



# WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Board of Education Meeting

Whitney Point High School Building

Library

P.O. Box 249, 10 Keibel Road

Whitney Point, NY 13862

### MINUTES

### BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

7:00 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 7:07 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Sara Bencoter	President	X	
Stephanie Champney	Vice-President	X	
Kathleen Driscoll	Member		X
Brian Jeker	Member	X	
Gene-Paul Jordan	Member	X	
Andrew Palmer	Member	X	
Thomas Tasber	Member	X	
Patricia Follette	Superintendent of Schools	X	
Jo-Ann Sexton	Dir. of Curriculum and Instruction	X	
Zachary Woodard	School Business Executive	X	
Cynthia Burchell	District Clerk	X	

Others in attendance: David Ballard, Kim Becker, John Faron, Murphee Hayes, Jeff Isaacs, Aaron Kaminsky, Jo-Anne Knapp, Bruce Tytler.

**A. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**B. MINUTES**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the Minutes from the Board Hearing held on December 17, 2013.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Brian Jeker

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on December 17, 2013.

Moved by Andrew Palmer

Seconded by Thomas Tasber

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**C. CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter from Joseph Silvanic  
Letter from anonymous source

**D. POLICIES 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

None

**E. POLICIES 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

None

**F. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Kaminsky stated the Science Fair was on the wrong date on the District Calendar and should be dated the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup> and during the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> of January.

**G. COMMENDATIONS**

Ms. Follette commends:

- Ms. Gilbert, Mr. Jones and the Whitney Point High School Band and Chorus for the festive Winter Concert held on Wednesday, December 18, 2013.
- Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Pudish, and Mrs. Oliver for contacting families, collecting, organizing and delivering gifts during the holidays. The generosity of our staff and community provided a beautiful array of gifts from clothing to toys for 74 families and 213 children in our community this year.

## ***ADDENDA***

- The Whitney Point Varsity Wrestling Team for placing 7<sup>th</sup> in the Watson Invitational in Watkins Glen this weekend. Dylan Matthews placed 6<sup>th</sup>, Richard Miller & Sheldon Clute placed 4<sup>th</sup>, Nathaniel Grubham placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and Andrew Barnhart won his weight class & was named Outstanding Wrestler in the heavy weights.
- Kathleen Gummoe for her work with the new electronic school district sign.
- Tom Tasber commended Whitney Point Central School District music teacher Mr. Ken Jones and the select chorus for their performance at the Binghamton Senator's game on January 10, 2014.

## **H. OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Winter Sports Update**

Ms. Murphee Hayes gave a presentation on Athletics, Health and Physical Education. She discussed in detail the Values of the NYS Interscholastic Athletics and the NYSPHSSA 5-Star Leadership School Award. Ms. Hayes explained the Comprehensive School Health and Wellness Goals, and the NYS Standards on Health and Physical Education. She explained the Physical Activity Content in K-12 Progression and the Cognitive Assessments. She discussed the progress of the Health and physical education leadership teams and the related professional development. Ms. Hayes explained the Heath and Physical Education Regent Reform and provided an update on the Wellness Committee. She provided details on the community connections accessed by our District.

Mr. Tasber asked how the common core works with students physically.

Ms. Hayes stated there is no common core evaluation of physical abilities. She stated the tests are all cognitive.

Ms. Follette stated previous and post tests are part of the teacher evaluation system.

Mr. Jordan asked if the District is looking at "performance based" testing for the arts next year.

Ms. Follette stated they are looking into it.

Mrs. Benscoter asked for a copy of the slide missing from the presentation. She stated it looked interesting.

Mrs. Benscoter asked about NYS sending a representative to Indianapolis and the shortage of funding. She asked if it was on the District or the Association?

Ms. Hayes stated it is not on our end, but the National Federal Association lack of sponsorships.

Mrs. Benscoter thanked Ms. Hayes for her work on sportsmanship activities.

A discussion ensued.

Ms. Murphee Hayes presented the Winter Sports Update. She reviewed the winter sports teams and the number of athletes on each team. She also discussed the participation rates for each grade level and provided information for the previous two years for comparison purposes. She explained how it is evident again this year that some students tend to lose interest when they get closer to graduation.

## **2. Lacrosse Presentation**

Ms. Follette provided the Board of Education with information for discussion about a girls lacrosse team. She stated she is asking the Board of Education to consider approval of a pilot girls lacrosse program for the spring of 2014. She stated depending on the outcome of the pilot program, the District may seek approval from the Board of Education for a girls JV Lacrosse program for 2014-2015, with the possible expansion of the girls lacrosse program in 2016-2017. She discussed in detail the District's considerations regarding the program. She stated some costs would be absorbed through community donations and grants. She provided a handout of the cost estimate put together by Mr. Woodard.

Mr. Woodard stated the handout is a cost estimate based on various assumptions. He stated it provided for 8 home games and 8 away games.

