



**Board of Education Meeting**

**Whitney Point High School Building  
High School Library/Zoom  
PO Box 249  
Whitney Point, NY 13862**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, January 11, 2022**

**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 6:07 p.m.

*Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

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

Others in attendance: Morgan Smith, Sharryl Tiderencel, Kelly Breward, Valerie Priscott, Veda Tupy, Linda Burghardt, John Whalen, Jeff Tiderencel, Mari Standish-Warpus, Dan Sweeney, Aaron Kaminsky, Molly Goosman, Jessica Head, Julie Lamuraglia, Jeffrey Isaacs, Lorri Wirth

## **A. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Capital Project Update**

Greg Warner, Lead Designer from Ashley McGraw Architects and Turner Construction Company provided an update and presented renderings for the Capital Project.

Mr. Jeker stated that the governor of New York has talked about year 2027 being completely energy efficient. Has any of this been considered in the planning phases of the project?

Mr. Warner stated that the lights are LED and they try to incorporate efficiency anywhere they can.

Mr. Jeker stated that he is looking forward to what kinds of things we can do to decrease our carbon footprint.

Mr. Jeker asked if there will be storage space at the fields for equipment.

Mr. Warner stated that the space under the bleachers cannot be fully enclosed per occupancy code, but that it can be locked and used as open storage.

Mr. Tasber asked if the space cannot be used for storage, why would we not have a separate space that is enclosed.

Mr. Warner stated that the design of the bleachers will allow for the equipment to be protected from the weather.

Mr. Woodard stated that there was a discussion in the planning phase for a separate storage building and it came down to budget limitations.

Dr. Widdall asked if the restrooms in the concession stand will remain locked when the field is not in use for games or competitions or if they will be open to the public for various activities?

Mr. Woodard stated that the restrooms will be closed during the winter months, but it is planned to be available for use through the spring and fall.

Dr. Widdall asked if the restrooms would be gender neutral.

Mr. Woodard responded that it was discussed and maximizing the restroom facilities was a priority. The addition of a gender-neutral restroom could potentially take away from the number of facilities that the building could have.

Dr. Widdall stated that SUNY Cortland has maximized space by putting bathrooms within the bathrooms so that it is non-gendered.

Ms. Sexton stated that making each one of the units private is something that can be discussed.

Dr. Widdall asked if there will be more internal renderings in the future.

Mr. Warner responded that those could provide those as they continue to refine the design process.

Mr. Tasber stated that he noticed there was no diving area in the renderings.

Ms. Sexton responded that there is diving depth, but not a separate diving area or board.

## **B. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District recess the public meeting at 6:25 p.m. and adjourn to Executive Session to hear discussion on contractual matters.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

The Board reconvened to the regular meeting at 6:40 p.m.

## **C. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

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

None.

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

None.

## **F. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Valerie Priscott, Literacy Coordinator in the CEA, a resident of Lisle, and has two students who attend Whitney Point High School. Mrs. Priscott stated that she was attending to address concerns about academic eligibility and the social emotional state of student athletes. She referenced the Academic Eligibility Policy which was created in 1991 and was last updated in 2009. She stated that times and things are different now and the policy should be reevaluated and updated.

Kelly Breward, Community Member and parent of one student in the district two graduates. Mrs. Breward stated that parents have said that they have reached out to teachers for help, and disciplined their students, but nothing is helping, and the parents feel that the students are not seeing the value of their education. She said that the students are frustrated with the amount of "senseless work" they are being asked to complete. She also said that students are suffering academically, and she hopes to see a change.

Mari Standish-Warpus, Whitney Point High School employee who has one student athlete and three former student athletes in the school district. She stated that she sees student athletes called to the office because of their grades. She said that she is wondering why athletes are held to a different standard than any other club and are expected to not be failing any subjects in order to play. She said that participating in sports is the reason why some of the students come to school and that she doesn't know how to change their mindsets. She stated that students across our district are struggling and that many students struggled last year with the isolation and not having sports for socialization and an outlet.

