

WALLENPAUPACK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Administration Office  
2552 Route 6  
Hawley, Pennsylvania 18428

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Wallenpaupack Area School District Board of Education was held in the High School Library, **Monday, September 9, 2013**. President Jack Spall called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A moment of silence was held, followed by a salute to the flag and roll call. Present at roll call were Gary Beilman, John Drake, Coulby Dunn, John Kiesendahl, Michael Romeo, Robert Schwartz, Lisa Smith, Jack Spall and Michael Spencer. Also present were Mr. Silsby, Dr. Kloss, Dr. Hudak, Dr. Starnes, Mr. Kane, Mrs. Tait, Mr. Gunuskey, Mr. Theobald, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Devendorf, Mrs. O'Neill, Mr. Kirsten, Mr. Cavallaro, Mrs. Cykosky, Dr. Fedor, Dr. Szader, Mrs. Horan, Mrs. Hildebrand, Mr. Waldron, visitors and members of the press.

**Roll Call**

Three High School Seniors, Leanne Ahern, Kayla Askey, Savannah Brunette were recognized for their outstanding performance as students.

**Student  
Recognition**

Also, Sebastian Aparicio presented a proposal to the Board requesting permission to “tag” trees on the Wallenpaupack Area Middle School and the Wallenpaupack North Primary campus as part of an Eagle Scout Project.

President Spall provided some background information regarding the Board’s decision to no longer have a prayer at graduation. He noted that a communication had been received in June regarding school prayer. At the August 19, 2013 Board meeting a discussion was held regarding school prayer and that legal counsel had been requested regarding the matter.

Lucas Repka, Esquire from King, Spry, Herman, Freund & Faul, LLC presented information pertaining to the Wallenpaupack Area School District’s Board of Education decision to no longer have an invocation or benediction at graduation and the decision to no longer sponsor a baccalaureate program.

Mr. Silsby noted that a communication had been received from the Freedom From Religion Foundation challenging the District’s use of school prayer. Mr. Silsby further noted that a letter had been placed in the local newspaper. The District is careful to represent all faiths. Mr. Silsby noted that a disclaimer is placed in the graduation program that the class wishes to hold an invocation and benediction as part of the graduation ceremony. This disclaimer is not enough. The Board reviewed the facts and based on those facts, it is unconstitutional to have prayer at a school sponsored program. As commissioned officers, Board members take an oath to defend the constitution and withhold the law. This is not something the District takes lightly. The District is required to stay neutral.

Visitors were recognized. Michele Peterson, Andy Andersen, Tammy Gillette, Terry Jung, Mark Henkels, Roberta Holcom, Robert Nied, Donna Reilly, John Iona, Greg Babyak and Richard Caridi all addressed the Board regarding the recent decision to no longer have an invocation or benediction at graduation.

## **Visitors**

A motion was made by Robert Schwartz and seconded by Lisa Smith that the Board approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on August 19, 2013 as sent to members. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by John Kiesendahl and seconded by Michael Spencer that the Board approve the cafeteria report as presented. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Cafeteria Report**

A motion was made by Michael Spencer and seconded by Coulby Dunn that the Board approve the treasurer's report as presented. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Treasurer's Report**

A motion was made by John Kiesendahl and seconded by Lisa Smith that the Board approve the capital reserve fund financial report as presented. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Capital Reserve Fund Financial Report**

A motion was made by John Drake and seconded by Robert Schwartz that the Board approve the 2012 construction fund financial report as presented. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

## **2012 Construction Fund Financial Report**

A motion was made by Michael Spencer and seconded by Lisa Smith that the Board approve bills in the amount of \$5,687,152.23 (General Account – including investments – Checks #91081 - 91093, 93750 - 93966 and wire transfers), \$37,825.50 (Capital Reserve Fund – Check #486 - 489) and \$47,051.00 (2012 Construction Fund – Check #017). All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Approval of Bills**

A motion was made by John Kiesendahl and seconded by Michael Romeo that the Board authorize the payment of additional September 2013 bills and the listing will be presented at the October 14, 2013 Board meeting. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Payment of September Bills**