Ms. Follette read a letter received from Scott Freeman of Keplinger Freeman Associates regarding field usage.

She stated she asked Terry Dean to look into the use of the girls field hockey field. She explained that Mr. Freeman stated with watering and proper care of the field it could sustain use in the fall and summer.

She stated they reviewed the current lacrosse schedule. She explained they may not play each team in the first year, but pickup games with other teams during their currently scheduled bye week.

Stephanie Champney asked if this cost is similar to the cost of other sports.

Mr. Woodard stated it is similar.

Mrs. Champney asked if it seemed outrageous compared to other sports.

Mr. Woodard stated no.

Mr. Jordan stated it seems like it would be a great thing to do for spring athletics for the girls and asked if other spring sports may be impacted.

Mrs. Champney stated some girls have already left softball due to high numbers.

Ms. Hayes stated the participation rates come in cycles due to class size and interest level. She stated there will be some fluctuation and impact on the other programs.

Mr. Jordan asked if there is any cushion in the track and field for decreased numbers? Is there a minimum number and what is the minimum number for lacrosse?

Mr. Ballard stated the team fields 12 players.

Ms. Follette stated the Lacrosse team exists with a community group.

Mr. Tasber asked if there were girls wanting to earn three varsity letters who may not want to go out.

Ms. Hayes stated students won't lose status of Varsity letters, they would receive a Lacrosse pin. She stated the kids take pride in being recognized and she does not hear a lot of discussion of JV and Varsity letters because they only get it once.

Mr. Tasber asked if the pilot program was considered a JV season?

Ms. Hayes stated, no. She explained once you get approved by the Board of Education it has to be a school sanctioned board approved sport to participate in NYS Interscholastic Athletics.

Mr. Palmer asked how the pilot program is different.

Ms. Hayes stated it is a pilot program to see if it is a program the district wants to sustain.

Ms. Follette stated the District is not on a current schedule.

Mr. Tasber asked about the 12<sup>th</sup> graders that want to play JV.

Mr. Ballard stated the District did the same with the start of the Boys' Lacrosse. He stated they played two years at the JV level and then moved up.

Ms. Follette stated the Board would be asked to vote on a pilot program at the next Board of Education meeting. She stated after we see how the pilot program works, we would look to see about getting a JV team in place for the next year.

Mr. Jordan asked if the District was able to find coaches or would Mr. Ballard be available to coach if needed?

Mr. Ballard stated yes, he would be available if needed.

Mrs. Bencoter asked if having a pilot program changes our coaching requirements.

Ms. Hayes stated it was her understanding that she has to meet the same requirements.

Mr. Tasber stated he is looking at fields moving forward. He wants to be sure there would be enough fields for Youth Club, JV and Varsity field hockey.

Ms. Follette explained Mr. Freeman stated it is advisable to monitor the fields now and perhaps cancel games if needed.

Ms. Hayes stated she monitors the fields closely. She stated if she feels the field cannot be used, people will need to respect the district's decision to preserve the field.

Mr. Tasber asked if there was a list of school teams now and where they are playing.

Ms. Follette stated yes.

A discussion ensued.

### **3. Student Voice Group Field Trip**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the Student Voice Group field trip proposal to the No More Excuses Rally in Albany, NY on Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Stephanie Champney

Ms. Follette thanked the Board of Education for their approval.

Mr. Jordan asked about the chaperones.

Ms. Follette stated Mr. Tytler also attended.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **4. Philadelphia Field Trip Request**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the annual 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Philadelphia, PA, to be conducted on Friday, June 13, 2014.

Moved by Brian Jeker

Seconded by Andrew Palmer

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **5. Amendment to Board of Education Designated Meeting Dates**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval to amend the 2013-2014 Whitney Point Central School District Board of Education designated regular meeting dates to include a regular Board of Education Meeting on April 22, 2014.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Brian Jeker

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **6. Appointments**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the appointment of **Jacob Pfeiffer**, Cleaner, effective January 15, 2014.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Andrew Palmer

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the appointment of **Holly Slack**, Bus Attendant, effective January 15, 2014.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Andrew Palmer

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **7. Resolution to Abolish Position**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval to hereby resolve to abolish one (1) position in the Elementary tenure area effective January 14, 2014.

This position was created at the Board of Education Meeting on December 17, 2013 in anticipation of the District receiving a UPK grant. The District did not receive the grant.

Moved by Brian Jeker

Seconded by Gene Jordan

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **8. Committee on Special Education**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Stephanie Champney

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **9. Extra-Classroom Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the December 2013 Extra-Classroom Treasurer's Report.

Moved by Andrew Palmer

Seconded by Stephanie Champney

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **10. Extra Classroom Report**

The Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the mid-year extra classroom club balances and distribution of inactive clubs and senior class fund reports.

Mr. Woodard stated this is the second year bringing this report to the Board of Education in accordance of Board of Education policy.

Mr. Tasber stated there is \$2,000 as listed not being used by the senior class? He stated if the students raised the money, they should be using it.

