

**Northwest Area School District  
School Board Meeting  
June 24, 2020**

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

The following members were present at the meeting: Mr. Benson, Mr. Bonczewski, Mr. LeValley, Mr. Kreidler, Mr. Beleski, Mrs. Biller, Mr. Lanza, and Mr. Conger. Mr. Sutliff was present via telephone. Mr. Long, Attorney Angela Evans, Mrs. Straub, Ms. Kratz, Mr. Miner, Mr. Mills, and Ms. Hurst were also present. Cassidy Shults was present virtually. 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 safety issues. Additionally, there was as a break in the regular meeting for an Executive Session from 7:15PM to 7:35PM.

1. Approve of Minutes

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

a.) Regular School Board Meeting/Executive Session –May 20, 2020

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

2. Comments: Mr. Long received questions which were emailed to him from Mr. and Mrs. Logsdon and son, and Mrs. Blasick. The families noted that there is a retirement of the librarian on the agenda and questioned what we will be doing with the library this coming school year. Mr. Long responded that we are making plans to re-enter school and have our current staff use the library to their potential so that students are able to take books out of the library. Mr. Long also noted that we are writing the ELA curriculum in which we would like to embed more novels into.

3. Reports

Mr. Lanza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beleski to approve the reports.

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

4. Payment of Bills

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

- c.) General Account list of pre-paid for May 2020 - \$ 574,866.94
- d.) General Account list of bills for June 2020 - \$ 267,795.75

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

5. Superintendent's Comments – Mr. Long reported that Mr. Mills reviewed the School Safety and Security Report during Executive Session. Mr. Long thanked the family of Virginia Wildoner (Hartman) for the donation of year books from 1946 and 1947. Mr. Long congratulated the Class of 2020, and commended Mr. Miner and staff on a job well done with graduation. Mr. Long also reported that the results of the district survey are coming in. Lastly, Mr. Long noted that the district will be closed on July 3 in observance of the holiday. The Special Education Plan is on the agenda tonight, which maps out the next three years. Thank you to Ms. Kratz on a job well done with the plan.
6. Administrative Reports –Mr. Mills noted that the Athletic Plan is on the agenda, and asked the board for their consideration in approving it. The plan will be on the Northwest Website. Ms. Kratz

reported that sixty three students received an ice cream certificate for 90% participation or better during the pandemic. Mr. Miner thanked the board, Mr. Long, and Attorney Evans, as well as the maintenance staff, technology, secretarial staff, and everyone who helped to make graduation a success. Mr. Miner also reported that the PCCD projects continue, and are almost complete in the high school. Lastly, Mr. Miner recognized Bristol Hardiman for receiving the 2020 Governor's Civic Engagement Award. Mr. Bonczewski thanked everyone for their hard work in making graduation a success.

7. Policy/Procedures –

Mrs. Biller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beleski, to approve the following:

- a. Approved to authorize Superintendent, Joseph F. Long Jr. to submit a letter of intent to withdraw from the PA Health Trust at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
- b. Approved the resolution regarding Joseph F. Long Jr., Superintendent, to sign any and all contracts, agreements, grants, and/or licenses with the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes

8. Personnel

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

- a. Approved the MOU between the Northwest Area School District and the Northwest Area Education Association regarding an early retirement incentive.
- b. Approved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Chelsea Mahle, Paraprofessional, effective June 9, 2020.
- c. Approved to appoint Lee Ann Huffman as a full time Paraprofessional, effective with the start of the 2020-21 school year, as per the Support Staff CBA.
- d. Approved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Kaili Bowman, effective with the end of the 2019-20 school year.
- e. Approve to appoint Casey Kopco as a full time PCA, effective with the start of the 2020-21 school year, as per the Support Staff CBA.
- f. Approved to accept, with regret, the retirement of Gretchen Black, Librarian, effective August 31, 2020.
- g. Approved to accept, with regret, the retirement of Fred Sorber, part time Cleaner, effective June 9, 2020.
- h. Approved to appoint Lauren Malacari as an Occupational Therapist, effective with the start of the 2020-21 school year as per the Professional CBA.
- i. TABLED the motion to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as Guidance Secretary.
- j. Approved to post and advertise for a part - time cleaner.
- k. Approved to post and advertise for Substitutes for all academic disciplines as well as Support Staff for the 2020-21 school year.
- l. Approve to post for the following positions for the 2020-21 school year:
  - a. Detention Monitors
  - b. Homebound Instructors
  - c. High School Math Tutor
  - d. Huntington Creek Recovery Center Tutors
- m. Approve to post and advertise for a contracted Speech Therapist.

- n. Approve to post and advertise for a Jumpstart Facilitator.  
(Note: Position funded by Central Susquehanna Community Foundation).
- o. Approved the non-renewal of temporary professional employee, Katie Kuzma, due to a substantial decrease in pupil enrollment and/or curtailment or alteration of programming as a result of substantial decline in class enrollment.
- p. Approved to post and advertise for a part time Paraprofessional.
- q. Approved the Business Manager contract with Kristy Straub for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022.
- r. Approved the MOU between the Northwest Area School District and the Northwest Area Education Association regarding extra-curricular salaries for the 2020-2021 school year.
- s. Approved the appointment of Kelly Healy for summer 2020 speech services at the contracted hourly rate, as per terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and not to exceed 5 weeks.
- t. Approved summer 2020 OT services for a duration of 5 weeks and not to exceed 50 hours at an hourly rate of \$31.16.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes

9. Finance

Mr. Kreidler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Conger to approve the following:

