

September 11, 2023

A worksession meeting of the Washington School Board was held on Monday, September 11, 2023 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. Kimberly Kelley
	Mr. John Campbell, Sr.	Mrs. Amy Roberts
	Mrs. Jennifer Ewing	Dr. Dana Shiller
	Mr. Rodney Jones	Mrs. Tara Sparks-Gatling

Absent: Mrs. Marsha Pleta

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

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

Administrators: Ms. Camilla Justice, Mrs. Courtney LeViere, Mr. Lou Magnotta,  
Mr. Matthew Mols, Mr. Robert Mihelcic, 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. No one having any desire to speak, the meeting continued.

**Recognition**

A moment of silence was observed for Jamie Frazier and Jarrod Nemeth. Jamie was a dedicated teacher in the district for 34 years and she will be missed more than words can express. Mr. Nemeth was the father of three students in the district and will an integral part of Washington Youth Football.

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

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Reclassification of **Ami Behrens** from a 10-month secretary at the elementary school to a 12-month secretary at the high school, 260 days a year, 7½ hours a day, contractual rate, retroactive to August 1, 2023.
- Reclassification of **Makenzie Griffin** from a part-time paraprofessional to a full-time paraprofessional, 186 ys a year, 7 hours a day, contractual rate, effective September 12, 2023.

- Reclassification of **Lindsay Reid** from a part-time paraprofessional to a full-time paraprofessional, 186 days a year, 7 hours a day, contractual rate, effective September 12, 2023.
- Recommend **Mellisa Walters** as a part-time foodservice worker, 177 to 181 days a year, 3 hours a day, contractual rate, retroactive to August 28, 2023.
- Recommend **Jamie Yonish** as a part-time foodservice worker, 177 to 181 days a year, 3 hours a day, contractual rate, retroactive to September 6, 2023.
- The Temporary Long-Term Assignment of **Mercedes Conner** as a secondary math teacher, Master's Degree, Step 1, \$47,160 pro-rated, retroactive to August 24, 2023 through January 23, 2024. This long-term assignment is for 90 days or longer. Ms. Conner 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 Employee #1624's Family Medical Leave and Unpaid Childcare Leave.)*
- Addition of **Taylor Keene** and **Chace Johnston** to the list of IU1 emergency substitute teachers.
- Supplemental employment of the following teacher for the W&J's President's Prep after-school program at the Jr/Sr High School for the 2023-2024 school year, \$28 per hour. Program will run from October 2, 2023 through May 24, 2024. Monday through Thursday from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.  
**Teacher – Jeff Devenney**
- Supplemental employment of the following teachers for the Jr/Sr High School's After-School Detention for the 2023-2024 school year, \$28 per hour. Program will run from September 18, 2023 through May 31, 2024. Monday through Thursday from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.  
**Teacher – Teresa Booker**  
**Substitute(s) – Jeff Devenney and Jessica Gardner**
- Supplemental employment of the following teacher for the Jr/Sr High School's Saturday Detention for the 2023-2024 school year, \$28 per hour. Program will run from September 16, 2023 through June 1, 2024. Saturday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.  
**Teacher – Teresa Booker**
- Supplemental employment of the following teachers for the high school's Credit Recovery program for the 2023-2024 school year, \$28 per hour. Program will run from October 31, 2023 through July 12, 2024. Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.  
**Teachers – Siobhan Visser(Math), Jessica Gardner(SpEd), Ali Cottom(Science)**  
**Substitute – Shawn Hughes-Ankrom**
- Supplemental employment of the following teachers for the Elementary School's Homework and More after-school program for the 2023-2024 school year, \$28 per hour. Program will run from September 25, 2023 through April 18, 2024. Monday through Thursday from 3:00 to 4:00 pm (Primary) and 4:00 to 5:00 pm (Intermediate)  
**Teachers – Joe Herda, Tracey Gilpin, Tiffani Titler and Ashley Kern**

Motion carried, Mrs. Kelley abstained from the Ami Behrens motion.

**Students:** Dr. Shiller moved and Mr. Campbell seconded that the Board approve the following:

- Expulsion of student #2023-2024-01, a high school student, as a result of violation of school district

policies No. 516 (Student Discipline) and No. 539 (Student Code of Conduct), effective for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. The parent may submit a written request to the superintendent for readmission into the district for the 2024-2025 school year. (*Parent signed the "Waiver of Formal Hearing" form.*)

Motion carried unanimously.

**Athletics:** Mrs. Ewing moved and Mr. Jones seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Resignation of **Shawn Hughes-Ankrom** as the junior high head wrestling coach.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PSBA – Election of Officers:** Mrs. Barnes moved and Mrs. Kelley seconded that the Board approve the following:

**PRESIDENT:** (*one-year term*)

The Washington School District Board of Directors selects **Allison Mathis** as their candidate for PSBA President.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** (*one-year term*)

The Washington School District Board of Directors selects **Sabrina Backer** as their candidate for PSBA Vice President.

