

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL BOARD—**Meeting of December 21, 2020**

I. Call to Order

The West Chester Area School Board met at 7:01 p.m. in the Spellman Education Center, 782 Springdale Dr. Exton, PA. Mr. McCune, Board President, called the meeting to order and led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Mr. Bevilacqua, Ms. Chester, Mr. Durnell, Mr. Gallen, Dr. Herrmann, Mr. McCune, Dr. Shaw, Mr. Spackman, Mrs. Tiernan. Student Representatives: Alice Tran, East High School; Colleen Kinhead, Henderson High School; Davis Patel, Rustin High School.

Members Absent:

III. Approval of the Minutes of the November 23, 2020 Monthly School Board Meeting and the December 7, 2020 Annual Organization Meeting

BOARD ACTION: It was moved by Mrs. Tiernan and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2020 monthly School Board Meeting and the December 7, 2020 Annual Organization Meeting.

On roll call vote, all members present voted “aye.” Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. McCune announced that the Board met in Executive Session on Monday, December 21, 2020 regarding a personnel matter.

Approval to amend the December 21, 2020 Meeting Agenda

BOARD ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Gallen to amend the December 21, 2020 Meeting Agenda as follows: Removal of Property & Finance Action Item D3-Approval of ACT 1 Resolution to Publicize the District’s Intent to Obtain PDE’s Approval of Exceptions for the 2021-2022 Budget and Item D4-Approval of ACT 1 Resolution to Acknowledge Release of 2021-22 Preliminary Budget & to Advertise District’s Intent to Adopt the 2021-2022 Budget at Least 10 Days Prior to Adoption.

On roll call vote, all members present voted “aye.” Motion carried 9-0.

IV. Approval of the December 21, 2020 School Board Meeting Agenda as amended

BOARD ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Spackman and seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua to approve the December 21, 2020 meeting agenda as amended.

On roll call vote, all members present voted “aye.” Motion carried 9-0.

V. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Scanlon and the High School Student Representatives gave monthly reports.

VI. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Dr. Sokolowski read public comments on agenda items received via google form. The comments will be included in their entirety in the meeting minutes.

VII. Approval of Personnel Recommendations—Dr. Ulmer

BOARD ACTION: It was moved by Ms. Chester and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the Personnel Recommendations as presented.

I. Removal from Payroll

a.	Resignations - None
b.	Retirements - None

II. Additions to Payroll

a.	Professional Staff: Contract	
1.	Madelyn Antal	
	Placement	1.0 Spanish Teacher at Henderson HS, Temporary Professional Employee (Non-Tenured), effective TBD, Level 1, Step 1, \$46,000.
	Education	Bachelor of Arts from West Chester University of Pennsylvania 2016-2020
	Experience	None
	Certification	Instructional I, Spanish Pending
2.	Tess Macarty	
	Placement	1.0 Grade 1 Teacher at Westtown-Thornbury ES, Level 3, Step 1, \$48,000.
	Education	Bachelor of Science from West Chester University of Pennsylvania 2013-2017, Teaching Certificate 2018-2020
	Experience	Pre-K-4 Assistant Teacher and Lead Art Teacher at Thornbury Preschool 8/2019-5/2020, Personal Care Assistant at Chester County Intermediate Unit 8/2017-6/2018, New Directions Academic Coach at The Melton Center 9/2020-11/2020
	Certification	Instructional I, Elementary K-4
3.	Lucas VanEmburg	
	Placement	1.0 Business Teacher at Henderson HS, Temporary Professional Employee (Non-Tenured), effective 1/9/21, Level 1, Step 3, \$50,300.
	Education	Bachelor of Arts from Lycoming College 2008-2012

