

OFFICIAL MINUTES
WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL
DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MORRISDALE, PA

DATE: October 26, 2010

The regular meeting of the West Branch Area School District Board of Directors was held October 25, 2010 at 7:51 p.m.

**MBRS
PRESENT**

Joe Kovalcin, Gerald Coble, Don Yontosh, Gary Miller (arrived at 7:16), Robert Seprish, Melvin Smeal, Tim Kephart, Larry Allen, Jennifer Kerlin

**MBRS
ABSENT**

**OTHERS
PRESENT**

Michael Panek, Superintendent; Kasi Jackson, Board Secretary; Allen Levin, Solicitor; J.R. Holenchik, High School Principal; Dave Nelson, Maintenance Supervisor; Holly Petriskey, MaryAnn Moriarity, Lester Smeal, P.J. Monella, Jason McMillen, Business Manager; Wendy Fernburg, Supervisor of Special Education; Danielle McDowell, Ron Mollura, Shari Buck, Michael Eirich, Laurie Hoffman, Jane Brubaker

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

An executive session was held before the meeting for personnel.

**MINS
APPRVD**

Gerald Coble motioned, Robert Seprish seconded, to approve the meeting minutes from September 27, 2010. Motion carried.

**STUDENT
REPORTS**

P.J. Monella—Senior Class Representative:
Signups for Powder puff football will be Wednesday, October 27, 2010
The Halloween parade will take place on Friday, October 29, 2010
The Donkey basketball game will take place on November 16, 2010
December 15, 2010 the seniors will be measured for their caps and gowns.

John Walker—School Board Representative:
Discussed in detail the Student Council District 6 Conference that will be held at the school. Approximately 200 students will be attending and Mr. Walker asked to reserve the March 4, 2011 snow day for that day to hold the conference that way the school doesn't need to find housing for 200 students.

VISITORS

**ADM
REPORTS**

Mr. Holenchik:
Discussed what was in his report for the board and the reading apprenticeship that the Social Studies teachers attended.

Mrs. Fernburg:
16 students with IEPs for kindergarten next year
6 new students to WB with IEPs this year
All Board members were given a copy of monthly report

Mr. Nelson:
Discussed the vandalism that has been occurring in the high school bathrooms.

They have narrowed it down to the time of the day and are working on catching who is doing the vandalism.

Mr. Nelson was in contact with McClure Company to fix the exhaust fumes that have been coming into the school. McClure Company came in and made adjustments.

The John Deer tractor arrived and Mr. Nelson thanked the board for letting it be purchased.

Mr. Bisko:

The elementary is 75% completed with the projectors being installed. Should be done by the end of the week.

Mr. Bisko will be attending a meeting at the CIU to discuss internet and to see if they will have to find someone else to contract with.

Mr. Panek:

Please be aware that our School District has made AYP for the 2009-10 school year.

Additionally, our Elementary School has also been listed as achieving AYP. Since we last met, however, Mr. Holenchik made some ethical and honest corrections to the list of students in one identified Subgroup. As a consequence, the Junior-Senior High School has now lost its School Improvement Status. Based on the performance of this identified subgroup, our Junior-Senior High School building is now listed in the Corrective Action 1 category.

To expand on this situation, the following Observations apply to our Junior-Senior High School building:

1. Corrective Action 1
2. The High School would have made AYP.
but did not make AYP because of one Subgroup's scores in Reading and Math
3. This subgroup did not make AYP in 2009 – School Improvement 2
4. Overall student scores for Reading and Math were: 67.4% and 59.6% respectively
5. The Subgroup in question posted scores for Reading and Math were: 17% and 8.5% respectively (the subgroup in question represented approximately 40 students in the 7th, 8th and 11th grades combined)
6. IEP subgroup scores for Reading and Math declined by 3.4 and 9.9 per cent respectively from 2009
7. One subgroup gained 7 per cent in Math from 2009 (made AYP goal by Confidence Interval)
8. Graduation rate increased by 7% from 2009

What does this report mean for WEST BRANCH AREA JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL?

