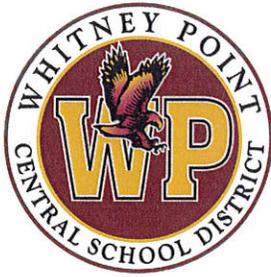


WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting

Whitney Point High School Building  
High School Auditorium  
PO Box 249  
Whitney Point, NY 13862



MINUTES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

**District Mission:**

6:00 p.m.

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	X	_____
Kathleen Driscoll	Vice-President	X	_____
Donette Griffith	Member	Zoom	_____
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: Dan Sweeney, Jeff Isaacs, Murphee Hayes, Molly Goosman, Lauren Macaluso, Aaron Kaminsky, John Whalen, Erik Sculley, Brett Jenny, Tyanna Moseman, Valerie Gana

## Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing

The Public Budget Hearing was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by the Board President, Mrs. Stephanie Champney.

### I. Annual Meeting Chairperson

It is appropriate to select a chairperson for this Annual Election and Budget Vote. This Chairperson will conduct the meeting, and will open and close the polls on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District appoint Stacey Forkey as Annual Meeting Chairperson.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Brian Jeker

6 Aye   0 Nay   0 Abstained

Approved

Mrs. Champney turned the meeting over to the Chairperson.

### II. Budget Review

The Chairperson introduced the Board Members and Ms. Sexton. Ms. Sexton reviewed the Proposed Budget for the 2022-2023 school year and explained the other propositions.

### III. Introduction of Candidates

The Chairperson introduced the candidates for the Board of Education and explained the voting process.

Open Board of Education seats include two (2), three (3) year terms:

Erik Sculley, candidate stated that he is a resident of Whitney Point and father of a high schooler. He said he is an average guy with traditional values, great foresight, and that in learning about the operations of a board he has become very passionate about being involved and would like to continue on with what the current board has done in a forward direction. He thanked everyone for the opportunity.

Dr. Christine Widdall, candidate – seeking re-election stated that generally, we have board seats open and are lucky if we have people to sit in them. She said that she was asked a long time ago by Dr. Prindle to run and after further discussion, he said to wait until after her kids were out of high school and then make the journey. She said that she appreciated his advice. She stated that she is a parent in this district and has had six children go through Whitney Point Schools and over half of her 22 grandchildren have been in this school district or currently are. She said she is now a grandparent of a child in this school district who chose to be in her home to be able to be in this school district. She said that she knows what it is to be a challenged parent and grandparent and community member in this community. She recalled her time as a Whitney Point CEA student in the 60s and said that she felt safe and had a sense of home in Whitney Point. She recalled her school-aged years as a child living in poverty and moving around the country to several different schools before returning to her roots in Whitney Point and moving into her parents' home. She stated that she graduated online through distance learning as a non-

## Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing (cont.)

traditional student in Hammond, IN. She stated that she shared this information to allow people to understand that her educational theory is quite unique and that she understands what happens in the Whitney Point School District and with our district's students. She said that in the late 90s, she was able to go to college at SUNY Cortland and Empire State College and finished her PhD in 2012. She stated that her educational journey has not been easy. She said that she believes some of the things she has done for the school and community are very important. She said that in 2004, our school district refused to do selective classification for our students and that she challenged the board on that. She said that in 1991 she was the first person on the scene to give first aid to a student who had been hit by a truck as she walked out of the TRA and questioned the 55mph speed limit in front of the school. She started a petition and received over 800 signatures in one week and a committee was created, the BC Fairgrounds gave up horseracing for our children, and we now have a sidewalk in our community. She stated that she became a Senior Center supervisor in our community and was the first individual given a chance to say it's time to build a better center for the seniors. She said that she continues to grow her education, still works with the school district through SUNY Cortland, she believes in advocacy. She stated that she is constantly shadowing our legislators and telling them about the needs of the school and how they can support our district and that she will continue to do so if re-elected. She said that life can challenge each of us differently, but success is how we meet and adjust to that challenge, how we use those challenges to better ourselves allows us to better others in our lives.

Tyanna Moseman, candidate stated that there are a few reasons she is running for candidacy. She said that she was born and raised in Whitney Point by a single mother alongside her brother and sister and believes it is important that we continue to educate people at all levels. She said that a lot of us come from different backgrounds and have different skillsets or capabilities and that she believes it is important to focus on that, especially in the position of being on the Board of Education. She said that she applauds everyone for their role on the board and that many people do not realize that it is an unpaid position. She stated that regardless of who wins, it is important to recognize that everyone is here to speak on behalf of the students, the community, and the administration. She said that if elected, she would like to focus on communication and that she understands that covid put school districts and communities in a very difficult position and that she understands some parents have a sense of divide. She said that she would like to bring the community, parents, and administration back together. She stated that by doing that, we can open communication, reduce the gap, and be more transparent on the things that we are focusing on. She stated that her main focus is offering the best education for all students and recognizing that students come with different learning abilities and interests. She stated that some students may prefer to focus on life skills rather than getting a college degree or going into the service. She said that it is important to ensure that students are aware of the programs that are offered. She stated if elected, she would like to be an effective leader who listens and makes sure the community has a voice again and that the lines of communication are more open.