Sharryl Tiderencel has worked in the district for 20 years, does not reside in the district, but her children attend Whitney Point School District. She thanked the district for allowing sports to happen this school year and stated that she wanted to talk about the code of conduct for sporting events,

especially the student section. She said that the cheers from spectators can have a dramatic effect on the outcome of the game and gave an example of a recent tough game where the boys' basketball team fed off the crowd's encouragement – specifically the student section. Some students were spoken to, signs removed, cheers ended, and the team lost. She said that as an active member of the booster club, she knows that this has been an ongoing issue over several years. She stated that students should be encouraged to positively cheer on sports teams. She said that many parents agree that they would rather their students be safe at a school event than other places they could be. Ms. Tiderencel stated that mental health is at the forefront of everything we do, and we work hard to make it a focus. Kids need this now more than ever. She made it clear that she is not condoning inappropriate behavior but asking that we give the students a break and let them be kids.

Linda Burghardt, community member, retired teacher, and parent of former students in the district thanked whoever added the Board of Education Members' emails to the website. She directed the Board of Education's attention to the mask portion of the Whitney Point Central School District's website's athletic page. She questioned what is considered aerobic activity and why the students are required to mask for classes, gym class, and sports. She stated that Nassau County signed an order to give school districts the ability to make a mask decision for school districts. She said that viruses are very small in size and the masks that students are wearing do not work, noting that a box of masks reads, "not tested for protection against COVID-19 or other viruses."

## **G. COMMENDATIONS**

Ms. Sexton commends:

- High School Chorus students Logan Griffith and Angie Smith for their acceptance into the 2022 BCMEA All-County Chorus for grades 7-9.
- High School Chorus student Owen Hubbard for his acceptance into the 2022 Zone 3 Area All-State Chorus for grades 10-12.
- Mr. Matthews and the Tioughnioga Riverside Academy (TRA) 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus for their delightful Winter Concert held on December 15, 2021.
- Mrs. Pullen and the TRA 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band for their festive Winter Concert held on December 20, 2021. s
- The anonymous donor who allowed the purchase of books for the CEA and Mrs. Goosman and her two helpers who donated their time and arranged for the distribution of the new books to kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders prior to winter break.
- Mrs. Williamson and the Christmas Winds, comprised of several High School Band students, for spreading holiday joy throughout our schools with their lovely music.
- The High School Community Service Club for making holiday gift baskets for the Whitney Point Senior Center.
- High School Students, Faculty, and Staff for collecting 350 food items for the Whitney Point Food Pantry.

- Ms. Lawrence and Jillian Saddlemire, PTA President for organizing a holiday card drive for the Whitney Point Senior Center and all of the CEA students, faculty, and staff who made cards for this event.
- Mr. Hartley and the Whitney Point High School Student Council for preparing and distributing holiday food baskets for 65 local families in need. Donations from local businesses, Catholic Charities, and donations of time from several people helped to make this possible.
- Community members, Nikki Hoppes and Mike Reynolds for organizing and assisting with the *Whitney Point Holiday Help Program*, which provides gifts to families in need within our community for young children donations from local businesses and community members.
- Brittany Newlen, Tonya Ellerson, and the Lisle Fire Department for organizing a holiday program, which provides gifts to families in need within our community for children of all ages through donations from local businesses and community members.
- Peg Orzel, St. Patrick's Church, and Catholic Charities for their organization of a holiday gift giving program, which provides gifts to families in need within our community through donations from local businesses and community members.
- Whitney Point High School Senior, Kaylie Lynch, who has received an "Honorable Mention" in the *Scholastic Art & Writing Awards* for her drawing titled "Impermanence."

## H. OLD BUSINESS

None.

## I. NEW BUSINESS (Cont.)

### 2. Approval of Consent Agenda

*Items under the Consent Agenda will be enacted under one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items prior to the time of the Board vote, unless a Board member requests an item to be removed from the consent Agenda for separate discussion and action.*

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. **Board of Education Meeting Minutes** – December 14, 2021
- b. **Resignation** – Stacy Singer, Bus Monitor – effective December 31, 2021
- c. **Resignation** – Amanda Dunham, Special Education Teacher – effective January 15, 2022
- d. **Termination** – Robert Barnes, Bus Driver – effective January 4, 2022
- e. **Unpaid Leave of Absence** – Sarah Fernald, Physical Education Teacher – 5 days, effective February 9-15, 2022.
- f. **Treasurer's Report** – November 2021
- g. **Committee on Special Education Recommendations**

Moved by Brian Jeker

Seconded by Donette Griffith

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED



### 3. Resolutions to Create Positions

**BE IT RESOLVED** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, for reasons of economy and efficiency in the operation of the District and the District's schools, the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District hereby creates one new, full-time, tenure-track Teaching Assistant position, effective January 3, 2022, as follows:

#	Title	Tenure Area
1	Teaching Assistant	Teaching Assistant

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Donette Griffith

Ms. Sexton stated that this is the district's first Teaching Assistant position and that a grant focused on work-based learning for the high school has allowed for this position.

