

November 14, 2022

A worksession meeting of the Washington School Board was held on Monday, November 14, 2022 in the high school cafeteria.

The meeting was called to order by President Sparks-Gatling at 6:30 pm, followed by the pledge of allegiance and the district's mission and audio/video recording statements.

**Roll Call:**

Members Present:	Mrs. Rhonda Barnes	Mrs. Amy Roberts
	Mrs. Jennifer Ewing	Dr. Dana Shiller
	Mrs. Kimberly Kelley	Mrs. Tara Sparks-Gatling
	Mrs. Marsha Pleta	Ms. Jenna Ward

Absent: Mr. John Campbell, Sr.

Non-Voting Member Present: Mr. George Lammay, Superintendent

Present: Mr. Richard Mancini, Director of District Operations  
Mrs. Rebecca Heaton-Hall, Solicitor

Administrators: Mrs. Courtney LeViere, Mr. Lou Magnotta, Mr. Robert Mihelcic, and Ms. Jocelyn Sabruno

**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. No one having any desire to speak, the meeting continued.

**Recognitions**

Donations

A very special "Thank You" to Budd Baer for donating \$10,000 to 20 teachers in grades 3 through 5 as part of the Adopt a Classroom Project. Budd Baer has been a strong supporter of education for students in our District for many years.

Also a special "Thank You" to the City of Washington Fire Department who donated 273 winter coats for Operation Warmth for students in grades K through 2. The Fire Department has been donating winter coats for our students for over 10 years.

Assistance from local businesses and organizations in our area help our District boost the education and lives of all the students in our community. We greatly appreciate their support!!

PIAA Cross Country Championship Meet

Congratulations to Ram Karamcheti for competing in the PIAA Cross Country Championship meet in Hershey, PA!!! Ram finished 130<sup>th</sup> overall in the state. Best of luck to Ram in his future running career.

Students of the Month

Grade 2 – Kooper Heckard

Grade 6 – Sawyer Eberhart

Grade 8 – Heidi Walsh

Grade 12 – Alexandra Wilson

Grade 12 – Anthony Adkins

**Questions on the Agenda:** The Board reviewed the agenda.

**Agenda:** Mrs. Roberts moved and Mrs. Ewing seconded that the agenda be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:** Mrs. Barnes moved and Dr. Shiller seconded that the Board approve the following:

- Appointment of **Joy Cumer** as a part-time paraprofessional at the elementary school, 186 days a year, 5½ hours a day, contractual rate, effective November 14, 2022.
- Appointment of **Cayla Jones** as a part-time cafeteria worker at the elementary school, 177 to 181 days a year, 5½ hours a day, contractual rate, retroactive to October 20, 2022.
- Appointment of **Vicky Gump** as a part-time cafeteria worker at the elementary school, 177 to 181 days a year, 3 hours a day, contractual rate, retroactive to October 27, 2022.
- The Temporary Long-Term Assignment of **Savannah Smith** as a Second Grade Teacher, Master's Degree, Step 1, pro-rated, retroactive to October 31, 2022 through June 2, 2023. *(This long-term assignment is for 90 days or longer. Ms. Smith will start on Step 1 of the salary scale, receive fringe benefits, medical, dental and vision insurance and must attend Act 80 and/or Inservice Days. This vacancy is due to the retirement of C. Shawn Arent.)*
- Supplemental employment of **Neil Freeze** as a teacher for the Homework & More Program for primary grades (K-2), contractual rate, effective November 14, 2022.
- Supplemental employment of **Amie Camps** as the teacher for the Kids for Kids program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, stipend of \$3,000.
- Addition of **Amanda Briegel, Tiffany Carroll** and **Christa Chandler** to the list of WSD emergency substitute teachers.
- Employment of **Ray Wallace**, part-time custodian, in December 2022 and January 2023 as a replacement for vacationing and absent custodians.
- Addition of **Becky Winters** to the list of substitute secretaries.
- Addition of **Joy Cumer** to the list of substitute paraprofessionals. *(Ms. Cumer worked as a substitute paraprofessional from October 28, 2022 to November 11, 2022.)*
- Addition of **Amanda Deagel, Kim Laurine** and **Teresa Perri** to the list of substitute cafeteria workers.