A motion was made by Robert Schwartz and seconded by Gary Beilman that the Board approve the Student Activities Account reports, High School, Middle School and North Intermediate School, as presented. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Student Activities**

A motion was made by Gary Beilman and seconded by Michael Spencer that the Board accept the Realty Transfer Report, as presented. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Realty Transfer Report**

A motion was made by Robert Schwartz and seconded by Michael Spencer that the Board accept the Enrollment Report, as presented. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Enrollment Report**

A motion was made by John Drake and seconded by Lisa Smith that the Board approve Mr. Robert Schwartz, Board Member, to attend the PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference. Mr. Schwartz abstained. 8 – YES, 0 – No, 1 – Abstain, 0 – Absent. Motion carried.

## **PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference**

A motion was made by John Kiesendahl and seconded by Gary Beilman that the Board cast their votes for PSBA candidates as follows:

- |    |                         |                    |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | President-elect         | William S. LaCoff  |
| 2. | Vice President          | Charles H. Ballard |
| 3. | Treasurer               | Otto W. Voit III   |
| 4. | At-Large Representative | Robert M. Schwartz |

## **PSBA Candidates – Vote**

Mr. Schwartz abstained. 8 – YES, 0 – No, 1 – Abstain, 0 – Absent. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Michael Spencer and seconded by Coulby Dunn that the Board approve the following District Handbooks for the 2013-2014 school year as submitted:

1. WASD Parent/Student Handbooks
2. WASD Faculty Handbook
3. WASD Support Staff Handbook
4. WASD Substitute Handbook

## **Handbooks – 2013- 2014 School Year**

All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Lisa Smith and seconded by Coulby Dunn that the Board approve Mr. Michael Silsby, Superintendent, as the Wallenpaupack Area School District's Title IX Coordinator. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Title IX Coordinator**

A motion was made by Gary Beilman and seconded by Lisa Smith that the Board approve Mr. Michael Silsby, Superintendent, as the Wallenpaupack Area School District's Section 504 Coordinator. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Section 504 Coordinator**

A motion was made by John Kiesendahl and seconded by Coulby Dunn that the Board approve the following agreements between the Wallenpaupack Area School District and The Scranton-Lackawanna Human Development Agency, Inc., Scranton, PA 18503, for the 2013-2014 school year.

## **The Scranton- Lackawanna Human Development**

1. Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program Contract Renewal
2. PA Pre-K Counts Contract Renewal

All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by John Drake and seconded by Robert Schwartz that the Board approve a Letter of Agreement between the Wallenpaupack Area School District and The Meadows Psychiatric Center/UCBH, Centre Hall, PA 16828, to provide alternative educational services for the 2013-2014 school year, as per attached. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gary Beilman and seconded by Lisa Smith that the Board approve an appraisal agreement between the Wallenpaupack Area School District and Industrial Appraisal Company, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, to provide appraisal services and universal coding for GASB 34 compliance, as per attached. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Michael Romeo and seconded by Lisa Smith that the Board approve the LERTA resolution for tax abatement provisions for designated areas in Lackawaxen Township. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Coulby Dunn and seconded by Gary Beilman that the Board excuse the following students from regular education to participate in a Home Education Program as requested by the parents in accordance with the District Home Education Policy for the 2013-2014 school year, pending receipt of all required paperwork:

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Family #16 | 5. Family #20 |
| 2. Family #17 | 6. Family #21 |
| 3. Family #18 | 7. Family #22 |
| 4. Family #19 | 8. Family #23 |

All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by John Drake and seconded by Lisa Smith that the Board approve the following student from Marywood University be placed in the Wallenpaupack Area Middle School to complete his field experience:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<b>Field Experience</b>
Jason Bartolomei	Debra Kettering	9/16/13 – 12/6/13	

All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

**Agency, Inc.**

**The Meadows – Letter of Agreement**

**Industrial Appraisal Company – Appraisal Agreement**

**LERTA Resolution**

**Home Education**

A motion was made by John Kiesendahl and seconded by Gary Beilman that the Board acknowledge that bus evacuation drills will be held on September 10, 2013, September 11, 2013 and September 12, 2013. Bus evacuation drills will also be held on March 11, 2014, March 12, 2014 and March 13, 2014. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

