

MSD of NEW DURHAM TOWNSHIP
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2017

Those in Attendance:

Board Members

Lynn M. Wilson
Mark D. Parkman
Vicki Hannon
Karen Jedrysek
Gurpreet Singh

Staff

Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier

Call to Order

Board President Lynn Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board President Lynn Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Board President Lynn Wilson, with four (4) members present and Mark Parkman absent.

Approve Minutes from December 19, 2016, Work Session Meeting, January 18, 2017, and February 8, 2017 Regular School Board Meetings

Board President Lynn Wilson asked if anyone had questions or corrections to the December 19, 2016, work session minutes, January 18, and February 8, 2017, regular school board meeting minutes as presented. Karen Jedrysek made a motion to approve the December 19, 2016 work session minutes, January 18, 2017 and February 8, 2017 school board meeting minutes as presented. Vicki Hannon seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Approve Financial Report

Board President Lynn Wilson asked if anyone had any questions or comments regarding the financial report and voucher docket. Vicki Hannon made a motion to approve the financial report and voucher docket as presented. Gurpreet Singh seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Filed for audit.

Correspondence

None.

Student Good News Reports

Superintendent Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier reported elementary student council sponsor and 6th grade teacher Mrs. Laura Miller will introduce the elementary student council representative presenting their good news report. Mrs. Miller introduced 2nd grade student Charles Smith from Mrs. Freese's class. **Mrs. Miller:** Good Evening! Thank you so much for having us this evening. **Charles Smith:** March is underway and we have much going on in the elementary school. **Mrs. Miller:** The first half of the ISTEP test has been taken and students are making up any missed tests this week. 3rd graders will be taking the IREAD next Tuesday. **Charles Smith:** The student council and Westville Media Center sponsored Read Across America last week with classroom activities, door decorating contests, and gifts to promote reading for all of our students. **Mrs. Miller:** Our 2nd graders had their Little Guppies meeting and our 4th graders had their Little Fish meeting this week. **Charles Smith:** Our Kindergarten parent night was held last night. **Mrs. Miller:** Our You Can Make A Difference club is sponsoring a Pop-Up Shop collection of personal hygiene items this week. **Charles Smith:** 1st grade has invited parents and grandparents to their "Look I Can Read" event on March 16th. **Mrs. Miller:** The Westville Tri Kappa and Mrs. Love are sponsoring the Student Art Show on March 20th, inspired by Pop Art. Tri

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Kappa members will be selling Dilly Bars at lunch to fund this opportunity. **Charles Smith:** Student ambassadors continue to meet each week and will teach a lesson about Active Listening on the 21st. **Mrs. Miller:** There will be a performance by Steven's Puppets of "Aladdin" for our Kindergarten through 2nd grade students on March 23rd. **Charles Smith:** Talent show practices continue with their final performance on March 24th at 6:00 p.m. **Mrs. Miller:** Our Jump Rope For Heart kick-off will happen on the 24th as well. **Charles Smith:** Multiple clubs are meeting again including the Maker Club, "Ready Set Read Club", Brain Boosters, Westville Reads Book Club, the You Can Make A Difference, Young Rembrandts, and the newest club for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, the Gamers Club. **Mrs. Miller:** The PTO is sponsoring a Read-A-Thon throughout the month, the Script gift card fundraiser, and Box Tops for Education collection on March 16th. **Charles Smith:** Camp Invention is coming back to Westville Elementary this summer. Early registration ends March 20th. **Mrs. Miller:** The end of 3rd quarter is next week on March 16th and report cards will be sent home on March 28th. **Charles Smith:** And finally, we'd like to acknowledge the Middle and High School Science Olympiad teams, including 6th graders, who both qualified for State Competition on March 18th. They will be going against thirty-six (36) other teams in each division. We wish them the best of luck. **Mrs. Miller:** Thank you so much for letting us share all the good news happening in the Elementary. Elementary Principal Brian Ton reported the community is coming together to support Walker Allen. He reported Walker has been diagnosed with a form of leukemia and is being treated at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. He reported a 3-on-3 basketball tournament is scheduled on March 25th to raise funds, a walk-a-thon is scheduled, and an adult dance with auction to defray family expenses. He reported elementary physical education teacher Gina Orłowski put together a movement program each day before ISTEP+ testing to motivate and energize students. He thanked cafeteria workers for helping students with breakfast snacks. He thanked the teachers for their observations while students were writing. He reported students exhibited their personal best during ISTEP testing.

