

January 13, 2025

The regular meeting of the South Williamsport Area School Board was called to order at 6:00 PM in the High School Cafeteria by the President, Todd Engel.

The meeting opened with a Moment of Silence and Pledge to the Flag led by the girls' softball team.

Board Members Present: Bachman, Brigandi, Bukeavich, Engel, Hitesman, Lewis, Rupert, and Young.

Others Present: Kimberly Bollinger – High School Assistant Principal, Dwight Woodley – Director of Innovative Learning/IT, Bill Reifsnyder – Director of Buildings and Grounds, Eric Briggs – Superintendent, Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager, and David Sterngold – Solicitor.

Visitors: Jess Watson, Matt Courter – Williamsport SunGazette, Susan Zaydell, Christy Pinkerton, Hilarie German, George Gerber, Connie McLaughlin, Ernie Graham – ELA Sports (via Microsoft Teams), Kieran Carroll – ZeroEyes, and Audrey Bear – Piper Sandler & Company

PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The following individuals spoke about the following topics:

- Girls' Softball Team – Myrtle Beach trip

DISCUSSION ITEM

ELA SPORTS – SOCCER/TRACK COMPLEX

Mr. Ernie Graham presented an update on the soccer/track complex project. If the District is comfortable with proceeding with just a track and athletic field, it is permitted within the zoning district. Because the project is located in a floodzone, not a floodway, a "No Rise Certification" is required. The estimated cost is \$18,000 - \$22,000 and takes 6-10 weeks to complete. After that, a floodplain application will need to be submitted. This can cost \$90,000 - \$110,000 for engineering, design and permitting, and an additional \$15,000 - \$20,000 for agency review fees and application costs. If the District wants to make any accessory improvements or structures, there will be a need to apply for a variance. If the variance is denied, there is an appeal process. This will add cost and time to the project. Accessory improvements or structures would include fencing, bleachers, grandstands, concession stands, scoreboards, and bathrooms.

ACTION ITEMS

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion to approve the November 2024 treasurer's report was moved by Young, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

APPROVE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of bills from the General Fund in the amount of \$2,537,788.23, Food Service Fund in the amount of \$105,076.35, Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$507,781.46, GO Bond 2023 in the amount of \$931,108.56, and GO Bond 2024 in the amount of \$363,052.68 as funds become available was moved by Hitesman, seconded by Brigandi. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2024 and December 3, 2024 as written was moved by Lewis, seconded by Brigandi. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

ZEROEYES PILOT PROGRAM

Mr. Kieran Carroll presented ZeroEyes to the school board. The technology overlaps with the District's existing cameras to detect an unholstered gun. The image is then reviewed by a member of the ZeroEyes team to verify that the technology appropriately recognized a gun. ZeroEyes then notifies the District and appropriate entities about the gun threat.

A motion to approve the ZeroEyes Pilot Program with the cost being covered by PCCD grant funding for the first year was moved by Rupert, seconded by Young. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-abstain, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

SOARING HEIGHTS SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

A motion to approve the Education Services Agreement with Pyramid Healthcare Inc., t/d/b/a Soaring Heights School at a rate of \$310 per day per student was moved by Bachman, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

SCHRADER GROUP

A motion to approve the Revised Fee Proposal for Professional Services related to the design and construction project for the stadium support buildings at an estimated total fee of \$72,000 was moved by Brigandi, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES

A motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Blast IU #17 relating to the provision of a School Psychologist for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years at an estimated cost of \$78,750 for 100 days, with the District paying actual costs for days of services rendered, using mental health funds received from PCCD grant funding was moved by Bachman, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

ACT 1 INDEX OPT OUT RESOLUTION

A motion to adopt a resolution for the 2025-2026 fiscal year that any increase in real estate property taxes will not exceed the adjusted 2025-2026 index of 5.6% was moved by Rupert, seconded by Hitesman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