Dr. Widdall stated that a Teaching Assistant is a certified position.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District create three (3) positions of **Licensed Practical Nurse** effective January 3, 2022, and subject to meeting Licensed Practical Nurse (Schools) Civil Service requirements.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Christine Widdall

Ms. Sexton stated that hiring Licensed Practical Nurses is also a first for the district. She added that the health needs of our students in general have increased, and the LPNs will be working in the health offices with our nurses.

Dr. Widdall asked, what if an RN wanted to apply to the position? Would this stop that person from getting the position because they are overqualified?

Ms. Sexton stated that the district would need to make an adjustment to the title should that case arise, but it would be something that could be considered.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### 4. Retirement Resignation

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the retirement resignation of **Kelli Brown**, Full-Time Teacher's Aide, effective January 31, 2022.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Donette Griffith

Ms. Sexton stated that Kelli Brown was hired in September of 1998 as a Teacher's Aide. In her over 20 years with the district, she has been a smiling face around the CEA from supervising in the cafeteria, to running the computer lab, supporting in various classrooms, and managing an area of the student dismissal. Her kind presence and willingness to lend a hand wherever needed has been so appreciated. Kelli will be missed by the CEA "family" (students, faculty, and staff).

Mrs. Griffith stated that she had the pleasure of working with Kelli as a substitute in the district and she was a joy.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## 5. Appointments

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the four (4) year probationary appointment of **Veda Tupy**, Teaching Assistant, in the Teaching Assistant tenure area effective January 12, 2022.

Moved by Donette Griffith

Seconded by Brian Jeker

Mrs. Tupy thanked the district for giving her the opportunity and encouragement to pursue this.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the appointment of **Shirley Hawley**, Part-Time Food Service Helper, effective January 12, 2022.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Brian Jeker

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the appointment of **Michael Mowry**, Part-Time Food Service Helper, effective January 12, 2022.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Brian Jeker

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the appointment of **Lorri Wirth**, Bus Monitor, effective January 12, 2022.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the appointment of **Kylie Kaminski**, Licensed Practical Nurse, effective January 18, 2022.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Donette Griffith

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the appointment of **Samantha Docalavich**, Licensed Practical Nurse, effective January 12, 2022.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Brian Jeker

6 Aye o Nay o Abstained

APPROVED

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the appointment of **Morgan Smith**, Licensed Practical Nurse, effective January 31, 2022.

Moved by Donette Griffith

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

Mrs. Smith thanked the Board of Education and Ms. Sexton for the opportunity and stated that she looks forward to getting started.

6 Aye o Nay o Abstained

APPROVED

## **ADDENDA**

### **A. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Appointment**

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the appointment of **Kristal Spencer**, Full-Time Teacher's Aide, effective January 12, 2022.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Christine Widdall

6 Aye o Nay o Abstained

APPROVED

#### **6. Grade/Department Chairperson and Team Leader**

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve of the following Grade/Department Chairperson and Team Leader for the 2021-2022 school year:

Nurses – Jessica Burke

Moved by Donette Griffith

Seconded by Thomas Tasber

6 Aye o Nay o Abstained

APPROVED

#### **7. Memorandums of Agreement**

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve of the seven (7) Memorandums of Agreement between the Whitney Point Central School District and the Whitney Point Teachers' Association, effective November 23, 2021.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Brian Jeker



6 Aye o Nay o Abstained

APPROVED

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Whitney Point Central School District and the Whitney Point Association of Clerical Employees, effective December 28, 2021.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Brian Jeker

6 Aye o Nay o Abstained

APPROVED

### **8. Project Low Bid Resolution**

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the following low bid contractor in relation to the ‘2021-2022 Capital Outlay Project,’ and authorization for the Superintendent to issue a Letter of Intent to said contractor:

Plumbing Contractor:

Evan’s Mechanical, Inc.                      Base Bid                      \$114,700

**Total Contract to Release                      \$114,700**

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Thomas Tasber

Mrs. Champney asked if this is a part of the “mini” projects that are being completed.