Superintendent Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier stated Secondary Principal Alissa Schnick will present the MS/HS good news report. Mrs. Schnick congratulated the DECA team for their placement at the state competition. She reported all the students competed well and Sydney Patla received a medal for her presentation. She congratulated the boys' varsity basketball team for making it to the sectional championship game, losing a tough game to Gary 21st Century. She reported Band director Erin Sharpe is offering an ISSMA competition preview program on March 10th. She reported the middle/high school Science Olympiad team has been working hard and thanked middle school science teacher Samantha Joll, 6th grade teacher Laura Miller, and media specialist Ellen Rempala for their dedication. She reported she accompanied middle school English teacher Cynthia Toth to receive the thirty (30) under thirty (30) award presentation last Friday. She reported the state Superintendent of Instruction spoke at the presentation and it was an honor to be there for her presentation. She reported the winter sports banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21st with middle school awards at 6:30 p.m. and high school awards at 7:30 p.m. She reported the junior and senior classes are raising money for spring prom with a Portillo's Italian beef dinner at \$10 per ticket the same day. She reported the high school ISTEP+ finished up last week and 7th/8th grade ISTEP testing finished up today. She thanked the high school staff for providing breakfast to the students. She reported 9th grade orientation is Tuesday, March 14th and she, guidance counselor Mr. McKibben, and assistant principal/athletic director Mr. Goeringer are meeting with students and their parents. She reported Hands Off Heroin funding will provide a Purdue University trip for high school students on March 29th. She reported a 3-on-3 basketball tournament is scheduled on March 25th to defray medical expenses for Walker Allen. She congratulated the Westville boys and girls bowling teams on their successful seasons. They were also honored at the Lakeshore bowling banquet at Chesterton High School on February 23rd. She congratulated the middle school basketball team on wrapping up their season. She recognized girls' varsity basketball players Mary Parkman and Morgan Shreves being named to the all Porter County Conference basketball team.

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Board President Lynn Wilson noted for the board meeting minutes, Mark Parkman arrived at the Board meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Public Forum

Mr. Jeff Forrester asked if the soccer field problems have been addressed and is ready for practice and games for next fall. Superintendent Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier reported the field is being prepped for irrigation at this point and quotes are being sent out for field fertilization to be completed this calendar year. He reported mowing should start in April, however, he doesn't know if debris removal has been completed. Discussion ensued regarding gravel coming up through the grass. Superintendent Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier reported fixing this problem will involve manual labor by maintenance staff and soccer team players. Mr. Forrester also asked about the cafeteria employees time clock monitoring. Mr. Forrester also asked about student open enrollment for next year. He asked if open enrollment is being used to increase revenue (\$5,600/student) for the school corporation. Superintendent Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier reported the answer to that question is yes to help support programs in place. He reported more students mean more student opportunities are available. He likes having students from different backgrounds, ethnicities, helping students' understanding and learning about different cultures. Discussion ensued with Mr. Forrester, corporation treasurer Sherie Breitenbach, and Dr. Strietelmeier regarding General Fund revenues and property tax revenues for Debt Service, Severance Bond, Capital Projects, Transportation, and Bus Replacement. Dr. Strietelmeier reported current House Bill (#1001 or #1004) will revamp school funding entirely. The new funding bill will have Education which will only fund academic support. It will not fund support staff such as custodians, etc. Dr. Strietelmeier stated if Mr. Forrester wanted to come in, he would be happy to talk with him regarding appropriations. Mr. Forrester asked about the school grades. Dr. Strietelmeier reported he doesn't judge our schools with grades, but looks at student opportunities for learning in multiple pathways. He reported he is more concerned about how students learn, than the B school grade. He reported the middle school has a C or lower school grade, however, when he visits middle school science teacher Sam Joll's classroom or middle school language arts teacher Cynthia Toth's classroom, the students are engaged and excited about learning. He reported if you want to judge a school by a letter grade given one (1) time per year that's okay, but ultimately looking at student graduation rates, students taking dual credit courses through PNW and Ivy Tech is the benchmark for Westville students. He also touted DECA, Science Olympiad, bowling, band, and theatre as creative ways of learning. He reported looking at student numbers, the school corporation could go up to 983 students. He reported at the current 878 students, resources are limited for instructional assistants in all elementary classrooms. He reported the enrollment sweet spot is around 920 students for the school corporation. Mr. Forrester stated if students are transferring from one (1) school to another, there's a reason for leaving. Board Deputy Secretary Karen Jedrysek stated despite the fact she is a board member, she would choose Westville Schools for her children, because of Science Olympiad. She believes it is every student's right to choose a school system that offers the most opportunities. Discussion ensued regarding student opportunities and funding for great programs. Dr. Strietelmeier stated these are the questions they like to engage at Board meetings.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier reported the following:

