ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED.

4. **MOTION BY** Berdine, **SECOND BY** Crouse, to uncommit \$600,000 from the General Fund for the "STEM Project."

VOTE: ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED.

5. **MOTION BY** Crouse, **SECOND BY** Berdine, to transfer \$600,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Project Fund.
VOTE: ALL AYES **MOTION CARRIED.**

6. **MOTION BY** Kent, **SECOND BY** Frye, to commit \$80,000 to the "Innovation Grant."
VOTE: ALL AYES **MOTION CARRIED.**

7. **MOTION BY** Scott, **SECOND BY** Berdine, to commit \$1,000,000 to the Capital Project Fund.
VOTE: ALL AYES **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. **MOTION BY** Crouse, **SECOND BY** Berdine, to transfer \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Cafeteria Fund.
VOTE: ALL AYES **MOTION CARRIED.**

9. **MOTION BY** Hildreth, **SECOND BY** Kent, to adopt the PSBA Resolution "Calling for Charter School Funding Reform" (to ensure that school districts and taxpayers are no longer overpaying these schools or reimbursing for costs the charter schools do not incur).
VOTE: ALL AYES **MOTION CARRIED.**

10. **MOTION BY** Crouse, **SECOND BY** Berdine, that the following invoices, received after October 15, 2020, be approved as submitted:

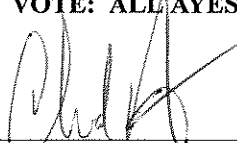
| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| General Fund paid list - | \$ 9,150.67 |
| General Fund unpaid list - | \$32,391.94 |
| Cafeteria Fund unpaid list - | \$ 20.00 |

VOTE: ALL AYES **MOTION CARRIED.**


HEARING OF CITIZENS - No response.

ADJOURNMENT

- **MOTION BY** Kent, **SECOND BY** Berdine, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM, enter into executive session and not return to the meeting.
VOTE: ALL AYES **MOTION CARRIED.**



Board President, Chad Scott



Board Secretary, Ryan Crouse