

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2020 BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Meyersdale Area School District was held Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 7:03 pm in the Media Center, 309 Industrial Park Road, Meyersdale, PA. The meeting was called to order by Board President, Jeff McKenzie.

Dr. Karlie opened the meeting with an invocation and led those present in the flag salute.

Jeff McKenzie announced that an executive session was held on November 16, 2020 to discuss personnel and safety matters.

Roll Call: Members present: Gidget Brooks, Brian Deist, Jeffory McKenzie, Brian Witherite, Heather Reese, Tammy Witherite, Ron Donaldson, Jami Gindlesperger8
Members absent: Bryan Stanczyk.....1

Others present: Tracey Karlie-Superintendent, Krystal Edwards-Solicitor (virtual), Shannon Brant-Bus.Mgr./Bd. Sec., John Wiltrout-HS Principal, Wayne Miller-MS Principal, Devin Pritts-Elem. Principal, Craig Gindlesperger, Dan Johnson, Patti Shaulis, with others attending via zoom.

A motion was made by Tammy Witherite, seconded by Jeff McKenzie, to appoint solicitor Krystal Edwards as temporary chairman.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brian Deist, seconded by Jeff McKenzie to open the nominations for officers.

A motion was made by Tammy Witherite, seconded by Brian Deist, to nominate and retain the status quo of all officers for 2021.

No additional nominations were made.

A motion was made by Tammy Witherite, seconded by Heather Reese, to close nominations.

A motion was made by Brian Deist, seconded by Heather Reese to retain the status quo of all officers for 2021:

- President, Jeff McKenzie
- Vice President, Heather Reese
- Legislative Chairman, Ron Donaldson
- Joint Operation Committee and Authority Representative, Ron Donaldson
- Alternate Joint Operation Committee and Authority Representative, Gidget Brooks
- Board Liaison to PSBA, Tammy Witherite

Roll Call: Ayes: Ron Donaldson, Brian Deist, Jeffory McKenzie, Brian Witherite, Tammy Witherite, Jami Gindlesperger, Gidget Brooks, Heather Reese.....8
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Gidget Brooks, seconded by Heather Reese, to recommend approval of the 2021 meeting dates and times. Copy in folder attached to minutes.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2020 BOARD MEETING

No public comments were received.

No correspondence.

A motion was made by Tammy Witherite, seconded by Heather Reese, to approve payment of the general fund bills in the amount of \$204,573.38 and the athletic fund bills in the amount of \$4,709.67.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brian Deist, seconded by Gidget Brooks, to recommend approval of the following Personnel items:

- 1. Recommend approval to add Shannon Schurg, Brandon Leonard and Claire Bechter to the approved substitute teacher list for Ignite Education Solutions, pending completion of all relevant clearances and other paperwork and acceptance thereof by the district.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Gidget Brooks, seconded by Heather Reese, to recommend approval for the Emergency Instructional Time, Section 520.1.

Copy in folder attached to minutes.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Heather Reese, seconded by Jami Gindlesperger, to recommend approval to operate under a hybrid model starting December 7, 2020: Middle school and high school in-person on Monday and Wednesday, and the elementary in-person on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, with the off days being virtual.

Discussion:

B. Witherite – prefer virtual until Jan. meeting. Not comfortable going against PDE’s recommendation to be virtual if in substantial.

Donaldson – shared that safety committee member Dr. Berkley recommended to go virtual.

Amy Rough school nurse, agrees with health professionals and PDE that school should be remote with the current situation.

Reese – Some students are better off in school than out. Connectivity is an issue for virtual learning.

Gindlespereger asked if teachers participating in Zoom could share their thoughts.

McKenzie asked for teacher input via zoom – various chat replies were received.

Roll Call: Ayes: Heather Reese, Jeffory McKenzie,.....2

Nayes: Brian Witherite, Tammy Witherite, Gidget Brooks, Brian Deist, Jami Gindlesperger, Ron Donaldson.....6

Motion failed.

A motion was made by T. Witherite, seconded by Gidget Brooks, to recommend approval to remain virtual through January 8, 2021, with the board re-visiting the issue on January 6th to determine the status for January 11th.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ron Donaldson, Brian Deist, Jeffory McKenzie, Brian Witherite, Tammy Witherite, Jami Gindlesperger, Gidget Brooks.....7

Nayes: Heather Reese.....1

Motion carried.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2020 BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Jami Gindlesperger, seconded by Tammy Witherite, to recommend approval of the following Policy items:

1. Recommend approval of the following changes to the MASD policy manual:

a. Updates to policies: 113.1, 113.2, 113.4, 122, 123, 123.2, 314, 317.1, 331

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Tammy Witherite, seconded by Brian Deist, to recommend approval of a resolution stating Meyersdale Area School District does not plan to raise school taxes above the state index for the 2021-2022 school year. Meyersdale’s adjusted index rate is 4.2%.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ron Donaldson, seconded by Tammy Witherite, to recommend approval for Paul Kirschbaum to be added to the approved drivers list for bus and van drivers.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ron Donaldson, seconded by Heather Reese, to recommend to approve payment in full to Stewart Transportation through January 8, 2021 minus variable costs as determined by PDE.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brian Deist, seconded by Heather Reese, to recommend the following coaches be approved, as listed, for the 2020-21 winter sporting season, pending completion of all relevant clearances and other paperwork and acceptance thereof by the district:

a. Gabe Broadwater – Volunteer Wrestling Coach

Roll Call: Ayes: Ron Donaldson, Brian Deist, Heather Reese, Brian Witherite, Tammy Witherite, Jami Gindlesperger, Gidget Brooks.....7

Abstain: Jeff McKenzie.....1

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brian Witherite, seconded by Heather Reese, to recommend approval to currently suspend all extracurricular activities, pending review on January 6, 2021.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ron Donaldson, Gidget Brooks, Brian Witherite, Tammy Witherite, Jami Gindlesperger, Heather Reese, Brian Deist.....7

Nayes: Jeff McKenzie.....1

Motion carried.

Remarkable Raiders for December were recognized. (pre-recorded)

A motion was made by Ron Donaldson, seconded by Gidget Brooks, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm.

Section 508: All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.