

October, 2021

A worksession meeting of the Washington School Board was held on Monday, October 11, 2021 in the high school cafeteria and via Zoom video conference.

The meeting was called to order by President Sparks-Gatling at 6:39 pm, followed by the pledge of allegiance and the district's mission and audio/video recording statements.

Roll Call:

Members Present:	Mrs. Rhonda Barnes	Ms. Karen Ruby
	Mr. John Campbell, Sr.	Dr. Dana Shiller
	Mrs. Patricia Cherry	Mrs. Tara Sparks-Gatling
	Mrs. Marsha Pleta	Ms. Jenna Ward
	Mrs. Amy Roberts	

Non-Voting Member Present: Dr. James R. Konrad, Superintendent

Present: Mrs. Lisa Coffield, Board Secretary
Mrs. Kelly Perkovich, Solicitor

Administrators: Mr. John Digon, Mr. Chet Henderson, Mrs. Courtney LeViere,
Mr. Robert Mihelcic, Mrs. Stephenie Russell, Ms. Jocelyn Sabruno and Mr. Darren Vaccaro

President Welcomes Visitors: Mrs. Sparks-Gatling extended a welcome to the public and stated the following, "In accordance with Washington School District Policy No. 005 entitled "Public Participation at Meetings", this public participation session shall not exceed 20 minutes. Any individual resident may make comments not to exceed three minutes. Any resident who wishes to address the Board should have submitted to the President of the Board or to the Board's Secretary a written statement including their name and address, the name of the group the speaker is representing, if any, and the general nature of the topic and comments to be made. Any resident who has not submitted a written request shall have the right to speak, time permitting by raising his or her hand so that they may be recognized.

-Pam Kilgore, 505 East Wheeling Street, thanked administration and the Board for allowing students to return to in-person learning at the start of the school year.

-Steve Woods, 150 Lawrence Avenue, thanked the Board for making adjustments so that students could return to school. He also had concerns about all staff members not be vaccinated.

Recognitions

Math 24 Competition

Congratulations to the Math 24 Competition 6th – 8th Grade Team on taking first place at their meet on September 30th:

Washington School District took 1st place in the overall competition
Maya Kilgore place 2nd individually for 8th grade
James McCarter placed 1st for 7th grade

Team members were: Jakira Howell, Blaise Naraskivitch, James McCarter, Maya Kilgore and William Callan.

Students of the Month

- Grade 2 – Finn Dwyer
- Grade 6 – Landon Marshman
- Grade 8 – Maya Kilgore
- Grade 12 – Angela Batson
- Grade 12 – J’Juan Shabazz

Questions on the Agenda: The Board reviewed the agenda.

Agenda: Ms. Ward moved and Mrs. Barnes seconded that the agenda be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Mrs. Roberts moved and Mr. Campbell seconded that the Board approve the following:

- Resignation of **Matthew Gasper** as an elementary teacher, after 13 years of service in the district, retroactive to September 20, 2021.
- Retirement of **Autumn Gordon**, part-time foodservice worker at the high school, after 3½ years of service in the district, retroactive to June 4, 2021.
- Reclassification of **Jackie DeCosta** from a 10-month secretary to a 12-month secretary, 7½ hours a day, 260 days a year, effective October 11, 2021.
- Appointment of **Lena Taddeo** as a secondary special education teacher, Master’s degree, Step 1, \$44,460, effective October 12, 2021.
- Appointment of **John Miller** as a part-time custodian at the elementary school, 185 days a year, 5 hours a day, contractual rate, effective October 11, 2021. (*Mr. Miller will be replacing a retired custodian. Pending receipt of required documents.*)
- Appointment of **Tiffani Lusk** as the Substitute Coordinator for the elementary school’s After-School Learning Program.
- Supplemental employment of **Sally Groves** as a “Cyber Teacher” for the 2021-2022 school year, at the stipend of \$25 per hour, not to exceed three (3) hours per week, unless approved by the Cyber Administrator, retroactive to September 17, 2021.
- Unpaid leave of absence for **Ray Wallace**, part-time custodian at the elementary school, effective November 1, 2021 through November 22, 2021.
- Addition of **Sharon Valentine** and **Alyssa Crawford** to the list of substitute foodservice workers.
- Addition of **Joyce Duke**, **Jim Baughman** and **Tom Schweinebraten** to the list of substitute custodians.

