

**Northwest Area School District
School Board Meeting
February 17, 2021**

The Northwest Area Board of Education held its regular meeting virtually. Mr. Bonczewski, School Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

The following members were present during the meeting: Mr. Bonczewski, Mr. Benson, Mr. LeValley, Mrs. Biller, Mr. Sutliff, Mr. Lanza and Mr. Beleski. Mr. Long, Attorney Angela Evans, Mrs. Straub, Ms. Kratz, Mr. Miner, Mr. Mills, Mr. Shults, Mr. Sorber, and Ms. Hurst were also present. The meeting was live via YouTube.

Mr. Bonczewski reported that there was an Executive Session prior to the meeting from 6:00-6:30 to discuss personnel and contract issues.

The following applicants for the vacant school board seat were interviewed by the Board of Directors:

- Dr. Edward Brunn
- Mrs. Jessica Crawford
- Mrs. Kelly DeFinnis
- Mr. Jeff Pierontoni
- Dr. Jennifer Yarnell

Following the interviews, the Board of Directors held a brief Executive Session (7:20 – 7:40) to discuss personnel issues and board member qualifications.

1. Approve of Minutes

Mr. Sutliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. LeValley to accept the minutes of the following previous meeting:

a. Regular School Board Meeting/Executive Session January 20, 2021

Upon voice vote, all present voted yes, motion passes.

2. Comments: No Comments

3. Reports

Mr. Sutliff made a motion, seconded by Mrs. LeValley to approve the reports.

Upon voice vote, all present voted yes, motion passes.

4. Payment of Bills

Mr. Sutliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beleski, to approve the payment of the following bills:

5.1 General Account list of pre-paid for January 2021 - \$443,997.98

5.2 General Account list of bills for February 2021 - \$438,092.58

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes.

5. Superintendent's Comments – Mr. Long thanked all applicants who applied for the open board seat. Mr. Long noted that it is uplifting that so many people share an interest in our district, and we need everyone's help and input. Mr. Long thanked the faculty, staff, school board, and parents for their flexibility during the winter weather closings and cancellations. Mr. Long noted that weather related decisions are tough, and the district is trying to maintain education continuity. Mr. Long announced that the Administrative Team has been meeting with faculty to design summer programs which would help students close the gap in education from the past year of Covid -19 related issues. Mr. Long hopes to have the details of the programs available in March. Mr. Long congratulated Carmela Shiptoski, RN, for receiving the School Nurse Excellence Award for the Northeast Pennsylvania Region for 2021. This award entitles Ms. Shiptoski to be eligible for the School

Nurse of the Year Award in the 2022 school year. Mr. Long wished Mr. Cassidy Shults the best of luck as tomorrow, February 18 is his last day as Elementary Principal at Northwest Area. Lastly, Mr. Long announced that the district is still looking for part time paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, cleaners, and cafeteria workers. If anyone is interested, please contact the district.

6. Administrative Reports –Mr. Miner noted that administrators would defer to written reports which were included in the agenda. Mr. Bonczewski thanked all board candidates for coming to the meeting this evening, and noted that each would bring something special to the district.
7. Policy/Procedures – No Report.
8. Personnel
Mr. Beleski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benson to approve the following:
 - a. Appointed Dr. Jennifer Yarnell as a member of the Northwest Area Board of Education, effective immediately.
 - b. Approved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Tiffany Gregorio, part time paraprofessional, effective December 15, 2020.
 - c. Approved the interim action of administration to appoint Amy Gregorio as a part time Paraprofessional, effective, February 1, 2021.
 - d. Approved the interim action of administration to appoint Rachel Bonomo as a part time Paraprofessional, effective February 17 2021, as per the Support Staff CBA.
 - e. Approved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Desiree Morris as English Department Chairperson, effective at the end of the 20-21 school year.
 - f. Approved the interim action of administration to appoint Tyler Ferenchick, Long Term Substitute, effective January 27, 2021.
 - g. Approved the MOU between the Northwest Area School District and the Northwest Area Support Staff Association regarding the Covid - 19 leave.
 - h. Approved the MOU between the Northwest Area School District and the Northwest Area Education Association regarding Covid - 19 leave.
 - i. TABLED the motion to approve the MOU between the Northwest Area School District and the Northwest Area Support Staff Association regarding starting salary.
 - j. Approved to appoint Aleah Ashton, part time Paraprofessional, effective with receipt of required paperwork.
 - k. Approved to post for a mentor for Tyler Ferenchick for the 2020-21 school year.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes, with the exception of item i.) which was TABLED

Dr. Jennifer Yarnell was sworn in by Mr. Bonczewski as a member of the Board of Education.