In the 2009-10 school year, this school did not meet all AYP measures and was placed in "Corrective Action 1" status. This is the third level of "needing improvement" out of four, and there are several things that happen:

This school will review its improvement strategies and must create a school improvement plan so that it can meet AYP next year. This school is eligible for various levels of technical assistance to help it get back on the right track, and is subject to escalating consequences (e.g., changes in curriculum, building leadership, professional development). Students at this school will be eligible for school choice. The school or district will need to offer supplemental services such as tutoring. The district will be responsible for paying for these additional services.

This school will need to meet AYP for two years in a row to be considered on track to meet the goal of all students attaining proficiency in Reading and Math by the year 2014.

What can teachers and administrators do?

For teachers with students who were tested for AYP in Spring 2010, copies of printed Parent Reports have been made available to identify stronger and weaker areas by standard for **each student**. These reports can help current teachers target instruction to each student.

School reports in print and online are also available for Grades 3–8 and 11, the grades tested for AYP in Spring 2010. These reports can provide insight into grade-specific topic areas that may require additional attention during the current school year.

Note: The 2011 state target for students at or above proficient will be 11 percentage points higher for Mathematics (56% in 2010 to 67% in 2011), and will be 9 percentage points higher in Reading (from 63% in 2010 to 72% in 2011).

PSSA –CORRECTIVE ACTION 1

Recommended Actions:

CHANGES IN CURRICULUM

As we have recently engaged the services of our Curriculum Coordinator from the IU, our interventions are being actively determined to attend to our needs. Included in these interventions are extra tutoring provided and funded through Federal Programs, school improvement grants and support from our state and local IU resources. Additionally, we are in the midst of restructuring our Special Education Department to include the use of Resource Rooms, that enable identified students to receive regular daily instruction in their area of needs identifies though test and classroom data. Math and reading are being addressed with special tutoring now available through the addition of regular education tutoring provided as a daily intervention. As our Reading scores were derived though a Confidence Interval, we are proactive in providing a new and better reading series to take the place of the former which did not address our achievement needs. This program promises to add greatly to the success of our students in the elementary and subsequently in the Junior High and Senior High.

BUILDING LEADERSHIP

Since we last review this together, I can faithfully report that Mr. Holenchik has been following the initial stages of the School Improvement plan that was introduced last year, with repeated trainings throughout the school year and summer. I am reassured with what I have witnessed thus far.

In today's school achievement climate, the principal is the curriculum leader, and is personally responsible to provide all support, data, analysis, interventions and supervision. In our current school configuration, both the high school and elementary principals have quite a responsibility. We must consider how we can augment our staffing plans to allow the additional support that they need to complete their assigned tasks. This would satisfy the Federal mandate of building leadership change while providing all of the above.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In addressing the possibility of such an occurrence, we have secured the services of a Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. Because the High School is now in Corrective Action 1, the benefit from this position comes from our need of the following in this job description:

Staff Development

Student Assessment

Curriculum Development

Securing Grants and other Appropriate Funding forms

Each of the targeted areas above are now vigorously addressed. Additionally, a fully articulated curriculum plan has been developed to address our needs through the 2017-18 school year and will be presented to the board and to the public during the October 25, 2010 meeting.

All of this has been provided without any increase to the local revenue effort. Our Title 1 Grant has provided the salary of this position without any effect on our tax base.

CIU

No report.

CCCTC

No report.

PERSONNEL

Don Yontosh motioned, Gary Miller seconded, to approve the following motions:

- Approve the following substitutes to the district. All paperwork has been received:
 - Victoria Letavish—Cafeteria Monitor, Personal Care Aide, Classroom Aide
 - Michael Smeal—Custodian
- Approve Lisa Timko and Rochelle McCamley to the volunteer list, all paperwork has been received.
- Susan Betts to attend the Roundtable Conference on December 13, 2010 at the C.I.U. #10. Registration cost is \$10, sub cost is \$85. Total is \$95 paid for by access funds.
- Sarah Ewing to attend the Roundtable Conference on December 13, 2010 at the C.I.U. #10. Registration cost is \$10, sub cost is \$85. Total is \$95 paid for by access funds.

