

## West Valley Central School Board Education

### Official Minutes

#### Regular Meeting July 7, 2020 ZOOM meeting due to COVID restrictions

##### I. CALL TO ORDER

Regular Meeting called to order at 7:17pm. With Tim Ploetz presiding.

##### II. Moved by Niesyty, seconded by Harmony to **ADOPT AGENDA**

Additions: none

Deletions: none

Changes: none

7 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

Moved by Davis, seconded by Harmony to go into executive session for personnel at 7:20pm 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

Moved by Klahn, seconded by Niesyty to come out of executive session at 8pm. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted. Eric stated that Dawn Samborski left executive at 7:45pm

##### III. Correspondence/BOE information

none

##### IV. BOARD COMMENTS

*Within this section of the agenda, the Board of Education or Administration may take the opportunity to comment on matters of interest or concern.*

##### V. PRESENTATIONS

none

##### VI. REPORTS

A. Superintendent, Eric Lawton reports on preparations for the rest of the summer- we need to provide food or at least indicate to the families where it can be received. Sent questionnaire out to the families that were receiving the lunches to see if they will need over the summer. If it is a small amount of families that want it, we may get them from another district instead of pulling in people to make a small amount of food. We will know more soon. The governor is kind of pushing back and saying that schools have to come up with their own plan for reopening the schools. We have been working on this, we have divided up into committees and each one is kind of doing some research on their part of it and what it might look like and how we can make it all fit together. We have started this process and will meet together next Wednesday. We will get more information and guidance from governor office and health department. We will then get out our final report back to the District Superintendent. Six-foot separation. Might work for our school. We have to come back with several plans and items that go on in the schools and will be categorized. Sports might be moved back to the spring and

maybe spring sports to fall. Some of the spring sports have less contact. Some of the fall sports have more contact. We will have to wait for more information. We will possibly have to take temps before entering the school. Ann and I started early by purchasing thermometers, protective gear and hand sanitizer. Masks for kids will be a huge issue for some. Bus transportation will be interesting because they first said every other seat, that does not put very many kids on the school bus at one time. Then it was said families with more than one child maybe they could all go in one seat. Seats are high so maybe every seat. Will we need more bus monitors? If you put monitors on the bus you are adding more people. With the efficiency study, I know we want to move forward with some of that information. People are not excited about spending more money, but I do not think we spent all the money we had set aside. And I think they will be willing to walk us through that process. We could not just say we want Mike and Lauree to do it. We would have to put an RFP out and they would come back with numbers. The advantage of going with Mark and Lauree is that they are familiar with the district. We do not know how much money we have left I just know that they said that they came under the original amount. Most of us have an idea which way to go and how to proceed with this, five-year plan. I just feel that I would rather have the professionals. I do not know how all you feel. Is our next step to tell you that is what we want to do? Again, you would have to do an RFP. Mike asked Tim to tell Eric that is what we want him to do. The board made a consensus decision to have Ann and Eric put out an RFP and see what we get. Mike stated the meeting that he missed last week – capital project. He wanted to know if he could contact them. Eric stated that they are coming out to do a tour of the building with all of you on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Mike asked if he could have the maintenance list from the bus garage leak. Eric stated it is still leaking. Mike wanted to know if it has been patched and when. Eric said it only leaks certain time. Mike stated that if we have something that can hold up for another 5 years let it. Charlie states that some of the things that are on that list seem like it should have been done during normal maintenance. Eric asked like what and they said pipe wrapping, replacing doors. The list would help us make decisions. Mike stated that the grass in the playground, somebody is getting lazy, if they would just pull back the mulch and put new landscape paper, we would not have that happening. Tim Ploetz stated that the playground is on the old tennis court. That is why it needs to be replaced. Maintenance list and we could prioritize everything. Fix when it gets broken, but we do have some regular scheduled maintenance. Our building and conditions survey should have been done this year but the state put everyone on a schedule. Ours is scheduled for 2022 Young and Wright. There is a list of everything and its end date. Summer cleaning crew back but delayed fingerprinting. Stripping all floors upstairs, saves on chemicals. Mike Harmony asked if everyone is on ladder restrictions? Eric stated no. Do we have a in house scissor lift.? In the auditorium our air handling system was put installed in the year 2000. We never use it because you can not hear anything when it is on in the auditorium. Not sure why it is like that, it circulates a lot of air, but it was never balanced the right way or baffled correctly. This is something that they are looking at as well. And you will be able to hear it. Tour is Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm. This will give you the opportunity to actually see what areas are potentially in the project.

