

Black History Month – Juneteenth Writings

On Wednesday, February 15, Mr. Treg Campbell and Ms. Erica Ola were able to accompany 20 Advanced English 12 and AP English Language pupils to Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum Trust to be present for the 5th Annual High School Student Black History Month Summit. Stop the Violence Pittsburgh, founded by Mr. William Marshall. Representing Washington County, as its sole participating school, three Washington High students were recognized for their Juneteenth writing(s):

Mackenzie Burch
August Ralston
Amara Garrett

In addition to receiving \$25 Amazon Gift Cards, along with the remaining 17 students who attended the summit, the finalists garnered an additional Amazon Gift Card in the amount of \$100, \$50, and \$25 respectively.

Black History Month Essay Winners

On Thursday, February 23, the 13th Annual Black History Month Essay Contest was held, at the Common Ground Teen Center, where six of my students across English 10, AP English Language, and Advanced English 12 were recognized.

First Place - Iain Callan & Danielle Phillips
Second Place - Savasia Johnson
Third Place - Brenden Sibert
Honorable Mention - James Carter & Isaiah Woods

Dr. Mary Jo Podgurski and the Washington Health System Teen Outreach invited Grade 7-12 students, in Washington County, to write about the topic of "Black Health and Wellness" or why Black History needs to be spotlighted year-round. Washington and Canon-McMillan were the only participating schools.

\$100, \$75, and \$50 were awarded to the first, second, and third place winners while \$30 was awarded to the pair of pupils who received Honorable Mention(s). All participating students who submitted essays (14 in total) received \$10 and the first-place winners' essays were published in last week's Observer-Reporter.

Questions on the Agenda: The Board reviewed the agenda. Mr. Campbell brought up some concerns with the time change that was being recommended for jr/sr high school students beginning next school year. The Board agreed to table the following motion:

Start/End Times for Jr/Sr High School Students beginning with the 2023-2024 School Year:

Mrs. Barnes moved and Mrs. Kelley seconded that the Board table the following motion:

-Change the start/finish time for junior/senior high school students to 7:45 am - 2:30 pm, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda: Ms. Ward moved and Dr. Shiller seconded that the agenda be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Mrs. Ewing moved and Ms. Ward seconded that the Board approve the following:

- Adjust **Robert Mihelcic's** title to Assistant to the Superintendent/Curriculum Director, no change in salary.
- Adopt the Organization Chart, as presented.
- Reclassification of **Joy Cumer** from a part-time paraprofessional to a full-time paraprofessional at the high school, 186 days a year, 7 hours a day, contractual rate, effective March 13, 2023. (*Ms. Cumer is filling the position left vacant from Ms. Samantha Redlinger's resignation.*)
- Retirement of **Mary Beth Lopez**, elementary school teacher, after 27 years of service in the district, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- Resignation of **Rashaud Olson** as District-Wide Director: Musical Production, effective March 13, 2023.
- Resignation of **Treg Campbell** as District-Wide Assistant Director: Musical Production, effective March 13, 2023.
- Family Medical Leave for **Employee #1394**, effective March 7, 2023 through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. (*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.*)

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Recommend **Derek Hull** as Jr. High Track Assistant Coach, Step 1-3, Stipend \$4,366.

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 #577 – Promotion and Retention
 - Policy #578 – Reporting Student Progress
- Rescind Policy #535-Parent Teacher Conferences. Conferences are now addressed in Policy #578 above.

Motion carried unanimously.

Committee of the Whole Discussion: Board members and administrators discussed the following items that will be voted on at the March 20, 2023 meeting:

Board Policy

1. Second reading and adoption of the policies that were approved at tonight's meeting.

Business and Finance

1. Award the bid for the purchase of the 11 switches and licenses and 22 connections (transceivers), through the PA PEPPM Mini Bid process, which will be funded 85% by Category 2 E-Rate funds. Bids are due March 15, 2023.
2. Award bids for security cameras to be installed at the elementary school and the stadium, which will be funded with the PA Safety Grant funds.

Unfinished Business

-Board Workshop – Mrs. Sparks-Gatling asked Board members to check their calendars and be ready to select a date at next week’s meeting.

Superintendent’s Report

-Mr. Lammay informed the Board that the reading intervention program in Kindergarten, first and second grade is having remarkable results. He is looking to start a tutoring program for upper elementary students with intensive reading needs this Spring. It is possible that Range Resources will be able to fund some or all of the program. He is also partnering with Charleroi and Benthworth on a community program called “Computer Reach” to help families in need.

Solicitor’s Report

-Attorney Heaton-Hall had no report.

Information

- A. **Regular Voting Meeting** – Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the high school cafeteria
- B. **Ethics Forms** – Forms need to be submitted by the end of March

Executive Session: An executive session was held after the meeting to discuss Personnel issues. No action was taken.

Adjournment: Moved by Mrs. Ewing and seconded by Mr. Campbell that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. 7:33 pm.

/s/Lisa Coffield
Lisa Coffield, Board Secretary