Brian Jeker, candidate – seeking re-election stated that he is running for his fourth term on the Board of Education. He said that he got involved because he has two children who were in the school system. He stated that he was a single parent, and his children were involved in everything they could be involved in such as sports, drama club, music, band, and marching band. He said that he was very involved with all of those activities. He stated that he would like to put all of his efforts into the best things that we can offer for our students. He said that school is intended for mainly education but also extracurricular activities, which our students and also many staff members devote a lot of time to. He said that it is important to advocate for the students and to get things going at the school that is outside of general learning, noting that there are many things

## Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing (cont.)

offered at Whitney Point Schools that are not offered by other districts. He stated that his son has told him after speaking with many people at RIT from other schools and also abroad, there is a lot of opportunities at Whitney Point Schools that are not offered elsewhere. He stated that his daughter recently graduated from a college of performing arts and as a senior had to perform with a mask on, noting that some of the regulations and requirements were not only in Whitney Point Schools, but were across all locations and school levels. He stated that his main focus now and since he first ran for the Board of Education is to advocate for the children including what the school can offer for students of all ranges of interest and needs. He stated that he is very proud of the Board and that he is proud of the administration as well, noting the budget and zero percent tax levy increase and said that that did not happen by coincidence, that happened by the work of the people sitting here and a lot of people not sitting here. He said that he is very appreciative of those people and would like to continue to contribute to the district as a board member.

### IV. Suspension of the Hearing

The Board suspended the meeting until 1:00 p.m. on May 17, 2022, at which time the polls will be opened.

### A. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

No need at this time.

### B. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

### C. POLICIES 1<sup>st</sup> READING

None.

### D. POLICIES 2<sup>ND</sup> READING

None.

### E. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

## F. COMMENDATIONS

Ms. Sexton commends:

- The following High School art students, who placed in the *Emerging Artists Juried Show and Competition* at the Oakdale Mall.
  - Regan Prentice 1<sup>st</sup> place in sculpture
  - Ruby Burns 2<sup>nd</sup> place in sculpture
  - Roberta D'Amico 2<sup>nd</sup> place mixed media and miscellaneous
- Whitney Point Varsity Field Hockey coach Nicole Huston for her induction into the Section IV Hall of Fame Class of 2022.
- In honor of school employee appreciation week, a sincere thank you to all faculty and staff for everything they do day in and day out for our students to teach them, feed them, guide them, drive them, make sure we have clean schools, keep them safe and healthy, and beyond.

## ADDENDA

### A. COMMENDATIONS

Ms. Sexton commends:

- *Mrs. Goosman, Miss Macaluso, and the many others who were involved in planning and executing a successful Kindergarten Information Night held on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.*
- *Mr. Matthews, Ms. Davies, and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade band and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus for their joyful spring concert held on Thursday, April 28, 2022. Ms. Sexton stated that it was amazing to see because the students have not been able to practice very much together, but they were smiling and proud and did a great job.*
- *Mr. Jones, Mrs. Jones and the TRA Drama Club for their production of Peter Pan Jr., a musical based on the play by Sir J.M. Barrie, held on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>.*
- *All those involved in the planning and executing of the Celebration of the Young Child event held on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at CEA. Thank you to the SUNY Cortland students who also helped with the event.*

## G. OLD BUSINESS

None.

## H. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. 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 – April 18, 2022
- b. Committee on Special Education Recommendations

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Brian Jeker

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## 2. Retirement Resignation Amendment

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve of the amended retirement resignation of **Barbara Welsh**, English Teacher, effective January 31, 2023.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Christine Widdall

Ms. Sexton stated that Ms. Welsh was erroneously listed as a Special Education teacher in the previous meeting, which she was originally hired as, but that she is retiring as an English Teacher.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## 3. District Holidays

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the district holidays for 2022-2023 School Year.

Moved by Brian Jeker

Seconded by Christine Widdall

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## 4. Payroll Dates

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the payroll dates for 2022-2023 School Year.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Eddie Maslin

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## ADDENDA

### B. NEW BUSINESS

#### 1. Architect and Engineering Services Agreement Amendment

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the post-referendum Agreement Amendment #04 for Ashley McGraw Architects for the 2021 Capital Project for an Owner requested parapet investigation on the TRA roof.