B. Principal, Daniel Amodeo working on our schedule with many different scenarios. Distance learning for summer school with approximately 7 students. 3 to 4 students were set up to do online college credits through Genesee Promise plus classes as juniors and seniors to gain more college credits. Completed 3-day ELA and Math training with teacher to help improve our student achievement. We do have a benefit of having an additional year to really learn and understand the next generation standards that have been implemented in PreK through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in ELA and Math. So we do have the benefit of a little bit more time, but that is our goal is to develop a plan for the next two to three years of how we are going to go about improving our students achievement and all of our students. Later in the summer we want to come back with those same groups of teachers to have potential workdays that we can continue our work that we started last week. Darla asked if there was something as a board we can do because we are trying to put together a plan with the efficiency study. Try to support the school and implement that into our study. Typically, your strategic plan at the board level is always going to have some goal or statement and where you want to go. And the school develops and implement that plan and then the board typically will support those endeavors. Darla thinks who better to know where or what we are missing or what you need than the teachers who are providing the service. Dan states the biggest issue in any school is time. It is time during the day to have the collaborative conversations with the grade level below you as a teacher or the one above. Look at our standards, understand the standards. Look at how you instructed those specific standards and then get feedback. But I think a good idea would be to share and present that data to you all, so that you have the same knowledge and information and that we do. Because essentially the state has set targets for every school district for student achievement and for student growth. So you know those targets are kind of already built in. We just need to get there, an in some cases we are meeting and exceeding those targets that are set in other cases, we are just below that, and we need to do some improvement and tweaking. You know I think a real good starting point would be to present that as accountability data to you and grades 3-8 and in our secondary program. Charlie asks Dan that if we can not come to school in September and distance learning has to happen. How many kids in our district need help to get internet? We need better quality access. We need hardline fiber optic cable throughout all of rural Cattaraugus County and Western New York. Bryan Hansen has done an amazing job with doing whatever we can on our end to provide access. He and I have talked about wireless hotspots and there is a funding source that we have through title for funding, where we would be able to purchase wireless hotspots for different places in the district. These hotspots can be put on a bus and park your bus. The quality of access to that internet through that hotspot is still relying on whatever wireless it is relying on. The signals are bouncing to towers. We really need is that hardline fiber optic cable throughout. Dan talked about TV white space – that fuzzy picture on your TV. That is essentially the broadcast band of TV white space and in many other countries they are using that as a way to connect people with high speed internet. The TV white space can go through mountains, structures and travels a lot farther than WIFI. But I do not know of any other municipality out in the Adirondacks or any other place in the state that utilize that technology.

Hopefully in the August meeting I can present that data and its not so much of whether the kids that are not taking the test are threes or fours and their performance or proficiency, what ends up happening is when you have a class of four or five students refused to take the test. One student not performing well in a huge percentage and a huge swing. We need to incorporate that is part of our plan and how to address that. I think the way to go about doing that is engaging our families, engaging our parents in our students having a cook out where we invite them all in, show them what the data is in a more simplistic form And understand we are one school, one community and we are all in this together and every one of us is relying on the person next to us. To be successful individually and to be successful as a school and get the at message out there about wat the test is not about. And what it really is about and what we can use it for and how if can benefit us and benefit your child and your students.

