

April 15, 2024

A voting meeting of the Washington School Board was held on Monday, April 15, 2024 in the high school cafeteria.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by President Sparks-Gatling followed by the pledge of allegiance, mission statement and audio/vision statement.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Mr. Eric Bird Mrs. Pamela Kilgore
 Mr. John Campbell, Sr. Mrs. Amy Roberts (6:45pm)
 Mrs. Jennifer Ewing Mrs. Tara Sparks-Gatling
 Mr. Rodney Jones

Absent: Mrs. Rhonda Barnes and Mrs. Kimberly Kelley

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

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

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.

Questions on the Agenda: The Board reviewed the agenda and the following action was taken:

-Mr. Campbell motioned and Mrs. Kilgore seconded that the first read policies be removed from the agenda. The Policy Committee meeting was cancelled and they were not able to review the policies.

Motion carried unanimously.

Recognitions

Retirement Recognitions

Joseph Herda 29 Years of Service
Barbara Jones 31 Years of Service
Cindy Interval 20 Years of Service

American Legion Award Winners

Congratulations to the following 8th grade students who won an American Legion Award. The students were honored at a ceremony on Monday, April 8th at the American Legion Post 175 in Washington.

Jakirah Howell
Zaniya Richardson
Colie Few

Noah Patton
 Noah Sparks-Chandler
 Jayden Hagan

Third Annual NAACP ACT-SO Program

Mr. Campbell and Mr. Lewis took students to Robert Morris University for this Program on April 6th. The event featured more than 30 competitions in Business, Humanities, Performing Arts, STEM, and Visual Arts. Their mission is to prepare, recognize and reward African-American youth who exemplify artistic and scholastic excellence. Tiana Ellis, Alyvia Price and Car'Liyah Walden submitted entries for the event.

Mock Interviews

Forty-four students participated in the Mock Interviews held on Friday, April 5th. A special "Thank You" to the volunteers who handled the interviews – Mrs. Teresa Burroughs, Mr. John Campbell, Sr., Ms. Elizabeth Chisler, Ms. Darci DeBos, Mr. Cameron Donaldson, Ms. Nicole Duda, Mr. Ryan Hamlin, Mrs. Patricia Robinson, Ms. April Secrist, and Mr. Evan Simpson. This interview process is invaluable for the Class of 2024.

Agenda: Mr. Jones moved and Mrs. Ewing seconded that the agenda be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Mrs. Ewing moved and Mr. Campbell seconded that the minutes of the March 18, 2024 regular voting meeting and the April 8, 2024 worksession meeting be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Ewing moved and Mr. Campbell seconded that the March 31, 2024 Treasurer's Report be accepted as information, said report showing the following book balances:

	<u>March 31, 2024</u>
General Fund	\$ 205,011.43
Payroll Account	\$ 10,418.82
Cafeteria Account	\$ 56,779.74
WHS Athletic Account	\$ 22,641.72
WHS Activities Account	\$ 85,310.62
WPS Activities Account	\$ 22,634.38
WSD PSDLAF-Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 847,922.84
WSD-PSDLAF-Expendable Benefit Trust	\$ 84,729.50

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Resignation of **Dominique Levy**, 12-month secretary, after 2 years of service in the district. Ms. Levy's last day of work will be April 30, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Kilgore moved and Mrs. Ewing seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Reclassification of **Derek Behrens** from a full-time custodian to a full-time maintenance worker, 260 days a year, 8 hours a day, contractual rate, retroactive to March 27, 2024.

-Family Medical Leave for **Employee #1717** effective April 8, 2024 through May 24, 2024. (*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.*)

-Summer Learning Academy for Grades 7 and 8:

Program will begin June 10, 2024 through June 27, 2024

Monday through Thursday at the Jr/Sr High School

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

\$28 per hour

Needed: 1 Regular Education Teacher and 1 Special Education Teacher and 1 substitute teacher

-Summer School Credit Recovery/Credit Advancement/Cyber Summer School for Grades 9 through 12:

Program will begin June 10, 2024 through June 27, 2024

Monday through Thursday at the High School

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

\$28 per hour

Needed: 1 Regular Education Teacher and 1 Special Education Teacher and 1 substitute teacher

-Extended School Year (ESY) Program for Grades K through 12:

Program will begin on July 8, 2024 through August 1, 2024

Monday through Thursday at the Elementary School

8:30 am to 12:30 pm

\$28 per hour

Needed: *Number of teachers to be determined by student enrollment*

Athletics: Mrs. Roberts moved and Mrs. Ewing seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Appointment of the following Head Coaches for Winter Sports:

Bocce

Recommend **Ron Todd** for Bocce Head Coach (Year 2 – Stipend was \$1,000 this past season and the district was to be reimbursed \$1,000 by Unified Sports.) The head coach may appoint unlimited volunteer coaches. If student participation increases, the district will add additional coaches and/or event workers. (2023-2024 Record was 5-3. *Qualified for playoffs. Participants-7*)

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ewing moved and Mrs. Roberts seconded that the Board approve the following:

Boys Basketball

Recommend **Ryan Bunting** for Boys Basketball Head Coach (Year 6 – Stipend TBD). The head coach may appoint 1 paid varsity assistant coach, 1 paid junior high head coach, 1 paid junior high assistant coach and unlimited volunteer coaches. If student participation

increases, the district will add additional coaches and/or event workers. *(2023-2024 Record was 11-1, 15-8. Share of section championship, first round playoff loss. Participants-18)*

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Girls Basketball

Recommend **Josh Wise** for Girls Basketball Head Coach (Year 3 – Stipend TBD). The head coach may appoint 1 paid varsity assistant coach, 1 paid junior high head coach, and unlimited volunteer coaches. If student participation increases, the district will add additional coaches and/or event workers. *(2023-2024 Record was 11-1, 14-9). Share of section championship, first round playoff loss. Participants-13)*

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Rifle

Recommend **Joyce Eisiminger** for Rifle Head Coach (Year 19 – Stipend TBD). The head coach may appoint 1 paid varsity assistant coach (payment formula-TBD), and unlimited volunteer coaches. If student participation increases, the district will add additional coaches and/or event workers. *(2024-2024 Record was 4-6, 4-10). Finished 2nd place in section and made WPIAL team competition. Participants-12)*

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Boys Wrestling

Recommend **Adrian Turner** for Boys Wrestling Head Coach (Year 12 – Stipend TBD). The head coach may appoint 1 paid varsity assistant coach, 1 junior high head coach (payment formula with max of \$2,750) and unlimited volunteer coaches. If student participation increases, the district will add additional coaches and/or event workers. *(2023-2024 Record was 1-7. Two WPIAL Qualifiers, 1 Regional Qualifier, 6th place WPIAL Individual. Participants-9)*

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Jones moved and Mrs. Kilgore seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Recommend **Kyle Winters** as a Volunteer Baseball Coach.

Motion carried unanimously.

Contracts, Agreements and Grants: Mr. Campbell moved and Mrs. Ewing seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Renewal of The Nutrition Group Agreement for the 2024-2025 school year. *(On April 19, 2022, the Board entered into a five-year option agreement with The Nutrition Group to manage the food service operations of Washington School District. The district and The Nutrition Group are now entering the third year of the five year option agreement.)*

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Award bids for Fall sports for the 2024-2025 school year, in the amount of \$26,341.53.

Motion carried unanimously.

School Calendar: Mr. Campbell moved and Mrs. Kilgore seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Washington School District's 2024-2025 school calendar, contingent upon final completion of negotiations with WEA.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

-Ratification and payment of bills in the amount of \$844,004.50.

Motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

-Elementary School Window Project Punch List Update – Mr. Mancini presented an update on the project. The project should be completed by the end of the school year.

-List of Bidders for High School Exterior Project – The preliminary meeting with contractors was last week. Masonry work will probably begin in June. Window project won't be able to start as soon. Windows will have to be ordered and will take approximately six months to be delivered. Mr. Campbell would like a quote on a project manager for this project.

New Business

-Mr. Mancini gave the Board information on the preliminary budget for next school year. Main items of interest were health insurance cost, cyber school tuition and salaries. The preliminary budget will have a tax increase in line with the permitted Act 1 index and will be voted on at the May 6th Board meeting.

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

Special Representative Reports

-Western Area Career & Technology Center – Mrs. Sparks-Gatling stated that they are working on their 2024-2025 budget. It should be ready to send to participating school districts for approval in May.

-PSBA – Mrs. Kilgore sent grant webinar information to Mr. Digon and Ms. Ross. She talked about the “Student Teachers Support Program”, which will provide incentives to new teachers to stay in Pennsylvania and remain in high-turnover and under-funded school districts. There are professional development opportunities for Board members, if they are interested. The PA State Board is taking proposals for their annual Legislative Platform.

-Parking Authority – Mr. Jones stated that there was a short discussion on repairs to the parking garage, which were approved. The budget was approved. The big discussion was the possibility of Courthouse Square being torn down.

-Citywide Development Corporation (CDC) – They haven't met yet this month.

-Updates from Activities, Education and Policy Committee Representatives:

Activities Committee (Mr. Campbell) – The committee continued their discussion of the creation of a girls' soccer team.

Education Committee (Mrs. Roberts) – The committee discussed the credit recovery program, summer school programs, the grading system, the gifted program, guidance counselor priorities, the Lemoyne Center program, a sponsor for National Honor Society for junior high school, and an Honor Assembly for elementary school.

Policy Committee (Mrs. Ewing) – The committee did not meet in April. They will be meeting on May 1st.

Information

A. May Board Meetings

Worksession Meeting – Monday, May 6, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the high school cafeteria

Regular Voting Meeting – Monday, May 13, 2024 at 6:30 in the high school cafeteria

B. Awards Day Programs

Elementary School – Wednesday, June 5th at 9:30 am in the auditorium

Junior High School – Tuesday, June 4th at 2:00 pm in the gymnasium

High School – Tuesday, June 4th at 9:00 am in the gymnasium

Adjournment: Moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Ewing that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously. 7:20 pm

/s/ Lisa Coffield
Lisa Coffield, Board Secretary