Moved by Brian Jeker

Seconded by Eddie Maslin

Mr. Woodard stated that a benefit of working with the architects on the capital project is that when miscellaneous things pop up, they can be corrected. He said that this is for water damage at the TRA on a roof that is under warranty, but we were unable to find any leaks. He said that Ashley McGraw is using their structural engineer to authorize a study to investigate the leak. The small dollar amount will be charged to the project.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## I. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- A reminder to all that the May 17, 2022, meeting time has been changed to 7:00 p.m. due to counting of the ballots after the closing of the polls at 8:00 p.m. on that day.
- Ms. Sexton stated that she and Ms. Murphee Hayes met with the teams that were mentioned at the previous Board of Education meeting in the *Comments from the Public* section. She said that they are working on short range and long-range plans to ensure that we are attending to the needs of all sporting teams and to work to find a solution. She said that the most upsetting part about this is that kids feel it is difficult to compete with some of the other schools because of equipment or facilities, so we are going to see how we can be strategic for this matter.

## J. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Moseman said thank you to Mr. Woodard for explaining the tax levy and stated that she applauds everyone who had a hand in making sure that we have a 0.00% tax levy increase.

Mr. Sculley stated that there is plenty of room for people to educate themselves on what Mr. Woodard has done and the Board has done. He said that he would like to see more people attending the Budget Hearing in the future.

## K. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Mrs. Champney stated that in honor of school employee week she cannot say how much the employees of this district mean to everyone. She said that everyone puts their heart and soul into taking care of the students, themselves, and the community and everything everyone does is incredible.

Ms. Driscoll stated that she would like to echo what Tyanna said about the 0.00% tax levy increase. She referenced the tough couple of years with increasing costs of gas and groceries, people losing their jobs, and reduction, and thanked Mr. Woodard for his work on the budget. She said thank you to everyone for the confidence they have in the Board, the Administration and the school stating that our best interest is in the kids and community.

Mr. Jeker stated that something in addition to the 0.00% tax levy increase, he finds it to be impressive that the administration is able to get a new turf field. He said that many schools do have turf fields, but they are more wealthy districts.

Mr. Maslin stated that he brought up an issue at the last board meeting about custodial staff pay and that cleanliness is just as important as education. He said that he noticed in the budget under the Capital Component that salaries and benefits for the custodial staff is one of the main items. He said that the employee benefits included the largest decrease in that part of the budget. He said that if we cannot keep good employees we will have a tough time keeping our schools safe.

Dr. Widdall said kudos and thank you to all of our employees. She said that she was looking at the Summary Enrollment sheet and noticed that PreK enrollment for last year was 55 for 3-year-olds and 74 for 4-year-olds. She asked if we had any students left on the waiting list or if all students were able to be serviced.

Ms. Sexton responded that there is no waitlist and we have been very fortunate to get the competitive grants and we have slots for 75 three-year-olds and 100 four-year-olds. She stated that during covid, enrollment in these programs dropped dramatically. She said that the school is trying to do outreach and if anyone knows anyone of those ages who would like to enroll to please have them contact the district office.

## L. 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 recess the public meeting at 7:12 p.m. and adjourn to Executive Session to hear discussion on personnel.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Christine Widdall

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

The Board reconvened to the regular meeting at 7:42 p.m.

**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 7:43 p.m.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Christine Widdall

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## M. FYI

April 2022 Enrollment

May 2-5, 2022 – Kindergarten Screening Week

May 5, 2022 – TRA 6-8 Band Concert, TRA Auditorium, 7 p.m.

May 5, 2022 – June 4 SAT test registration deadline

May 6, 2022 – June 11 ACT test registration deadline

May 7, 2022 – SAT Test

May 10, 2022 – TRA 6-8 Chorus Concert, TRA Auditorium, 7 p.m.

May 14, 2022 – CEA Family Fun Carnival, CEA front of building and Gymnasium, 11am-2pm

May 17, 2022 – Budget, School Vehicle, Repair Reserve Fund, and Board of Education Election Vote, HS Cafeteria, 1:00-8:00 p.m.

May 17, 2022 – Board of Education Meeting, HS Library, 7 p.m.

May 17, 2022 – CEA Spring Festival, CEA Cafeteria Stage, 6 p.m.

May 17, 2022 – HS Spring Chorus Concert, HS Auditorium, 7 p.m.

May 19, 2022 – HS Spring Band Concert, HS Auditorium, 7 p.m.

May 27-30, 2022 – No School, Memorial Weekend

Respectfully submitted,



Stacey Forkey  
District Clerk