**TREASURER:** (*three-year term*)

The Washington School District Board of Directors selects **Karen Beck Pooley** as their candidate for PSBA Treasurer.

**Western Zone Representative:** (*three-year term*)

The Washington School District Board of Directors selects **Marsha Pleta** as their candidate for PSBA Western Zone Representative.

**Section W3 Advisor:** (*two-year term*)

The Washington School District Board of Directors selects **Erik Meredith** as their candidate for PSBA Section W3 Advisor.

**PSBA Insurance Trustees:** (*three-year term*)

The Washington School District Board of Directors selects **Marianne Neel** and **Michael Faccinetto** as their candidates for PSBA Insurance Trustees.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Committee of the Whole Discussion:** Board members and administrators discussed the following items that will be voted on at the September 18, 2023 meeting:

Personnel

1. Appointment of the following 2023-2024 Extra-Curricular Club Sponsors/Advisors:

**District Wide**

Teresa Booker

District-Wide "Safe 2 Say" Sponsor

\$1,000

**Central Office**

Lisa Coffield	Facebook Coordinator	\$1,000
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**Senior High School**

Joshua Barrette	Social Studies Curriculum Leader	\$1,000
Julia Calder	French Club Sponsor	\$ 377
Julia Calder	Key Club Sponsor	\$ 377
Julia Calder	Junior Class Sponsor/Prom	\$1,036
Treg Campbell	Freshman Class Sponsor	\$1,036
Treg Campbell	English Curriculum Leader	\$1,000
Stephen Cherry	Band Director	\$7,482
Jeff Devenney	Science Curriculum Leader	\$1,000
Antoinette Dirda	History Club Sponsor	\$ 377
Diana Fronzaglio	Caring Team Sponsor	\$ 0
Jessica Gardner	Special Education Curriculum Leader	\$1,000
Jay Huss	Robotics Club Sponsor	\$ 377
Brandy LaQuatra	Drama Sponsor	\$1,782
Jessica Ott	Spanish Club Sponsor	\$ 377
Jessica Ott	Student Council Sponsor/Homecoming	\$1,499
Kellie Ryburn	Senior Class Sponsor	\$1,036
Jeffrey Schmidt	Assistant Band Director	\$5,613
Robert Strnisha	Math Competition Team Sponsor	\$ 377
Siobhan Visser	National Honor Society Sponsor	\$ 377
Siobhan Visser	Future Teachers of America Sponsor	\$ 377
Siobhan Visser	Math Curriculum Leader	\$1,000

**Junior High School**

Lee Bigelow	Student Council Sponsor	\$ 377
Lee Bigelow	Math Curriculum Co-Leader	\$ 500
Jay Huss	Robotics Club Sponsor	\$ 377
Kim Pelkey	Reading Curriculum Leader	\$1,000
Andrew Spargur	Math Curriculum Co-Leader	\$ 500

**Elementary School**

Vincent Anderson	Girls Who Code (Grades 3 & 4)	\$ 377
Staci Connolly	Reading Curriculum Leader (K-2)	\$1,000
Heather Kennedy	Math Curriculum Leader (K-2)	\$1,000
Marsha Mosca	Math Curriculum Leader (3-6)	\$1,000
Michele Radachy	Ski Club Sponsor	\$ 377
Susan Robertson	Caring Team Sponsor	\$ 0
Tiffani Titler	Reading Curriculum Leader (3-6)	\$1,000

**Athletics**

1. Discussion on the weight room program

**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 2023-2024 school year. Also, Title II and Title IV services for John F. Kennedy Elementary School.

**Business and Finance**

1. Purchase athletic supplies for the 2023-2024 Winter sports season.
2. The Nutrition Group's Ala Carte prices for the 2023-2024 school year.
3. Approval of bus/van drivers for the 2023-2024 school year.

**New Business**

-Dress Code – Mrs. Kelley had questions on the dress code policy.

-ATSI – Mr. Campbell requested information on the junior high school's ATSI Plan. Mr. Lammay stated that Mr. Magnotta will give a report in October.

-Mrs. Heaton Hall reported that PDE has changed the special education students' age for education. They are stating that special education students can now attend school until they are 22 years old. Legal cases are being filed against PDE regarding this change.

**Superintendent's Report**

-Mr. Lammay stated that he appreciated the efforts of administrators and staff for having a great start to the school year. COVID cases are on the up rise and the district is following CDC guidelines. GG&C is working on finding substitute drivers. Special education student enrollment has increased and the district will be hiring more paraprofessionals in the near future to address their needs.

**Solicitor's Report**

-Attorney Heaton-Hall reported on the special education age change under New Business.

**Information****A. September Regular Voting Board Meeting**

Regular Voting Meeting – Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the high school cafeteria

**B. Junior High School Open House** – Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**C. High School Open House** – Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 pm

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

Motion carried unanimously. 7:24 pm.

**Executive Session:** An executive session was held after the meeting to discuss Privilege, student confidentiality issues. No action was taken.

/s/Lisa Coffield  
Lisa Coffield, Board Secretary