9. Finance –
Mr. Benson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. LeValley to approve the following:
 - a. Approved the agreement with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. to provide substitute nursing services at a rate of \$47.04 per hour for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.
 - b. Approved the approved/rejected exoneration requests for the 2020-2021 Occupational Taxes for inclusion in the minutes per exoneration resolution adopted by the board in June 2020.
 - c. Approved the Luzerne Intermediate Unit Budget for the 2021-22 school year.
 - d. Approved the real estate refund to Huntington Township tax payer, William Smith, in the amount of \$ 1,302.02.

- e. Approved the real estate refund to Huntington Township tax payer, Rothery Flynn, in the amount of \$180.53.
- f. Approved the real estate refund to Fairmount Township tax payer, Scott Sweger, in the amount of \$478.68.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes.

10. Buildings & Grounds/Safety – No Report
11. Education/Curriculum – No Report
12. Co-Curricular –

Mr. LeValley made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Benson to approve the following:

- a. Approved an Independent Tennis Program at no cost to the district for the 2020-21 school year/season.
- b. Appointed Renee Gerken as a Volunteer Tennis Coach for the 2020-21 school year/season, pending required paperwork, at no cost to the district.
- c. Approved the following Track and Field Coaches for the 2020-21 school year/season, pending required paperwork:
 - Roy Phillips- Varsity Assistant
 - Gareth Henderson- Varsity Assistant
 - Sam Definnis- Varsity Assistant
 - Andy Hanadel- Junior High Head Coach
- d. Approved the following Softball Coaches for the 2020-21 school year/season, pending required paperwork:
 - [Kevin Harvey](#) - Head Varsity (- \$500) \$4,000
 - Kyle Purdy- varsity assistant (-\$500) -\$3,300
 - Bob Gray - varsity assistant - \$1,000
 - Lou Legiros – Volunteer
 - Bruce Baker - Junior High Head Coach (\$1,000 splitting)
 - Mckenzie Klinger - Junior High Assistant Coach (\$1,000 splitting)
 - Keith Kittle - Volunteer
- e. Approved the following Baseball Coaches for the 2020-21 school year/season, pending required paperwork:
 - Les Harrison - Varsity Assistant
 - Brandon Fenstermacher - Junior High Assistant - \$1,300
 - Jeff Sorber - Junior High Assistant - \$1,300
 - Paul Hufford - Junior High Assistant - \$1,200
 - Brandon Hardiman – Volunteer
 - Tyler Kolb – Volunteer
 - Dylan Fenstermacher—Volunteer
 - Eric Gurzynski – Volunteer
 - Eric Evans – Volunteer
 - Walt Dietz – Volunteer
 - Bob McCoy – Volunteer
 - David Piestrak – Volunteer
 - Curt Gregory – Volunteer

- Amy Hazlet – Volunteer
- Bryce Harrison – Volunteer
- Connor Hazlet – Volunteer
- Will Miller - Volunteer

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes.

13. Transportation – No Report

14. Additions to the Substitute List –

Mr. Benson made a motion, seconded by Mr. LeValley to approve the following:

- a. Appointed the following substitutes for the 2020-21 school year, pending required clearances:
 - Tyler Ferenchik - Teacher
 - Matthew Meade - Teacher
 - Madison Goodrich - Teacher
 - Molly McAndrew – Teacher
 - Allison Pajor - Teacher

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes.

15. Tabled Items: None

16. Legislative –Mr. Bonczewski noted that budget work is being done in Harrisburg.

17. West Side CTC – Mr. Benson reported that WSCTC is moving toward the hybrid situation in which students will begin to return to face to face instruction.

18. LIU Update –Mr. Lanza reported that the IU is saving money by closing down old buildings.

20. New Business – No New Business

21. Solicitor's Report – No Report

22. Comments –Mr. Bonczewski thanked the five board candidates for coming out to the meeting.

23. Adjourn – Mr. Sutliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. LeValley and unanimously by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 8:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pete Lanza, Board Secretary