	Experience	High School Government & Economics Teacher at PA Cyber Charter School 2/2019 – current, Grade 9 Civics Teacher at Innovative Arts Academy 3/2018-2/2019
	Certification	Instructional I, Bus-Computer-Info Tech K-12, Social Studies
b. Professional Staff: Long Term Substitute		
1. Kristine Bengel		
	Placement	1.0 Grade 2 Teacher at Starkweather ES, Temporary Professional Employee (Non-Tenured), effective TBD, Level 1, Step 1, \$46,000. During Ms. Dailey's leave of absence.
	Education	Bachelor of Science from East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania 2012-2016, Early Childhood Education Teaching Certification from West Chester University of Pennsylvania 2018-2020
	Experience	Daily Paraprofessional & Substitute Teacher at Pocono Mountain School District 2017-2018
	Certification	Instructional I, Grades PK-4 (Pending)
2. Megan Breslin		
	Placement	1.0 Grade 5 Teacher at East Bradford ES, Temporary Professional Employee (Non-Tenured), effective TBD, Level 1, Step 1, \$46,000. During Ms. Rodriguez's leave of absence.
	Education	Bachelor of Science from West Chester University of Pennsylvania 2016-12/2020 (pending)
	Experience	Assistant Teacher at Bright Light Early Learning Center 2/2019 - 2020
	Certification	Instructional I, Grades 4-8 (Mathematics), Special Education PreK-8 (Pending)
3. Marissa Donlevie		
	Placement	1.0 Spanish Teacher at Fugett MS, Temporary Professional Employee (Non-Tenured), effective TBD, Level 1, Step 1, \$46,000. During Ms. Sola's leave of absence.
	Education	Bachelor of Arts from Messiah College 2016-2020
	Experience	Spanish Long Term Substitute at Unionville-Chadds Ford School District 9/2020-current
	Certification	Instructional I, Spanish PK-12, Program Specialist, ESL PK-12
4. Kevin Duell		
	Placement	1.0 Long Term Substitute Teacher for WCASD for the remainder of the school year. Kevin will be filling various positions that are open, but do not qualify for a 70-day opening. Temporary Professional Employee (Non-Tenured), effective 12/4/20, Level 1, Step 1, \$46,000.
	Education	Bachelor of Business Administration from University of Kentucky 1990-1992, Masters of Arts and Teaching 1998-2005 from University of Kentucky

	Experience	Reading Teacher Long Term Substitute at Fugett MS 8/31/20-12/4/20, WCASD Building Substitute 2016-present, Grade 5 Teacher at West Clermont Local School District 2015-2016, Substitute Teacher at Loveland City Schools 2013-2015, Grade 1, 4, 6, & 2 Teacher at Lakota Local Schools 2001-2013
	Certification	Instructional I, Grades 4-8, All Subjects 4-6, Social Studies 7-8
5.	Jane Guardiola	
	Placement	1.0 Reading Specialist at Glen Acres ES, Professional Employee (Tenured), effective 12/8/20, Level 1, Step 1, \$46,000. During Ms. Brickus' leave of absence.
	Education	Bachelor of Arts from Assumption College 1989-1993, Master of Education from University of North Carolina 1995-1997
	Experience	Reading Interventionist at Upper Darby School District 10/2019 – current, Reading Specialist at Upper Darby School District 1997-2002, Literacy Teacher at Durham Public Schools 9/1996-5/1997, Reading Specialist at CCIU 2/2017-6/2019
	Certification	Instructional II, Reading Specialist
6.	Patrick Lewis	
	Placement	1.0 Science Teacher at Stetson MS, Temporary Professional Employee (Non-Tenured), effective TBD, Level 1, Step 1, \$46,000. During Ms. Morris' leave of absence.
	Education	Bachelor of Science in Education (Pending) from Millersville University of Pennsylvania 2016-12/2020
	Experience	None
	Certification	Instructional I, Biology (Pending)
7.	Brianna McCabe	
	Placement	1.0 Long Term Substitute for WCASD for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year for the many open positions that do not reach our 70-day requirement, Temporary Professional Employee (Non-Tenured), effective 1/4/21, Level 1, Step 1, \$46,000.
	Education	Bachelor of Science from West Chester University 2017-2020
	Experience	1.0 Health/Physical Education Long Term Substitute Teacher at Starkweather ES 8/2020 – 12/23/20
	Certification	Instructional I, Health & Physical Education
8.	Devon Patton	
	Placement	1.0 Kindergarten Teacher at Glen Acres ES, Temporary Professional Employee (Non-Tenured), effective TBD, Level 1, Step 1, \$46,000. During Ms. Clayton's leave of absence.
	Education	Bachelor of Science from Pennsylvania State University 2011-2015
	Experience	Building substitute with Kelly Education 10/2020-current, Grade 2 Long Term Assignment with Kelly Education 3/2020-6/2020
	Certification	Instructional I, Elementary K-4

