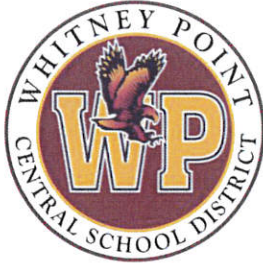


WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board of Education Meeting  
Whitney Point, NY



Special Board of Education Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

6:00 p.m.

**District Mission:**

To provide an excellent education ensuring that all children maximize their potential, become contributing citizens, and pursue lifelong learning.

**District Beliefs:**

- All children possess unique qualities and come to school eager to learn and be successful.
- We respect all people within our community and treat them with dignity at all times.
- Learning is a partnership that includes school staff, parents, family and the community.
- Knowledge allows for critical thinking and effective decision-making.
- The community is well served by maximizing the use of available resources and by the responsible stewardship of assets.
- Purposeful and intentional change is a constant that leads to educational improvement and positive results.
- Compliance with state and federal regulations is critical to School District success.

**District Vision:**

- To be a community of excellence achieved through a commitment to HIGH performance, morale, and involvement.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

*Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Stephanie Champney	President	<u>X</u>	_____
Kathleen Driscoll	Vice-President	<u>X</u>	_____
Brian Jeker	Member	_____	<u>X</u>
Eddie Maslin	Member	<u>X</u>	_____
Katie Perry	Member	_____	<u>X</u>
Thomas Tasber	Member	<u>X</u>	_____
Christine Widdall	Member	<u>X</u>	_____
Patricia Follette	Superintendent of Schools	<u>X</u>	_____
Jo-Ann Sexton	Assistant Superintendent	<u>X</u>	_____
Zachary Woodard	School Business Executive	<u>X</u>	_____
Stacey Forkey	District Clerk	<u>X</u>	_____

Others in attendance: Jeffrey Dunham, Murphee Hayes

## A. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

  X   No need at this time

## B. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Authorization of a Pesticide Application

**RESOLVED**, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education hereby determines an emergency exists concerning a white grub infestation affecting the Whitney Point Central School District's Field Hockey and Lacrosse athletic field, for the following reasons:

1. White grub infestations cannot be managed with DEC approved products and/or alternative pest management methods in a timely manner;
2. The white grub infestation is not a routine or repetitive problem; and
3. The white grub infestation damages the field, such that use of the field for athletic purposes would be compromised due to increased chance of injury or harm to athletic participants.

And be it further resolved, that a contract with Andre & Son, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$2,005.40 for an application of Dylox, EPA Reg. No 432-1308 to the Whitney Point Field Hockey and Lacrosse field is hereby authorized and approved to address the white grub infestation. The Superintendent of Schools, or her designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute such contract, and take all actions and send all notices as required by state law prior to the application of such pesticide.

Moved by   Kathleen Driscoll   Seconded by   Eddie Maslin  

Mr. Woodard stated that he would like to give the Board of Education additional background information. He read the letter addressed to the Board of Education, written by Jeffrey Dunham, Maintenance Supervisor, and presented photos of the field. He stated that originally it was thought that the damage was caused by use of the field by students for gym and recess time. He stated that field hockey and lacrosse are planned for the spring and that it will not be possible to use the field in its current condition. He stated that Andre and Sons helps to aerate the fields and we have used them in the past for other maintenance. He stated that Mr. Dunham has reached out to Cornell Cooperative Extension for advice and that they advised that any organic treatment application would have to wait until spring due to the changing weather.

Mrs. Champney asked if it is a risk that pesticide is applied. She also asked if it is too cold for pesticide application, since the grubs will penetrate further into the ground with cold weather and how deep the pesticide will penetrate into the ground.

Mr. Dunham stated that the grubs likely penetrated further into the ground with the snow and cold weather, but that the treatment is planned for Friday, November 6, 2020, when the weather is expected to be warmer and the grubs will likely return to the surface to feed. He stated the landscape experts advised that the pesticide treatment should still work as we are not in a deep freeze.

Mr. Woodard stated that Andre and Sons is the only company that offered a granular product. He stated that the granular application is more controlled than a spray.

Dr. Widdall stated that she has researched the topic and believes we may be planning the application at the wrong time and may, in turn, need to do additional work or applications in the spring.

Mr. Tasber stated that he had researched as well and if the grubs are treated too late in the year, another application may be required in the spring. He asked if Andre and Sons offers any reimbursement or second application in good faith if the initial application does not fix the problem.

Dr. Follette stated that she does not believe the cost is exorbitant. She stated that without applying the pesticide now, or if organic products are used, there may be no hope of getting the infestation under control. She stated that in her understanding, the white grubs tend to spread and cause damage at alarming rates. She stated that she believes the issue will need to be reassessed in the spring.

Mrs. Champney asked how dangerous the chemical is, if there will be a buffer area roped off to prevent people from getting too close to the treated area, and what notifications need to be in place before applying the pesticide.

Dr. Follette stated that notifications would be posted as required on the exterior doors of the CEA and available on the website, as well as at the location of application.

Mrs. Driscoll asked if there will be a concern of runoff in the spring thaw, considering the cold, snow, and pesticides may freeze together.

Dr. Follette responded that the product used by Andre and Sons is a granular product and that water will be applied with it, which will carry the pesticide into the ground.

Ms. Hayes was brought into the discussion. She stated that the sports schedule is planned as the following: January 4 through the end of February for Winter Sports, March through the end of April for Fall Sports, early May through the end of June for spring sports.

Dr. Follette stated that the field would need to be playable in time for fall sports in March. She stated that if it is not usable at that time, other arrangements will need to be made. She stated that additional damage would be likely by spring without treatment now.

The following pros and cons were discussed:

- Pesticide application now may prevent the quick spread and further damage.
- Waiting until spring would allow an organic product to be used in lieu of a pesticide, if needed.

A discussion ensued regarding SDS information and previous use of pesticides.

4 Aye 1 Nay (*Thomas Tasber*) \_\_\_ Abstained

APPROVED

### C. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the motion to

\_\_\_\_\_ adjourn the Public Meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Christine Widdall

5 Aye 0 Nay \_\_\_ Abstained

APPROVED

**E. FYI**

November 13, 2020 – Half Day (CEA & TRA grades 4&5 Only – Not 6-12)

November 20, 2020 – Half Day (CEA & TRA grades 4&5 Only – Not 6-12)

November 17, 2020 – Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Location TBD

November 25-27, 2020 – No School, Thanksgiving Recess

December 8, 2020 – Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Location TBD

Respectfully Submitted,



Stacey Forkey  
District Clerk