- a. Approved that the Northwest Area School District adopt a final budget for the 2020-2021 School Year of expenditures \$19,871,335.00 and revenue, \$19,596,499.00, and further sets a tax rate for the 2020-2021 School Year at 11.466 mills.
  - 1. A \$5.00 Per Capita Tax enacted under the School Code.
  - 2. A \$5.00 Per Capita Tax enacted under Act 511
  - 3. A \$10.00 Occupation Assessment Tax enacted under Act 511 for all governmental units except Huntington Township.
  - 4. A \$5.00 Occupation Assessment Tax enacted under Act 511 for Huntington Township only.
  - 5. An Earned Income Tax in the amount of ½ of 1% enacted under Act 511.
- b. Approved the resolution designed to implement homestead/farmstead exclusions as mandated by Act I.
- c. Approved the resolution regarding exemption of qualified persons from payment of the occupation tax levied for the 2020-2021 school year.
- d. Approved the resolution approving collection of school property taxes through installments, to include real estate owned by taxpayers that own small businesses, as per Act I.
- e. Approved the tax collectors remittance schedule for the 2020-2021 school year.
- f. Approved the 2020-2021 school year's Tax Collector Resolution dealing with the settlement of all taxes for the year on or before January 15, 2021.
- g. Approved the appointment of BBD, LLP as the Financial Auditors for the 2019-2020 fiscal year at a cost of \$22,500.
- h. Approved the agreement with the Luzerne Intermediate Unit for the programs and services enumerated in "Schedule A" for the 2020-21 school year at a cost of \$ \$308,928.56.

- i. Approved Tri - County to provide general liability and workman's compensation insurance services to the district in the amount of \$131,158 for the 2020-21 school year.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes

10. Buildings & Grounds/Safety

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

- a. Approved County Waste for district trash removal, at a cost of 11,780 for the 2020-21 school year.
- b. Approved Irwin Seating Company for the auditorium seating project, at a cost of \$153,531.80 (capital project).

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

11. Education/Curriculum

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

- a. Appointed Molly Novicki as Transition Coach for an outside program for an identified student, not to exceed \$1,800.
- b. Approved the Special Education Plan.
- c. Approved the final draft of the 2020-21 district calendar.

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

12. Co-Curricular – Mr. LeValley made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Biller to approve the following:

- a. Appointed Lon Hazlet as Head Varsity Football Coach for the 2020-21 school year/season.
- b. Appointed Gareth Henderson as Head Cross Country Coach for the 2020-21 school year/season.
- c. Approved to appoint Nikki Black as Head Varsity Field Hockey Coach for the 2020-21 school year/season, pending required clearances.
- d. Appointed Vicki Duvall as Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach for the 2020-21 school year/season, pending required clearances.
- e. Appointed the following Assistant Football Coaches for the 2020-21 school year/season, pending required clearances: (salaries in accordance with MOU between the Northwest Area School District and the Northwest Area Education Association regarding extra-curricular salaries for the 2020-2021 school year).

- Vito Malacari- Assistant Coach - \$4,400
- Ray Bierbach- Assistant Coach - \$4,400
- Brandon Fenstermacher - Assistant Coach - \$1,000
- Paul Hufford -Assistant Coach - \$1,700
- Bryce Harrison - Assistant Coach- \$1,700
- Les Harrison - Junior High Coach- \$1,600
- Rob Petrovich - Junior High Coach- \$1,600
- Charles (Sam) Gmitter - Junior High Coach-\$600

- Will Miller - Junior High Coach - \$600
- Leigh Bonczewski - Volunteer
- Clem Benson - Volunteer
- Mike Lindbuchler - Volunteer
- Jeff Sorber - Volunteer
- Jeremy May - Volunteer
- Chris Getz - Volunteer

- f. Appointed the following Assistant Cross Country Coaches for the 2020-21 school year/season, pending required clearances:
  - a. Abriana Posluszny - Assistant Coach
  - b. Brian Barchik - Volunteer
- g. Approved to post for Assistant Field Hockey Coaches for the 2020-21 school year/season.
- h. Approved to post for an Assistant Cheerleading Coach for the 2020-21 school year/season.
- i. Approved the Northwest Area Athletic Department's Resocialization Plan.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, with the exception of Mr. Benson who abstained from item e., motion passes.

- 13. Transportation- No report.
- 14. Additions to the Substitute List – None
- 15. Tabled Items: The following items from the June 24, 2020 Board Meeting were tabled:
  - Recommend and move to approve to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as Guidance Secretary, effective \_\_\_\_\_ as per the Support Staff CBA.

Mr. Kreidler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Conger for the following:

- a. Recommend and move to approve to appoint the following Summer Workers:
  - Rebecca Good
  - Trista Whitmire
  - Jannel Scott
- b. Recommend and move to approve to appoint Carmela Shiptoski for summer 2020 nursing services at the contracted hourly rate, as per terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and not to exceed 30 hours.
- c. Recommend and move to approve for summer 2020 high school and elementary guidance counselor employment, for a total not to exceed 50 hours per counselor, at the contracted hourly rate, as per terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

- 16. Legislative – Summer recess will begin soon. There is a new speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 17. West Side CTC – Mr. Conger noted that the building project is going well.
- 18. LIU Update – Mr. Lanza attended the meeting and worked on the fall schedule. Minutes are available.
- 19. Old Business – none

20. New Business –
21. Solicitor's Report – No Report
22. Comments – Mr. Long read the following comments which were emailed to him during the meeting:
  - Gretchen Black stated, “Please know that I, Gretchen Black, am retiring solely because I was led to believe that the library program in the Northwest Area School District will be eliminated effective with the start of the 2020-2021 school year.”
  - Toni Begliomini stated, “Hiring a librarian allows for optimization of the library for all students. Did the district decide to eliminate the library program? Will parents and community members be asked for input/feedback about this?”
23. Adjourn – Mr. Kreidler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benson and unanimously by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 8:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pete Lanza, Board Secretary