Mr. Woodard responded that it is and that when the district planned this last year, it was well within the scope of the project. He said that this project is to replace a commercial hot water heater at the TRA, which is a high need. He stated that all bids ranged from \$114,000 to \$145,000. The scope and cost of materials increased by approximately \$30,000 from last year when it was estimated. The general fund maintenance budget will offset the overage.

6 Aye o Nay o Abstained

APPROVED

## ***ADDENDA***

### ***A. NEW BUSINESS***

#### ***1. External Audit Extra-Classroom Corrective Action Plan***

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District acknowledged receipt of the External Audit Extra-Classroom Corrective Action Plan addressing the June 30, 2021 Extra-Classroom Audit Report.

## **J. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES**

- COVID Update
  - New York State has sent out covid test kits to the community through schools, libraries, parks, etc. They also recommended a shift in approach to allow the public to

take responsibility for the management of Covid, allowing people to test themselves and report their positive tests to the County. Quarantines are not being issued in the same way that they have in the past.

- There is an effort to not have students out of school when they are well.
  - There will be a test to stay option, which allows students to test before school without missing school but does not allow students to participate in after school activities.
    - Mrs. Griffith asked how the test to stay will work?
    - Ms. Sexton responded that NYS endorsed test to stay. If you are a contact, you would need to know soon enough to be able to test three times within the first 7 days of the quarantine period. This does not include participation in after school activities. She also stated that after that was approved, the quarantine/isolation period was changed by the CDC recommendation to five days. This gives families the option to either quarantine for 5 days or test to stay over a 7-day period.

## **K. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Linda Burghardt stated that she agrees with Sharryl Tiderencel that kids do need to feel normal again. She said that students should not be playing in any athletic endeavor with a mask on. She asked why are we not testing for natural immunity, which is up to 27 times better than vaccinated and boosted immunity? She stated that there are people who will back you if you want to take a different track and that she tries to educate, point out things, and follow the science. She said that nurses in the healthcare field are now being asked to return to work when they are still sick and symptomatic. She said that she wanted to close with some of the legislation possibly coming to the floor in Albany. Assembly Bills – Forced covid shot mandates to attend school. Forcing all adult vaccination records into a state database. Forced covid shots for college. Forced flu shots to attend school, preschool, and daycare. Eliminate religious exemptions for work and for college. Eliminate parental consent for shots at the age of 14. She stated that they have retracted the bill that would allow the Governor to imprison without trial anyone she considers a threat to public health.

## **L. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS**

Ms. Sexton thanked everyone who came to speak and stated that the *Academic Eligibility* and *Minimum Sports Standards – Students* Policies have been a topic of conversation. She stated that everyone had the best of intentions when the policies were developed and that they are listening and taking this very seriously and will be reviewing them. She invites participation though the review process.

Dr. Widdall thanked everyone who came forward on the athletic policies. She stated that she watches sports activities and sees things as well. She said that one of Board of Education goals is to have a better ability to communicate with students and community and that our students have gone through a very traumatic event. She suggested that some of the Board members get involved and possibly some of the students who want a voice as well. She said that she would be happy to look at the policies as well as the policy for code of conduct for spectators and hopes that something can be done.

## **M. 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 7:40 p.m.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Christine Widdall

**O. FYI**

December Enrollment in District

January 17, 2022 – SCHOOLS CLOSED – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 24, 2022 – PARP Kick-Off, CEA Morning Program

January 28, 2022 – End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

CANCELLED – January 25 - January 28, 2022, Regents Examinations

February 11, 2022 – Deadline for registration – March 12 SAT Test

February 12, 2022 – ACT Test

February 15, 2022 – Board of Education Meeting, HS Library 6 p.m.

February 18, 2022 – SCHOOLS CLOSED – Mid-Term Recess

February 21, 2022 – SCHOOLS CLOSED – Presidents' Day

Respectfully submitted,



Stacey Forkey  
District Clerk