-Intermittent Family Medical Leave for **Employee #656**, effective November 15, 2022. (*Per the Family and Medical Leave Act and District Policy No. 410, eligible employees are entitled to take up to 60 unpaid days during a 12-month period for the specific type of FMLA leave requested by this employee.*)

-Conference requests, in accordance with the policy of the District as follows:

- a. Staci Connolly                    -Title I Improving School Performance Conference  
January 29 to February 1, 2023 – Sheraton Station Square  
Estimated cost – \$960 (*Paid with Title I money*)
  
- b. Jeff Devenney                    -PA Environmental Educator Conference  
March 13-14, 2023 – Halifax, PA  
Estimated cost – \$890

Motion carried unanimously.

**Board Policy:** Ms. Ward moved and Mrs. Barnes seconded that the Board approve the following:

-First reading, pursuant to Washington School District Policy No. 001, of the following policies:

- Policy #715 – Procurement Plan
- Policy #715-A – Procurement Code of Conduct

Motion carried unanimously.

**Committee of the Whole Discussion:** Board members and administrators discussed the following items that will be voted on at the November 21, 2022 meeting:

Athletics

1. Appointment of Winter Assistant Coaches and Volunteer Coaches (*Boys and Girls Basketball, Rifle, Volleyball, Wrestling and Cheerleading*)

Contracts, Agreements and Grants

1. Intermediate Unit 1 Agreements to provide Title I services to students of Washington School District who are attending non-public schools during the 2022-2023 school year. Also, Title II and Title IV services for John F. Kennedy Elementary School.
2. Contract with System 1-2-3 to provide social and emotional supports for staff and students. (*Funded with ESSER II grant money.*)

Business and Finance

1. Declare a 2002 truck that failed inspection as surplus property and advertise it for sale.

Graduation Requirements

1. In keeping with the discussion at the Board Education Committee meeting on October 20, 2022, the administration recommends changes in the Washington School District graduation requirements, as submitted.

**Unfinished Business**

-Assessment Appeals – Mr. Mancini reviewed the list of commercial and residential properties that the solicitor is working on for assessment appeals.

-Allegheny County Health Insurance Consortium Update – Mr. Mancini informed the Board that the Consortium is not doing as well as they had hoped. They lost over \$12 million dollars in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years. They are estimating a 14% increase in the district's health insurance rates for next year. The current cost to the District for healthcare is around \$245,000 a month; with a 14% increase, that cost would go up to just over \$400,000 a month. The only good news is that the cost to join the consortium will go down next year. He should find out in the next few months how much the actual cost will be.

**New Business**

-Purchase Maintenance One-Ton Truck – Mr. Mancini stated that the District is running short on vehicles. The current cost of used vehicles is outrageous and through the Co-Stars Program, the District can purchase a new vehicle for approximately the same cost as a used vehicle. There will be an action item on next week's agenda to approve the purchase of a new vehicle.

**Superintendent's Report**

-Mr. Lammay stated that the junior/senior high school had a wonderful Veterans Day Assembly last week and he commended the student body on their respectful behavior. Also, the Secretary of the PA Department of Education, Eric Hagarty, might be visiting our District on November 22<sup>nd</sup> to serve lunches to students, have photo opts and meet with our administrators to discuss any educational concerns they might have. Mr. Lammay should find out this week if Mr. Hagarty will definitely be visiting on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Solicitor's Report**

-Attorney Heaton-Hall had no report.

**Information**

- A. **Regular Voting Meeting** – Monday, November 21, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the high school cafeteria
- B. **Holiday Dinner for Board Members and Administrators** – Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in the high school cafeteria. Please RSVP to Lisa by Tuesday, November 29th

**Adjournment:** Moved by Mrs. Barnes and seconded by Ms. Ward that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously. 7:12 pm.

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/s/Lisa Coffield  
Lisa Coffield, Board Secretary