- He thanked the Board for approving his trip to the American Association of School Administrators conference last week. He appreciated the opportunity to meet with superintendent's from around the country. He reported his cohort supports superintendent certification.
- He reported Driver Education will be offered again during summer school this year. He reported Gus and Joyce Kuhn are returning as driver education instructors.
- He reported they have met with the architect and have information. He wants to schedule a work session on March 22nd, however, may have to move to March 20th. He reported the public session will be April 12th.

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- He congratulated the boys' varsity basketball team on their great season and reported they will have the PCC keg in the trophy case all year. He stated they will miss the seniors as they played well throughout the season.
- He reported the middle school/high school Science Olympiad team will travel to Indiana University at Bloomington next weekend for the state competition.
- He reported Friday, March 17 is a snow make-up day with students and staff off unless something strange happens in the next week.

Old Business

A. Administrative Salaries

Superintendent Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier reported the administrative salaries have been discussed over the last two (2) meetings regarding appropriate amounts. He stated discussion has also included whether the raises are appropriate at this time. Dr. Strietelmeier stated he wanted to give his reasoning at this time. He reported Mrs. Schnick was hired three (3) years ago at the current amount of \$77,000 per year, which was \$5,000 less than her predecessor. He reported the administration recommends the \$5,000 raise to \$82,000. He also reported Mrs. Schnick will still be making less than most area principals at \$82,000. He reported South Central and East Porter Township principals make low to mid 80's. He reported Mrs. Schnick has done a great deal of work over the last three (3) years with new programs and new hires. He also reported Brian Ton has done a wonderful job as elementary principal over the past two (2) years. He stated the administration is recommending the \$2,603 teacher stipend for Mr. Ton. Discussion ensued with all Board members commenting. Board Secretary Vicki Hannon expressed concern regarding budget problems, but hopefully numbers may rebound by September. Mrs. Hannon recommended a stipend for both Mrs. Schnick and Mr. Ton, but check numbers in September. Board Vice President Mark Parkman reported he doesn't like spending money, but there comes a time for justification, so he is in favor of raises for both principals. He reported there hasn't been any issues with both principals, but maybe hold off until September. Board President Lynn Wilson stated the consistency of administrators hasn't been here until recently. She stated Superintendent Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier has been here for five (5) years and the administrative staff is also strong. She stated the elementary school and middle school/high school are working together with good teamwork. She stated there are many positive comments. She is proud of the school administrators heading in a positive direction with strategic planning. Board Deputy Secretary Karen Jedrysek stated the school administrators have done a great job. She stated the administrators should be compensated accordingly to keep forward progress. Board member Gurpreet Singh stated the other Board members have expressed his feelings well. Mark Parkman made a motion to approve the administrative salaries as presented. Lynn Wilson seconded. Motion carried 4-1 with Vicki Hannon voting nay.

B. Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Grant

Superintendent Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier reported Health teacher Jamie Forney has been teaching a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) course, Principals of Biomedical Science, with good response. He reported Mrs. Forney applied for an Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) grant in the amount of \$3000 and has been approved. Lynn Wilson asked if the funds could be used for teacher training. Dr. Strietelmeier stated this grant is for supplies, however, he would like to apply for teacher training next year using Blue Chip funds. Mrs. Wilson stated AHEC is a consortium that works with health care. Gurpreet Singh made a motion to approve the AHEC Grant in the amount of \$3,000. Karen Jedrysek seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