9.	Kaylie Rosenthal	
	Placement	1.0 English Teacher at Rustin HS, Temporary Professional Employee (Non-Tenured), effective 8/31/20, Level 1, Step 1, \$46,000. During Ms. Tyson's leave of absence.
	Education	Bachelor of Arts from University of Pittsburgh 2011-2015, Master of Arts from University of Michigan 2015-2016
	Experience	Daily Substitute with Kelly Education Services 2019-current, English Long Term Substitute at West Chester Area School District 8/2018-6/2020, English Teacher at Prince William County Public Schools 8/2016-6/2018
	Certification	Instructional I, English
10.	Alyssa Rothemich	
	Placement	LTS position for various open positions across the District for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, Temporary Professional Employee (Non-Tenured), effective 2/25/21, Level 1, Step 1, \$46,000.
	Education	West Chester University 2015-2019, BS in Education, PreK-4, Special Education PreK-8
	Experience	Grade 2 Long Term Substitute at Cyber Program at WCASD 9/24/20-2/25/21, Long Term Substitute Teacher Grade 1 Springfield Literacy Center, Springfield SD, August-November 2019 and December 2019-April 2020
	Certification	Instructional I, Grades PK-4, Special Education PK-8
11.	Sophia Verna	
	Placement	1.0 Math Teacher at Stetson MS, Temporary Professional Employee (Non-Tenured), effective TBD, Level 1, Step 1, \$46,000. During Ms. Chavarria's leave of absence.
	Education	Bachelor of Science (Pending) from West Chester University of Pennsylvania 2016-2020
	Experience	None
	Certification	Instructional I, Grades 4-8 Mathematics, Special Education PreK-8 (Pending)

c.	Administrative Staff: Contract - None
d.	Support Staff: Non Bargaining - None
e.	Support Staff: Contract - None
f.	Support Staff: Substitute - None

III. Personnel Events

- a. Status Change

	Name	Type	From	To	Effective Date
1.	Susan Aaldenberg	Support	1.0 Technology Support Specialist at SEC	1.0 Technology Service Specialist II at SEC	12/7/20, Group 9, Step 8, \$32.16/hr. – 12 Month
2.	Maura Abrahams	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at East HS	1.0 Technology Service Specialist II at Fern Hill ES	12/7/20, Group 8, Step 6, \$21.19/hr. – 12 Month
3.	Connie Barker	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at Henderson HS	1.0 Technology Service Specialist I at Glen Acres ES	12/7/20, Group 7, Step 6, \$15.29/hr. – 12 Month
4.	Asha Barkley	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at Henderson HS	1.0 Technology Service Specialist II at Rustin HS	12/7/20, Group 8, Step 6, \$21.19/hr. – 12 Month
5.	Grant Cazanave	Support	1.0 Technology Support Specialist at SEC	1.0 Technology Service Specialist II at SEC	12/7/20, Salary remains \$31.75/hr. – 12 Month
6.	Janet Celenza	Support	1.0 Help Desk at SEC	1.0 Technology Service Specialist II at SEC	12/7/20, Group 8, Step 9, \$23.23/hr. – 12 Month
7.	Susan Concannon	Support	1.0 Help Desk at SEC	1.0 Technology Service Specialist II at SEC	12/7/20, Group 8, Step 8, \$22.44/hr. – 12 Month
8.	Thomas Cosgrove	Support	1.0 Sr. Technology Support Specialist at SEC	1.0 Technology Service Specialist III at SEC	12/7/20, Group 9, Step 7, \$31.22/hr. – 12 Month
9.	Jaimie Edmunds	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at Peirce MS	1.0 Technology Service Specialist II at Peirce MS	12/7/20, Group 8, Step 6, \$21.19/hr. – 12 Month

