

WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL VOTING SESSION

JULY 8, 2024

Members Present: Chad Diviney, Jeremiah Dobo (via phone), James Emigh (reappointed this meeting), Jessica Maines, Norman Parks (via phone), Jason Porter, Melvin Smeal, Donald Yontosh

Members Absent: Christina Brown

Other:

Media Present: Jeff Corcino – The Progress

Administration Present: Mark Mitchell

Others Present: Sherri Laurusevage, John Hayden, Aimee Willett, Stacey Guenot

**OPENING EXERCISES**

Mr. Chad Diviney called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. All present were asked to stand and pledge allegiance to the American Flag.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the meeting minutes from June 24, 2024. Mrs. Jessica Maines seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

**BOARD**

J. Emigh  
Board Seat Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to appoint James Emigh as School Board Member to fill the seat vacated by Mr. Sterling. Mr. Melvin Smeal seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 7-0-0. Voice Roll Call: Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Dobo – yes; Mr. Porter – yes; Mr. Diviney – yes; Mr. Parks – yes; Mrs. Maines – yes; Mr. Smeal – yes; 7 – yes; 0 – no. Mr. Emigh was sworn in by Mrs. Guenot and took his seat at the table for the remainder of the meeting.

**PERSONNEL**

Grade 5  
Dept. Chair Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Cheryl Beck as Grade 5 Department Chair, effective with the 2024-25 school year. Mr. James Emigh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

C. Gay  
Mentor Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve Crystal Gay to serve as a mentor for Allie (Myers) Emigh for the 2024-2025 and 2025-26 school years at the contracted rate of \$750/year. Mr. Melvin Smeal seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

AEDY  
Positions Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the advertisement of positions for an in-house Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) Program (1 full-time professional staff position and 1 paraprofessional position). Mrs. Jessica Maines seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the West Branch Area School District and the West Branch Education Support Professionals Association (WBESPA), related to custodial support options. Mrs. Jessica Maines seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Math Pilot Programs**

Mr. Melvin Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve piloting the following math programs during the 2024-2025 school year as potential choices for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Bridges
- Ready Core

Mr. Donald Yontosh seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0. Mr. Mitchell added that grades 1, 4, and 6 will participate in the pilot programs.

## **POLICY**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the second reading of the following policies:

- Policy 222: Tobacco and Vaping Products
- Policy 227: Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
- Policy 323: Tobacco and Vaping Products
- Policy 351: Controlled Substance Abuse

Mr. Melvin Smeal seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

## **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

### **Bids A/C Units**

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to solicit for bids for the replacement of 2 rooftop AC units. Mrs. Jessica Maines seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0. Bid details discussed by the Board included warranty and possible extra coverage for parts and/or labor. Mr. Porter voiced that there may be a benefit to replacing more than two units, especially if multiple units are approaching end of life.

## **FINANCE & PURCHASE**

### **Payment Application**

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the final payment application #8 to Westmoreland Electric Services, LLC for electrical work on the Water Heater Replacement Project in the amount of \$7,540.00 (to be paid out of bond funds). Mrs. Jessica Maines seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

### **Fuel Sale**

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve selling 18,000 – 20,000 gallons of heating oil, as is, at a rate of \$1.25 per gallon, to Nittany Oil Company. The heating oil is in the District's underground fuel tank and needs to be removed as a result of the boiler project that is underway. Nittany Oil Company shall be responsible for pick up and all licenses required. Mrs. Jessica Maines seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

### **GESA Amendment**

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the amendment to the Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement (GESA) between Quandel Energy Solutions and the West Branch Area School District, as part of the boiler replacement project, at a cost difference of \$35,500. Scope of work in the GESA project includes the change from the above ground propane tank installation to an underground installation. Mrs. Jessica Maines seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0. Voice Roll Call: Mr. Yontosh – yes; Mr. Dobo – yes; Mr. Porter – yes; Mr. Diviney – yes; Mr. Parks – yes; Mrs. Maines – yes; Mr. Smeal – yes; Mr. Emigh – yes; 8 – yes; 0 – no.

eSignature  
Resolution

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to adopt the Resolution between the West Branch Area School District and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) identifying and authorizing Mark Mitchell, Superintendent, to sign electronic agreements with PDE. Mrs. Jessica Maines seconded the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

### **OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Mr. Mitchell provided an update on the Middle School Reconfiguration. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) approval is still pending. However, the district expects approval very soon. If the approval is delayed, communication will be pushed out to parents/guardians with the anticipated changes and there will be follow-up correspondence upon approval.

There was also another conversation about the replacement of the A/C units and the possibility of building their replacement into the Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement (GESA). Representatives from Quandel Energy Solutions were present at the meeting and able to answer questions from the Board.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Donald Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Mrs. Jessica Maines seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 8-0-0.

Respectively Submitted,



Stacey Guenot  
Secretary to the Board of Education