Motion carried, members voting as follows:

Mrs. Barnes	-yes	Ms. Ruby	-yes
Mr. Campbell	-no to item #8, yes to all of the remaining items	Dr. Shiller	-yes
Mrs. Cherry	-yes	Mrs. Sparks-Gatling	-yes

Mrs. Pleta -yes
Mrs. Roberts -yes

Ms. Ward -yes

Students: Mr. Campbell moved and Ms. Ward seconded that the Board approve the following:

-The application of Noah Hall, a Washington School District student, to attend Trinity Area School District to participate in their Accounting Program of Study for the 2021-2022 school year, pursuant to 24 P.S. 18-1809. Washington School District will not provide transportation.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided to table the above motion and took the following action:

Mrs. Pleta moved and Mr. Campbell seconded that the Board table the application of Noah Hall, a Washington School District student, to attend Trinity Area School District to participate in their Accounting Program of Study for the 2021-2022 school year, pursuant to 24 P.S. 18-1809. Washington School District will not provide transportation.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Campbell moved and Mrs. Barnes seconded that the Board approve the following:

1. That the district continues to only accept PCR COVID-19 test results.
2. For students and staff – if you test positive for COVID-19 using a rapid test or PCR test, you MUST isolate for 14 days from the district.
3. For students and staff – a positive case in the household is a mandatory 14-day quarantine from the district.
4. For students and staff – if a student or staff member is getting tested for COVID-19, they must quarantine until they present the district with a negative PCR test result, when testing after 7 days from the most recent exposure.
5. Individuals will NOT be able to reduce their quarantine time to return to the district by getting tested for COVID-19.
6. The district will set the following tiered threshold to close school due to increased COVID-19 cases:
 - 7% positivity rate – 3 instructional days (5 calendar days)
 - 10% positivity rate – 5 instructional days (9 calendar days)
 - 13% positivity rate – 10 instructional days (16 calendar days)

The district will review data every Thursday. Communication to staff, parents, and students will be sent out on Fridays. Once a school building closes, school uses 10 day rolling window to count the number of students who tested positive for the last 10 days.

Motion carried unanimously.

Contracts, Agreements and Grants: Mrs. Pleta moved and Dr. Shiller seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Educational Institution Staffing Agreement with Maxim Healthcare Staffing Service, Inc. to provide LPNs, RNs, SLPs, school psychologists, BCBA's and other various health and related services for supplemental staffing for the 2021-2022 school year, retroactive to September 22, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

Committee of the Whole Discussion: Board members and administrators discussed the following items that will be voted on at the October 18, 2021 meeting:

Business and Finance

1. Transportation rates for the 2021-2022 school year.
2. Year End Budget Transfers for the 2020-2021 school year.
3. East Washington Real Estate Tax Collector Compensation.
4. Capital Projects – Reserve Study Information for Discussion in November.

Unfinished Business

-Compensation for East Washington Tax Collector – East Washington Borough rescinded their previous action for the compensation of the tax collector. Our Board will place an item on the next agenda to also rescind their action on the compensation.

-Kids for Kids Project – Dr. Konrad informed the Board that students in grades 6 through 12 will have the opportunity to participate in this project. It is an after-school program that enables students to express how they are feeling through artwork. Mr. Bryker will be running the program.

-PSBA Proposed Policies for the 000 Section – Mrs. Perkovich stated that the Board will have a first read of these policies at the November Worksession meeting and a second reading and adoption of the policies at the November Regular Voting meeting.

New Business

-Administrator Updates – Mrs. LeViere, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Mihelcic, Ms. Sabruno, Mrs. Russell and Mr. Digon gave updates to the Board.

-Staff Attendance Trends – Dr. Konrad reviewed attendance trends over the past several years.

-School Website – Mr. Digon stated that they met with several website companies and will be recommending approval of a company at the next Board meeting.

Superintendent's Weekly Update

-Dr. Konrad emailed his weekly update to Board members last Friday. He also shared his updates with all staff members and post the update on the school website.

Solicitor's Report

-Attorney Perkovich had no report.

Information

- A. **October Voting Meeting** – Monday, October 18th at 6:30 in the high school cafeteria

Adjournment: Moved by Mrs. Pleta and seconded by Mr. Campbell that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously. 8:26 pm.

/s/Lisa Coffield
Lisa Coffield, Board Secretary