	Name	Type	From	To	Effective Date
10.	Nancy Fay	Support	1.0 Sr. Technology Support Specialist at SEC	1.0 Technology Service Specialist III at SEC	12/7/20, Group 9, Step 10, \$35.50/hr. – 12 Month
11.	Loretta Gallagher	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at Fugett MS	1.0 Technology Service Specialist I at Fugett MS	12/7/20, Group 7, Step 6, \$15.29/hr. – 10 Month
12.	Michelle Harris	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at Penn Wood ES	1.0 Technology Service Specialist I at East Bradford ES	12/7/20, Group 7, Step 6, \$15.29/hr. – 10 Month
13.	Cynthia Heiden	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at East Bradford ES	1.0 Technology Service Specialist I at East Bradford ES	12/7/20, Group 7, Step 5, \$13.97/hr. – 10 Month
14.	Elizabeth McDonald	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at Mary C. Howse ES	1.0 Technology Service Specialist I at Mary C. Howse	12/7/20, Group 7, Step 6, \$15.29/hr. – 10 Month
15.	Elaine Parks	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at East Goshen ES	1.0 Technology Service Specialist I at East Goshen ES	12/7/20, Group 7, Step 6, \$15.59/hr. – 10 Month
16.	Suzanne Piombino	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at Exton ES	1.0 Technology Service Specialist I at Exton ES	12/7/20, Group 7, Step 5, \$13.97/hr. – 10 Month
17.	Sarah Prieto	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at East HS	1.0 Technology Service Specialist II at East HS	12/7/20, Group 8, Step 6, \$21.19/hr. – 12 Month
18.	Sarah Rosenthal	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at Starkweather ES	1.0 Technology Service Specialist I at Starkweather ES	12/7/20, Group 7, Step 6, \$15.29/hr. – 10 Month

	Name	Type	From	To	Effective Date
19.	Karen Semanko	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at Hillsdale ES	1.0 Technology Service Specialist I at Hillsdale ES	12/7/20, Group 7, Step 6, \$15.29/hr. – 10 Month
20.	Lynda Toe	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at Stetson MS	1.0 Technology Service Specialist II at Stetson MS	12/7/20, Group 8, Step 6, \$21.19/hr. - 12 Month
21.	Jennifer Weinstein	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at Westtown-Thornbury ES	1.0 Technology Service Specialist I at Westtown-Thornbury ES	12/7/20, Group 7, Step 5, \$13.97/hr. – 10 Month
22.	Tyler Zarr	Support	1.0 Technology Associate at Rustin HS	1.0 Technology Service Specialist II at SEC	12/7/20, Group 8, Step 5, \$20.78/hr. – 12 Month

b. Involuntary Transfer

	Name	Type	From	To	Effective Date
1.	Caitlin Boyle	Professional	1.0 English Teacher at Stetson MS	1.0 Librarian at Rustin HS	12/2/20
2.	Kathleen Corcoran	Professional	.6 ELD at Peirce MS/.4 ELD at Starkweather ES	1.0 ELD at Peirce MS	1/4/21
3.	Ashlyn Kahlenberg	Professional	1.0 ELD LTS at Westtown Thornbury ES	.5 LTS ELD at Starkweather ES/.5 LTS ELD at Exton ES	1/4/21

c. Voluntary Transfer - None

IV. Personnel Leave

a. Sabbatical Leave - None

b. Unpaid Leave

	Name	Position	Effective Date	Ending Date
1.	Mary Beckert	Paraprofessional at Westtown-Thornbury ES	12/14/2020	3/15/2021
2.	Jayanthi Nallathambi	Paraprofessional at Fern Hill ES	12/14/2020	3/26/2021

