

March 20, 2023

A voting meeting of the Washington School Board was held on Monday, March 20, 2023 in the high school cafeteria.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Sparks-Gatling, followed by the pledge of allegiance, mission statement and audio/vision statement.

**Roll Call:**

Members Present:	Mrs. Rhonda Barnes	Mrs. Amy Roberts (6:35pm)
	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  
Mr. Robert Mihelcic, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Mrs. Rebecca Heaton-Hall, Solicitor

**Superintendent’s Message Regarding the Proposed Baseball/Softball Field**

Mr. Lammay stated that the District and the City of Washington have begun discussions on working out arrangements to redo the Colt Field in Washington Park. Nothing has been finalized, but he believes pretty strongly that it is going to happen; so it looks like no field will have to be built in East Washington. However, they may still use the East Washington site as a practice field. As soon as the agreement with the City has been finalized, it will be made public.

**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.

-Douglas Corwin, 405 N. Wade Street, voiced concerns about the purposed baseball/softball field in East Washington.

-Brittany Inghram, 506 E. Beau Street, thanked the two retiring teachers for their years of service.

**Recognitions**

Retirement Recognitions

Jamie Frazier	1989 to 2023	(34 years of service)
Mary Beth Lopez	1996 to 2023	(27 years of service)
John Kelley	2004 to 2023	(18½ years of service)

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

**Agenda:** Mrs. Kelley moved and Mrs. Barnes seconded that the agenda be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes:** Mrs. Ewing moved and Ms. Ward seconded that the minutes of the February 21, 2023 regular voting meeting and the March 13, 2023 worksession meeting be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mrs. Pleta moved and Mrs. Barnes seconded that the February 28, 2023 Treasurer's Report be accepted as information, said report showing the following book balances:

	<u>February 28, 2023</u>
General Fund	\$ 284,832.18
Payroll Account	\$ 23,773.00
Cafeteria Account	\$ 35,525.71
WHS Athletic Account	\$ 24,582.33
WHS Activities Account	\$ 84,361.45
WPS Activities Account	\$ 23,757.75
WSD PSDLAF-Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 941,870.55
WSD-PSDLAF-Expendable Benefit Trust	\$ 116,136.47

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Appointment of **Kimberly Nixon** as a part-time cafeteria worker at the elementary school, 177 to 181 days a year, 3½ hours a day, contractual rate, effective March 20, 2023. *(Ms. Nixon is replacing a part-time cafeteria worker who bid into a part-time custodial position.)*

-Intermittent Family Medical Leave for **Employee #1333**, effective April 1, 2023. *(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.)*

-Disability leave for **Employee #1152** retroactive to March 15, 2023 through April 7, 2023. *(Leave may need to be extended based upon physician's recommendation.)*

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Recommend **Josh Wise** as a Volunteer Track Coach for the 2023 season.

-Recommend **Shawn Hughes** as a Volunteer Baseball Coach for the 2023 season.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Policy #577 – Promotion and Retention

Policy #578 – Reporting Student Progress

Motion carried unanimously.

**Business and Finance:** Mrs. Roberts moved and Mrs. Barnes seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Award the bid for the purchase of 11 switches to CCL through the PA PEPPM mini bid process, at a cost to the district of \$10,698.45. Category 2 E-Rate funds will pay \$60,624.55 towards the purchase.

-Award the bid for the purchase of 13 transceivers to En-Net, through the PA PEPPM mini bid process, at a cost to the district of \$354.71. Category 2 E-Rate funds will pay \$2,009.99 towards the purchase.

-Award the bid for security cameras to The CHIPS Network, at a cost of \$38,629.75 for the elementary school and \$24,485.07 for the stadium. (*Cameras will be paid with PA Safety Grant funds.*)

Motion carried unanimously.

**Staffing Recommendations for the 2023-2024 School Year:** Dr. Shiller moved and Ms. Ward seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Abolish the 4<sup>th</sup> grade learning support position at the completion of the 2022-2023 school year.

-Abolish the current gifted/ESL high school position at the completion of the 2022-2023 school year.

-Add a life skills classroom at the elementary school for the 2023-2024 school year.

-Add an additional autistic support classroom at the elementary school for the 2023-2024 school year.

-Add an autistic support classroom at the junior/senior high school for the 2023-2024 school year.

-Create an ESL/special education position at the junior/senior high school for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Ratification and Payment of Bills:** Mrs. Pleta moved and Mrs. Ewing seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Ratification and payment of bills in the amount of \$1,172,378.34.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**

-Board Workshop – Board members narrowed down the selection for the date of the Workshop to April 24, May 1, or May 22. They will select a date and agenda items via email.

**Solicitor's Report:** Attorney Heaton-Hall had no report.

**Special Representative Reports**

-Western Area Career & Technology Center – Mrs. Sparks-Gatling stated that they are doing a great job with student placements. Katherine McGinnis, a Washington High School student, achieved her hours for completion of their Cosmetology program. Mrs. Sparks-Gatling congratulated Katherine on her accomplishment. Their next meeting is tomorrow.

-PSBA – Mrs. Pleta reported that April 18<sup>th</sup> is Advocacy Day, which will be held at the State Capital in Harrisburg, PA and via Zoom. Board members are welcome to join the event. This Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Nathan Mains, PSBA Executive Director, will be visiting the Prexie Center. If anyone would like to meet Mr. Mains, please feel free to visit the Center that day.

-Parking Authority – Mr. Mancini had no report.

-Citywide Development Corporation (CDC) – Mr. Mancini had no report.

-Updates from Activities, Education and Policy Committee Representatives –

Activities Committee (Mrs. Pleta) – No report

Education Committee (Dr. Shiller) – They met last Thursday and discussed two items. They decided to hold off on the earlier start time for jr/sr high school students until they can get feedback from parents. They discussed ways to honor student achievement and it was decided to hold a recognition breakfast for students and their parents.

Policy Committee (Ms. Ward) – Ms. Ward stated that their next meeting is April 5<sup>th</sup> and they will be reviewing the following policies: board meetings, assessment system, food allergies and diabetes.

**Information**

**A. April Board Meetings**

Worksession Meeting – Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the high school cafeteria  
Regular Voting Meeting – Monday, April 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the high school cafeteria

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

Motion carried unanimously. 6:54 pm

/s/ Lisa Coffield  
Lisa Coffield, Board Secretary