**Bus Evacuation Drills**

A motion was made by Coulby Dunn and seconded by Robert Schwartz that the Board approve the following personnel items:

**Personnel**

1. Substitute Appointment

**Substitute Appointments**

Approve the following substitute appointments, at the approved category substitute rate, pending receipt of Act 34 and all required paperwork:

- |    |   |  |                   |
|----|---|--|-------------------|
| a. | Ms. Lauren Tenbus<br>Honesdale, PA 18431    | Elementary School Counselor K-6<br>Secondary School Counselor 7-12 | <b>L. Tenbus</b>  |
| b. | Ms. Tanya Olsen<br>Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328 | Early Childhood Pre K-4<br>Special Education Pre K-8               | <b>T. Olsen</b>   |
| c. | Mr. James Schultz<br>Honesdale, PA 18431    | School Resource Officer  | <b>J. Schultz</b> |
| d. | Mr. Kenneth Hubert<br>Honesdale, PA 18431   | School Resource Officer  | <b>K. Hubert</b>  |
| e. | Ms. Christine Piazza<br>Hawley, PA 18428    | Teacher Assistant  | <b>C. Piazza</b>  |
| f. | Ms. Jessica Beattie<br>Hawley, PA 18428     | Elementary K-6<br>Special Education N-12                           | <b>J. Beattie</b> |
| g. | Ms. Shannon Harding<br>Hawley, PA 18428     | Secretary, Cafeteria<br>Teacher Assistant                          | <b>S. Harding</b> |

2. Co-Curricular Appointment

**Co-Curricular Appointment**

Approve the following co-curricular appointment at the Wallenpaupack Area High School for the 2013-2014 school year:

- |    |           |                                  |              |
|----|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| a. | Travis Ey | Assistant Varsity Football Coach | <b>T. Ey</b> |
|----|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------|

3. Mentors

**Mentors**

Approve the following mentors:

- a. Erin M'Liss Bonagura
- b. Debra O'Connor

4. Change in Work Hours

**Change In Work Hours**

Approve a change in work hours for Ms. Susan Frank, Wallenpaupack South Elementary School Teacher Assistant from 8 hours per day to 7 ½ hours per day.

5. Student Workers

**Student Workers**

Approve the following student workers:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Dustin Staton	High School Cafeteria	\$7.25
Marina Hauman	High School Cafeteria/ Intermediate School Library	\$7.25
Nicholas Frisbie	High School Cafeteria	\$7.25

6. Leave Without Pay Request

**Leave Without Pay Request**

Approve a leave without pay request under Board Policy #535, Family and Medical Leaves, for Ms. Joan Stanford, Wallenpaupack Area Middle School Teacher Assistant, effective September 18, 2013 for 12 weeks.

**J. Stanford**

7. Compensated Professional Leave

**Compensated Professional Leave**

Approve a compensated professional leave under Board Policy #438.1, Compensated Professional Leaves, for Ms. Denise Wentz, Wallenpaupack Area Middle School Teacher, effective the second semester of the 2013-2014 school year.

**D. Wentz**

All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cavallaro reported that Kindergarten registration went well and he thanked all of the staff involved for their efforts. He also noted that he had a great opening of school and that on September 26, 2013 a Family Fun Day will be held at the Wallenpaupack North Primary School.

Dr. Hudak reported that the first Rachel's Challenge, a program designed to bring awareness to bullying will be held in the Wallenpaupack Area School District on Tuesday, September 10, 2013. The program will be held in designated buildings during school hours and at 7:00 PM in the Wallenpaupack Area High School Auditorium.

**Administrators' Report**



President Spall recognized Mr. Paul Reichman, former school board member and president.

A motion for adjournment was made at 7:50 PM by Coulby Dunn and seconded by Michael Spencer. All 9 members present voted YES. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted:

Jennie Hildebrand  
Board Secretary