C. Business Official, Ann O'Brien reports that the internal claims auditor report was in your packet. One is done every year. I also sent you the minutes from the last audit committee meeting. We did have an audit committee meeting for primarily for the pre audit conference which is required. The audit is going to start on August 3<sup>rd</sup> so that is where all the work is. We are closing out the old year and opening up the new year. Next, we will have state aid reports that will have to be done and the ST3 report. The state has a new report that will have to be competed called the Transparency report and its in addition to the Federal report called ESSA report. Darla asks what you had suggested within the minutes of the audit committee meeting which Bob and Kathy were there regarding the internal auditor that we did not need. She was not part of that discussion but that is one of the responsibilities of the audit committee, to secure the external auditor and the internal audit and they felt that there was not enough risk to warrant the cost of the auditor, we do not know the cost. The requirement changed about 4 years ago that with schools with less than 1500 students it was not needed. The audit committee decided that they didn't feel there was a cost benefit to that and I think it was back on not really having a history in the District of problems on the fact that we do have internal controls in place. We do not really get much cash at this point and most is done electronically. State and Federal aid is done electronically. Low risk with cash. Our cafeteria has some cash, but we have internal controls in place. At some point it does not mean we cannot have that, but the audit committee felt we were in a good place.

## VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Moved by Niesyty, seconded by Harmony to approve the November, December, March, April and May budget transfers. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

VIII. **PERSONNEL**

A. Moved by Harmony, seconded by Niesyty to approve the following:

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**Between the**

**West Valley Central School District and the West Valley Service Employees Association**

This memorandum of agreement is entered into and between the West Valley Central School District and the West Valley Service Employees Association to provide guidance when our nation has faced a COVID 19 pandemic for the time period March 16, 2020 through and including June 30, 2020.

6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

B. Moved by Harmony, seconded by Davis to approve Keith Herbst as a summer maintenance/building and grounds worker at minimum wage starting on July 8, 2020. Pending fingerprint clearance. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

Tim Ploetz stated that item (c) will be Tabled pending legal advice.

Moved by Harmony, seconded by Kent. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

~~C. Consider a motion to approve the Director of Special Education Employment Terms and Conditions by and between West Valley Central School District and Mrs. Shawna Gugino for three (3) school years, commencing July 1, 2020 and terminating on June 30, 2023.~~

IX. **OLD BUSINESS:**

none

X: **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Moved by Harmony, seconded by Kent to appoint the following Board of Education members Mike Harmony, Gary Niesyty and Charles Davis to be the visitation committee representatives, to visit the school annually and report on its condition, as per Policy #2210, for the 2020/21 school year. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

B. Moved by Niesyty, seconded by Harmony to certify Daniel Amodeo as a Lead Evaluator. Mr. Amodeo has completed training in the nine elements required by Section 30-2.9 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and will continue inter-rater reliability training throughout the duration of the plan. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

C. Moved by Harmony, seconded by Niesyty to approve Charlie Davis to serve as a West Valley Central School District representative on the Town of Ashford Water District committee. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

D. Moved by Davis, seconded by Niesyty to appoint the following Board of Education members Mike Harmony, Darla Kent and Gary Niesyty to be a member of the policy committee, to review existing policies, for the 2020/21 school year.  
6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

E. Moved by Niesyty, seconded by Harmony to recognize the formation of the West Valley Administrators Association (WVAA). During the decision part of the motion Mike Harmony asks what it is? Eric states that it is a union for the administrators. Mike asks if it the one we got a letter on. Darla states that she has never been involved in the inception of a union. Does it hold us legally? Eric states that you are just recognizing it and understand it. If you say no, are not going to recognize it they would take you to PERB. And PERB would say they have a right. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

F. Moved by Kent, seconded by Davis to approve CSE recommendations.  
6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

G. Moved by Harmony, seconded by Davis to accept the Claims Audit year-end report. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

Moved by Kent, seconded by Harmony to go into executive session to discuss Superintendent evaluation at 8:47pm, with no business afterwards to be conducted.  
6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

Moved by Davis, seconded by Harmony to come out of executive session at 10:12pm  
6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

XI: Moved by Davis, seconded by Harmony to ADJOURN at 10:13pm.  
6 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

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District Clerk

Meeting minutes from transcribed dictation and audio