

WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - January 9, 2023
Approved 2/12/24

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

Board Secretary, Tim Mantz, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and asked everyone to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT:

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is either discussed or acted upon. The Board has fully complied with the notice requirements by advertising in the Express Times posting publicly and by notifying the Municipal Clerk of the date, time and place of meeting.

II. ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION RESULTS – NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Mr. Mantz announced the results of the annual school election.

The following individuals were elected to serve terms as follows:

- Pattie Covell – 3 Year Term
- Dawn Higgins – 3 Year Term
- Kevin Noone – 3 Year Term

III. OATH OF OFFICE

Newly elected board members take the oath of office, administered by Mr. Mantz, Board Secretary. Mr. Mantz then reviewed N.J.A.C. 6A:30, the School Ethics Act with the full board.

IV. ROLL CALL

Present

- Angela Bridygham
- Pattie Covell
- Lisa Eller
- Dawn Higgins
- Joseph Kresefsky
- Ya’el Kresefsky
- Holly Masenior
- Kevin Noone
- Melissa Vitalos

V. NOMINATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Mr. Mantz invited nominations from the floor for the office of School Board President.

Joseph Kresefsky nominated Dawn Higgins, seconded by Angela Bridygham.

Hearing only one nomination, a motion was made by Lisa Eller, seconded by Melissa Vitalos, to close nominations for School Board President and elect Dawn Higgins as School Board President.

WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - January 9, 2023
Approved 2/12/24

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

VI. NOMINATIONS FOR SCHOOL BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Mantz invited nominations from the floor for the office of School Board Vice President.

Joseph Kresefsky nominated Angela Bridygham, seconded by Lisa Eller.

Hearing only one nomination, a motion was made by Pattie Covell, seconded by Holly Masenior, to close nominations for School Board Vice President and elect Angela Bridygham as School Board Vice President.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

VII. REORGANIZATION MOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

A. Reorganization Motions

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Joseph Kresefsky, to adopt reorganization motions number 1 through 2 as a slate.

1. To establish the 2024 annual meeting calendar as presented.
2. To approve the Readoption of Policy Manual resolved, to readopt all current written policies, by-laws, and rules/regulations of the Washington Borough School District for the period from the date of this Reorganization Meeting until the Reorganization meeting in the next calendar year unless modified by the Board of Education in accordance with those applicable policies, by-laws, and/or rules/regulations.

Motion carried by roll call vote, with abstention by Mrs. Covell on item 2.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD – None

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Koeppen: Principal

- Recognized the music department for their efforts with the December Winter Concerts.
- Reported that the Gym Floor has been completed.

Mr. Esposito: Superintendent

- Reported on LEED program commencing for Grade 5.
- Thanked Mr. Freda and Mr. Howley for their service to the Board.
- Student of the Month recognition program will commence with the February Board Meeting, honoring student character, not just academic achievements.
- All Star Band student performers will showcase at the February Board Meeting.
- Reported on agenda items, program implementation for both iReady and Amira

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – session opened at 7:40 pm

WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - January 9, 2023
Approved 2/12/24

- Karen Castanhas expressed concerns about morning Grade 5/6 parent drop offs specifically with snow not being cleared for students.
- Becky Snyder, WEA President, commented that the Taylor St playground was well cleared for snow removal. Recognition to Colby Deemer and custodial staff.
- Holly Masenior inquired about requesting that the board meeting schedule be posted on the Borough Hall's new electronic sign.

Public Session closed at 7:48 pm.

XI. ACTION ITEMS: Superintendent's Recommendations

CONSENT AGENDA: Matters listed within the consent agenda have been referred to members of the Board of Education for reading and study are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion.

A. Consent Agenda Motion: BOARD AFFAIRS: SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Joseph Kresefsky to approve the following board affairs agenda item **1.1**.

Motion carried by roll call vote, with abstentions by Mrs. Covell and Mr. Noone.

- 1.1 To approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023 regular meeting session.

B. Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS: SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

Motion made by Lisa Eller, seconded by Melissa Vitalos to approve the following business affairs agenda item **2.1** through **2.4**.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

- 2.1 To approve 1/8/24 current expense regular account and food service bill list.
- 2.2 To approve contract with Amira Learning, Inc for Amira Suite for Reading, an AI-assisted reading software, in the amount of \$12,220 for a term of 18 months (first 6 months given free of charge).
- 2.3 To approve contract with Curriculum Associates for iReady Assessment and Personalized Instruction Math & Reading Site License in the amount of \$20,710 and term of 1 year. ***This new amount supersedes the previously approved iReady Math Assessment and Personalized Instruction for \$15,020 on December 11, 2023.
- 2.4 To approve contract with Dr. Salome Gonzalez, BCBA for evaluation, observation, training and oversight of the Autism Program at the on-site rate of \$175 per hour and a remote rate of \$150 per hour for records review, staff meeting and training, report writing and expert testimony preparation for legal cases, not to exceed \$10,000.

WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - January 9, 2023
Approved 2/12/24

C. Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS: SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION

Motion made by Joseph Kresefsky, seconded by Lisa Eller to approve the following personnel affairs agenda item **3.1 through 3.5**.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

- 3.1 To approve the comprehensive student and staff attendance data (*with all fire drill reports, if applicable*) for the Month of December, 2023.
- 3.2 To approve Mr. Connor Farrington as a substitute paraprofessional for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 3.3 To approve FMLA maternity leave of absence request for Mrs. Marissa Szczerba beginning on or about March 25, 2024 utilizing 44 accrued sick days, followed by NJFLA leave of absence for 12 weeks beginning on or about June 4, 2024.
- 3.4 To approve disability leave of absence for employee # 38293437 from March 8, 2024 – April 5, 2024 utilizing 15 accrued sick days.
- 3.5 To approve revised FMLA maternity leave of absence request for Mrs. Megan Traphagen beginning on January 9, 2024 utilizing 10 accrued sick days and 2 accrued personal days, through on or about March 8, 2024 followed by NJFLA leave of absence for 12 weeks.

D. Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS: SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION

Motion made by Lisa Eller, seconded by Holly Masenior to approve the following school affairs agenda item **4.1 through 4.2**.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

- 4.1 To approve the School Nurse’s Report for November and December, 2023
- 4.2 To approve the following field trip for Grade 6 on May 29, 2024 to Medieval Times, Lyndhurst, NJ.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Lisa Eller, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:51p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

This executive session is expected to last about 20 minutes. The general nature of the subject areas to be discussed are: Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Ruling, and Personnel Matters.

It is anticipated that action pursuant to this executive session will not be taken.

WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - January 9, 2023
Approved 2/12/24

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Washington Borough Board of Education, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter.
2. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public upon resolution of all information discussed.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Joseph Kresefsky, to adopt the following resolution to exit executive session at 8:14 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

Motion made by Joseph Kresefsky, seconded by Lisa Eller to appoint School Board Attorney firm, Schenck Price for the 2023/24 school year.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Angela Bridygham, seconded by Kevin Noone to affirm that the Superintendent represents the Board of Education at meetings.

Motion carried by roll call vote, with dissention by Mrs. Eller.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos seconded by Lisa Eller, to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectively submitted,

Tim Mantz
Board Secretary