SIGNAGE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT

A motion to approve the ELS911 Wayfinding System Signage Contract to provide interior and exterior signs for Central Elementary and the High School for a unified system working with 911 centers, using safety funds received from PCCD grant funding was moved by Young, seconded by Engel. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

LITTLE LEAGUE INCORPORATED AGREEMENT

A motion to approve the Little League Incorporated Agreement to allow the District's baseball and softball teams to use Little League's batting cage facilities for practices at no cost, effective December 16, 2024 through June 1, 2025 was moved by Brigandi, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

OUT OF STATE/OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

A motion to approve the following out of state and overnight field trip requests was moved by Rupert, seconded by Young.

- Jessica Kaledas' overnight field trip request to take District band students to Berwick High School on January 22-24, 2025 for PMEA District Band performance
- Robyn Rummings' overnight field trip request to take District chorus students to Bloomsburg University on February 5-7, 2025 for PMEA District Choral Festival.
- Tom O'Malley's overnight/out of state field trip request to take the girls' softball team to Myrtle Beach, SC on March 22-28, 2025

Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT – SAFETY, HEALTH SUPPORT, STIPEND, COACH

A motion to approve the following employment was moved by Bukeavich, seconded by Young.

- School Safety & Security Coordinator – Eric Briggs
- Health Support Professional – Emma Boyer effective January 6, 2025. This is a school year position at 7 hours per day with a starting rate of \$21.05 per hour in accordance with the South Williamsport Education Support Professionals Association.
- Stipend – Keith Cremer as Bowling Club Advisor at a stipend of \$930.
- Track and Field Coach – Tracy Wright as Head Track and Field coach for the Spring 2025 season at a stipend of \$3,642.

Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT – DRAMA STAFF

A motion to approve drama staff and their stipends for the Spring 2025 musical consisting of Jared Whitford as Director and Designer at \$3,950, Stefanie Welty as Assistant Director at \$1,850, Sierra Aichner as Assistant Director at \$1,900, Steve Bergerstock as Set Builder at \$1,000, and Dan Schwanger as Pit Conductor at \$1,000 was moved by Bachman, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-no; motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT – VOLUNTEER COACH

A motion to approve Lily Eiswerth as a Softball Volunteer for the Spring 2025 season was moved by Bachman, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-abstain, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT – GAME WORKERS AND GUEST TEACHERS

A motion to approve the following employment was moved by Rupert, seconded by Engel.

- Game Workers for the 2024-2025 winter season – Mike Allison, Nick Koletar and Pat McCormick.
- Guest Teacher List from Blast IU for 2024-2025 school year – Melinda Hunt.

Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

CHILD BEARING/CHILD REARING LEAVE EXTENTION

A motion to approve EE #1411's child rearing leave request extension of December 6, 2024 through March 7, 2025, previously approved as October 30, 2024 – December 6, 2024, was moved by Bukeavich, seconded by Young. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

WRESTLING MAT REPLACEMENT

A motion to approve the purchase of wrestling mat replacements from Resilite for the current wrestling room at a cost of \$40,478.31 was moved by Rupert, seconded by Young. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-no, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

BLAST IU 17 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

A motion to name Mrs. Bachman to serve on the Board of School Directors of the Intermediate Unit was made by Bukeavich, seconded by Brigandi. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

DEBT PRESENTATION

Mrs. Audrey Bear, Managing Director at Piper Sandler & Company, presented the financial impact of new hypothetical debt borrowing scenarios of \$5,000,000; \$3,500,000; and \$2,500,000. With the current borrowings outstanding, annual debt service is approximately \$1,980,000 per year. If the District borrows \$5,000,000, annual debt service will be approximately \$2,200,000.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Briggs presented 2 versions of a school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year. Based on feedback from the school board, he will make some changes and bring an option back for first reading at the next school board meeting.

There will be an executive session following the meeting regarding personnel matters and student discipline, no action to follow.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Young, seconded by Brigandi. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Attest



Jamie Mowrey
Board Secretary