Mr. Woodard stated some of that money is left over from previous senior classes.

## 11. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the December 2013 Treasurer's Report.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Brian Jaker

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **ADDENDA**

#### **1. Resolution Scheduling Special District Meeting – Bus, and Mary Wilcox Memorial Library and Lisle Free Library Funding Proposition**

Ms. Follette recommends the Board call a special district meeting and that the following propositions be placed before the voters for consideration at a Special Meeting of the District to be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and that the District Clerk be directed to take all necessary steps to arrange for the publishing of the notice of such meeting and all required actions associated therewith:

PROPOSITION NO. 1. Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Whitney Point Central School District, located in the counties of Broome, Chenango, Cortland and Tioga, New York, is hereby authorized to purchase two (2) 30 passenger gas buses (new) at a cost not to exceed \$101,035.00 each, and one (1) 66 passenger diesel bus (used) at a cost not to exceed \$98,707.00, and one (1) 65 passenger propane bus (used) at a cost not to exceed \$105,490.00, and one (1) 65 passenger propane bus (used) at a cost not to exceed \$103,717.00, and one (1) 12 passenger gas van (new) at a cost not to exceed \$35,320.00, and to expend therefore not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$444,269.00 including incidental expenses in connection therewith; and that such sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued.

PROPOSITION NO. 2 Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Education Law, Section 259, the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District is authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual school district budget, in the amount of one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000), of which seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) shall be paid to the Mary Wilcox Memorial Library for the support and maintenance of the library and sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000) shall be paid to the Lisle Free Library for the support and maintenance of the library; with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the Whitney Point Central School District.

Moved by Andrew Palmer

Seconded by Gene Jordan

Mr. Jeker asked who would authorize any changes in the library budget?

Ms. Follette stated only changes will be voted on moving forward.

Ms. Bencoter stated changes may not be necessarily voted on with a school district vote, but can have a standalone vote.



A discussion ensued.

Mr. Woodard commended Mr. Wolf for his work with proposition #1. Mr. Woodard stated the buses are 90% aided through state aid.

5 Aye 0 Nay 1 Abstained (*Stephanie Champney*) APPROVED

#### **J. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Tytler stated he was very proud of our students in Albany. He stated the students were well-behaved. He stated it was a good trip and all about lobbying for increased school aid.

#### **K. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Ms. Follette will provide an update on the following topic:

- Alternative Veteran's Tax Exemption – Ms. Follette stated the information provided is just and FYI for the Board of Education. She explained the tax exemption has been available to veterans through municipalities. Most Districts are still looking at the long-term effect. She stated the amount not collected would be spread to other tax payers. She stated Mr. Woodard will be bringing more information on what the ramifications might be.

Mr. Woodard stated we do not really know the financial implications. He stated it is fairly new legislation.

- UPK Grant Update – Ms. Follette stated the District did not receive the UPK grant. She stated the District requested a report to get further explanation on why we did not get the grant and to strengthen our application in the future.

Mrs. Benscoter stated this process allowed us to increase communication with Head Start that ended up very positively. She stated this grant would have greatly helped our students. The District already has a good relationship with the Day Care center and is now building stronger relationships with Head Start.

Mr. Jordan asked about the District's follow up with Head Start since the last Board of Education Meeting.

Ms. Follette stated Mr. Silvanic called Mrs. Benscoter and they all met. She stated it was a very positive outcome and there is a mutual willingness to move forward in collaboration.

#### **L. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Follette recommended Board approval of the motion to recess the public meeting at 8:56 p.m. and adjourn to Executive Session to hear discussion on contractual issues.

Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Brian Jeker

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**M. FYI**

BOCES Calendar Draft  
December Monthly Enrollment Comparison  
January 20 – No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
January 27-30 – Regents Exams  
January 29 – TRA Science Fair  
January 31 – 11:30 a.m. dismissal

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Burchell  
District Clerk



BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PO BOX 249  
Whitney Point, NY 13862

Date: January 14, 2014

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.
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- 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 9:03 p.m.

		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Sara Bencoter	President	X	
Stephanie Champney	Vice-President	X	
Kathleen Driscoll	Member		X
Mary Ellerson	Member	X	
Gene-Paul Jordan	Member	X	
Thomas Tasber	Member	X	
Patricia Follette	Superintendent of Schools	X	
Jo-Ann Sexton	Director of Curriculum and Instruction	X	
Zachary Woodard	School Business Executive	X	

**Executive Session**

For matters of personnel and contractual issues.

**Meeting Adjournment**

Sara Benscoter motioned to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:35 p.m.

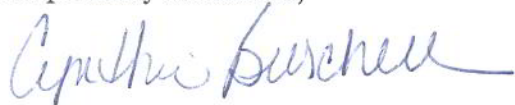
Moved by Stephanie Champney

Seconded by Gene Jordan

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Burchell  
District Clerk