- Lori Bollinger to attend Reading in a Foreign Language training on December 9, 2010 in State College, PA. Registration fee is \$215 and sub fee is \$85. Total is \$300 paid for by Title II funds.
- Michael Hughes to attend the Gifted Networking training on October 15, 2010 at the C.I.U. #10. There is no cost to the district.
- JoEllen Hunt and Nik Bisko to attend the PETE & C on February 13-16, 2011 at the Hershey Lodge. Registration fee is \$242 each, motel and meal cost is \$438 each, mileage cost is \$131 each, and sub cost is \$255. Total cost is \$1877 paid for by Title II funds.
- Jason Hoffman, Crystal Gay, Dana Swisher, & Cheryl McGonigal to attend the Savvy Science Practical Methods to Boost Science Literacy training on October 21, December 2, and February 16 at the C.I.U. #10. Registration cost is \$150 each; sub cost is \$255 each. Total cost is \$1620 paid for by Title II funds.
- Sarah Ewing to attend Working Effectively with Difficult Students training on December 1, 2010 at the C.I.U. #10. Registration cost is \$199, sub cost is \$85. Total cost is \$284 paid for by Access funds.
- Scott McClelland to attend the RTII training on December 12, February 15, and April 19 at the C.I.U. #10. Sub cost is \$255 paid for by Title II funds.
- Craig Jaquith and Karl Hoover to attend the TEEAP conference on November 4 & 5, 2010. Registration fee is \$40, motel and meal cost is \$188.81 each, membership cost is \$60 each, mileage cost is \$124 each, sub cost is \$170 each. Total cost is \$1165.62 paid for by Title II funds.
- Susan Betts to attend the 2011 Accommodations for IEP Students on December 16, 2010 at WB. Sub cost is \$85 paid for by Access funds.

Motions carried.

Robert Seprish motioned, Larry Allen seconded, to approve the following motions:

- Approve Karen Thomas to substitute for Amy Godin while she is off on medical leave. Karen is an approved clerical substitute to the district.
- Approve to grant tenure for Brandy O'Hare.
- Approve Holly Modzel to go back to being hall monitor in the high school and not in the elementary position.

Motions carried.

EDUCATION

Don Yontosh motioned, Tim Kephart seconded, to approve the following motions:

- Approve Heidi Kleber to paint an academic mural in the hallway of West Branch as her senior project. The theme is academic classes taught at West Branch.
- Approve the International Club to go to Washington D.C. on December 3, 2010. Approximately 45 students will be attending the trip. Departure time will be 5 a.m. and arrival time will be 11:30 p.m. Chaperones will be Lori Bollinger and Colleen Viehdorfer.
- Approve 10th and 11th grade to attend Clearfield Lock Haven Science and

Technology Day on November 19, 2010. Departure time will be 9:15 a.m. and arrival time will be 2:15 p.m. There is no cost to the student and cost to the district is \$90 for a bus. Chaperones are Kim Hubler and Jennifer Porter.

- Approve the engineering room to be changed back into the tutoring room for math and reading.
- Approve Sarah Myers to host a blood drive as her senior project. This will take place on December 15th. It will be held during school hours due to being a rivalry blood drive between West Branch, Philipsburg-Osceola, and Moshannon Valley to see what school donates the most blood. This is being done thru the Red Cross.
- Approve Phil Wood, Laurie Josephson, Debra Galley, and Scott McClelland to complete their Masters of Science in Educational Development & Strategies Program by Wilkes University.

Motions carried.

Don Yontosh motioned, Gerald Coble seconded, to approve the following motions:

- Approve the 5th grade music class to attend local nursing homes to go Christmas Caroling on December 16 & 17, 2010. Approximately 91 students will be attending the trip, departure time will be 9:00 a.m. and arrival time will be 11:00 a.m. There is no cost to the district or student. Chaperones are Laura Backes, Sue Ropchock, Dennis McCamley, Jane McDowell, Laurie Josephson, and 2 parent volunteers with clearances.
- Approve Matt Johnson and Karl Hoover to take approximately 15 students to the EcoCAR Challenge Year 3 Kickoff event held at State College, PA on October 22, 2010. Departure time will be 8:00 a.m. and arrival time will be 3:30 p.m. There is no cost to the student and cost to the district is \$170 for sub cost.
- Approve the West Branch Ski Club to go to Tussey Mountain Ski Resort on January 9, 2011; Hidden Valley Ski Resort on January 23, 2011; Holiday Valley Ski Resort on January 16, 2011; Holiday Valley Ski Resort on February 9, 2011. Approximately 50 students will be attending the trips and chaperones are Joseph Beahan, Preston Raymond, and Phil Wood.
- Approve Delton Rager and Cody Smeal to paint the men's locker room at West Branch High School as their senior project.
- Approve the Class of 2011 to go to Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio on June 6, 2010. Approximately 60 students will be attending the trip. Cost to the district is \$170.00 and cost to the student depends on cookie dough sales. Chaperones will be Cindy Bock, Holly Modzel, Adam Carr and Craig Jaquith.
- Approve the 8th grade to attend the Clearfield County CTC on December 7, 2010. Approximately 91 students will be attending. Cost to the district is \$130.90 and there is no cost to the student. Chaperones are Jennifer Porter, Kim Hubler, and Matt Johnson.
- Approve the reauthorization of the Strategic Plan midpoint review.