C. 2017-2018 Open Enrollment

Superintendent Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier reported the 2017-2018 open enrollment projection shows student slots for every grade except 2nd grade, which is five (5) students over district max. He reported kindergarten maximum is 66 students and currently have 52 enrolled students. He reported if every grade level remains the same, the school corporation would lose funds. He reported the current junior class is 73 students. He reported K-12 should be left open and work backwards. A question and answer period followed regarding 3rd grade for the 2017-18 school year which is five (5) students over maximum. Dr. Strietelmeier reported he would like to keep 3rd grade small with I-Read testing. He reported the online early registration last year didn't work well, so registration will take place in July before start of school in August. He reported 70% (seventy percent) paperwork was returned last year, so will have on-site registration for 2017-2018. He reported the current sophomore (10th) class is fairly large at seventy-nine (79) with max of eighty (80) for one (1) available spot. Dr. Strietelmeier is recommending open enrollment for K-12 with current max numbers. He reported the max for K-12 is open for discussion. He reported discussion could include max students for 9-12, so instead of eighty (80), the number could be changed to seventy-eight (78) max. A question and answer period followed including max number of seventy-eight (78) for grades 7-12. Dr. Strietelmeier reported the five (5) year average for enrollment is 918.2 and the ten (10) year average is 903. He reported our school corporation is currently seventeen percent (17%) out of district students. He talked with Superintendent Linda Wiltfong at South Central Community Schools recently and their current out of district count is thirty percent (30%). He reported comparatively to other local school districts, our school district is low for out of district enrollment. Board Secretary Vicki Hannon asked if an out of district student is enrolled one (1) year, are they automatically included for the following year? Mrs. Hannon asked if ten (10) sophomores moved into the district, would the out of district student also be enrolled for that year? Superintendent Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier stated yes, the out of district student could enroll again. He stated the school district would enroll the out of district student, unless they were expelled the previous year. He reported 7th grade could accept twenty-one (21) students. He reported two (2) classes would be closed for the 2017-2018 school year including fourth (4th) grade and the senior class. Discussion ensued regarding max levels for each grade. He reported when 312 for 9-12 is hit, enrollment is closed. He also reported 7th and 8th grade will be capped at seventy-eight (78) each for a total of 156. Mark Parkman asked how many students are attending A.K. Smith Career Center this year? Superintendent Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier reported fifteen (15) junior and senior students are attending this year. He reported 15-18 seniors are attending PNC this year. Gurpreet Singh made a motion to approve the 2017-18 open enrollment target. Karen Jedrysek seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business

A. Donations

Superintendent Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier reported the administration is recommending approval of two (2) donations. He reported Westville Tri Kappa is giving a donation in the amount of \$250 for the Science Olympiad team for competition supplies and \$500 to the Elementary Art program for art class supplies and Art Show supplies. He reported another donation from Westville Tri Kappa in the amount of \$225 has been given to the Camp Invention Scholarship Fund and directed to families whose children are registered to attend the Camp Invention summer program. A question and answer period followed. Vicki Hannon made a motion to approve the donations as presented. Lynn Wilson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Lilly Grant - Counseling

Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier reported a Lilly Endowment Grant has been given to help support counseling services within the school district. He reported one (1) way to utilize the grant is to hire support personnel for the guidance counselor. He reported the enclosed job description would be for the grant period which ends December 31, 2017. He reported this agenda item is for information only and will be brought as an action item at the April 12, 2017 Board meeting.

Personnel

A. Resignations

- **Nicole Hartford**

Middle School/High School Cross Country Coach
High School Track Coach

Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier reported Nicole Hartford submitted her resignation as MS/HS cross country coach and high school track coach as she has taken a college sport position. Mark Parkman made a motion to approve the resignations of Nicole Hartford as presented. Karen Jedrysek seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Jane Bachman noted Ms. Hartford is not the Middle School Track Coach as previously posted. Lynn Wilson noted correction to the minutes that Ms. Hartford resigned as high school track coach only, not middle school track coach.

B. Appointments

- **Amber Januchowski**

Cafeteria Substitute

- **Summer Mitchell**

Cafeteria Substitute

- **Natalie Slater**

Part-Time Counselor Support

Dr. Curtiss Strietelmeier reported the administration is recommending approval of the appointments of Amber Januchowski and Summer Mitchell as cafeteria substitutes, and Natalie Slater, the current physical education teacher, and working two (2) hours per day as the part-time counselor support previously presented during the Board meeting. Vicki Hannon made a motion to approve the appointments as presented. Karen Jedrysek seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Next Meeting Date:

March 9, 2017 – Executive Session
Westville Administrative Conference Room

April 12, 2017
Regular School Board Meeting

Vicki Hannon, Secretary

Date