Motions carried.

TRANSPORTATION AND ATHLETICS

Melvin Smeal motioned, Jennifer Kerlin seconded, to approve the resignation of Ron Henry as Varsity Baseball Coach. All baseball positions will open. (Coach Henry was contacted twice to reconsider, he declined the offer). Voice Roll Call: Mr. Miller—yes; Mrs. Kerlin—yes; Mr. Kephart—yes; Mr. Smeal—yes; Mr. Seprish—yes; Mr. Coble—yes; Mr. Allen—yes; Mr. Yontosh—no; Mr. Kovalcin—yes. 8—yes; 1—no. Motion carried.

Melvin Smeal motioned, Tim Kephart seconded, to approve the following motions:

- Approve all bids for winter sports supplies as presented. (Bids are due on 10/22/10, will be presented at the meeting with a breakdown by sport).
- Approve the following volunteers for the winter athletic season.
 - Wrestling- Jared Ricotta, Brad Michaels, Gary Miller, David Williamson, Gary Parks, Terry Smeal
 - Girls Basketball-Judy Larson, Kelly Penvose, Dennis McCamley, Adam Carr

Motions carried.

POLICY

Tim Kephart motioned, Jennifer Kerlin seconded, to approve the first readings of the following policies:

- Booster Organizations
- Attachment to the FMLA policy.

Motion carried.

FINANCE AND PURCHASE

Melvin Smeal motioned, Tim Kephart seconded, to approve the following motions:

Approve the Treasurer's Report.

Approve the following Disbursements from September/October.

\$ 7,318.00	Athletic Account	(checks 10106 through 10169)
\$ 48,126.97	Cafeteria Account	(checks 3331 through 3352)
\$ _____	Construction Account	(checks _____ through _____)
\$ 613,370.96	General Account	(checks 38859 through 38968)
\$ 668,815.93	GRAND TOTAL	

Motions carried.

Don Yontosh motioned, Melvin Smeal seconded, to approve the following motions:

Approve the activity account for September.

Approve the following per capita exonerations:

Township	Number of Exonerations:
Cooper	3
Morris	
Graham	
Karthus	
West Keating	

Motions carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Williamson, Mr. Holenchik, and Mr. Panek received a letter from Moshannon Valley thanking West Branch for the excellent medical care to one of their football players that were injured at the game.

NEW BUSINESS

Don Yontosh motioned, Larry Allen seconded, to approve the School Improvement Team to go to various locations for PSSA remediation on November 10, 2010. Cost to the district will be for transportation. Motion carried.

Don Yontosh motioned, Larry Allen seconded, to approve the YMCA Summer Youth Theater to perform Peter Pan and use the auditorium at a cost of \$4,000.00 and a \$400 refundable security deposit. The dates of the play are July 21-24, 2011. All agreements must be signed and understood before the play and practice will take place. Motion carried.

Mr. Smeal questioned why the students that are having negative accounts are being punished and not being allowed to participate in extracurricular activities when it is the parent's responsibility to pay the bill.

Mr. Yontosh commented that the parents must be responsible and they should be preparing their kids to balance a check book and pay their bills. Mr. Yontosh also commented that both parents and students sign the handbook so they both should be reading it and just not signing it.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Miller met with families of soldiers. Mr. Miller also discussed fundraising options for the Vietnam Memorial.

Mr. Allen presented a plaque that he had made that will have all of the names on.

ADJOURN

Don Yontosh motioned, Larry Allen seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The board held a closed hearing after the meeting.

Kasi Jackson

Board Secretary