V. Additional Information

1.	Catherine Ahern's start date was 11/30/20.
2.	Elena Castilla, Gifted Resource Teacher at Henderson HS, has changed the start date of her sabbatical to 12/14/20.
3.	Kelly Cromleigh's start date was 12/7/20.
4.	Dr. Rebecca Eberly will receive a \$2,500 stipend for Elementary Cyber Program for the month of November, 2020.
5.	Albert Esposito's start date was 11/25/20.
6.	Brooke Ferguson's start date will be 1/25/21.
7.	Christopher Freeman's start date was 12/14/20.
8.	Christine Herzer, has rescinded her acceptance of the 1.0 paraprofessional position at East Goshen ES.
9.	Terence Lambert's start date will be 1/4/21.
10.	Stacy Main's start date will be 1/5/21.
11.	Kelly Panichellis's start date will be 1/22/21. Kelly's salary has been adjusted to Level 5, Step 10, \$66,100.
12.	Paige Price's start date is 12/21/20.
13.	Kathleen Scarpato's start date will be 1/11/21.
14.	Patricia Scully's start date will be 11/30/20.
15.	Alexander Sheetz's start date was 12/7/20.
16.	Kirsten Smith's start date was 12/8/20.
17.	Lucas VanEmburg's start date will be 1/11/21.
18.	Mary Vinciguerra's start date was 11/30/20.
19.	Carly Wasson's start date is 12/21/20.
20.	In accordance with the PA State Auditors recommendation, the following list of drivers, employed by our transportation contractors Krapf's and On the Go Kids, require School Board approval. The credentials and security clearances for each of these drivers has been verified to be in compliance with our transportation carrier contracts and have been vetted through the WCASD Transportation Office:

KRAPF'S:

First Name	Last Name	Driver/Aide
Webert	Charles	Driver
Patricia	Lloyd	Driver
Billy	Mannetta	Driver
Robert	Miller	Driver
Albert	Morton	Driver
Marianne	Welsh	Driver
Robin	Widener	Driver
Ravin	Wilkes	Driver

ON THE GO KIDS:

First Name	Last Name	Driver/Aide
Deanna	Forster	Aide
Linda	Holland	Aide

First Name	Last Name	Driver/Aide
Monica	Langham	Aide
Richard	Mahnke	Aide

VI. Supplemental Contracts

Last Name	First Name	Location	Season	Step	% of Contract	Total Contract	Position Title
2020-21 Additions:							
VanEmbarg	Lucas	HHS	Annual	1	60.00%	\$1,663.20	DECA Advisor
Removals: None							
Adjustments:							
Lindsay	Charles	FMS	Winter	5	100.00%	\$3,048.00	Asst. Wrestling Coach
Montero	Lucero	District	Annual	N/A	100.00%	\$34.59 /hr	Translator Services
Rutherford	Christy	EHS	Annual	N/A	100.00%	\$1,540.00	DECA Assistant

Addendum to Personnel Recommendations

I. Removals from Payroll

a. Resignations

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Sacha Jones, Secretary to the Principal at East Goshen ES, effective 1/8/21. |
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b. Retirements - None

II. Additions to Payroll

a. Professional Staff: Contract - None

b. Professional Staff: Long Term Substitute

1.	Rebecca Saunders
Placement	1.0 Special Education Teacher at Peirce MS, Temporary Professional Employee (Non-Tenured), effective TBD, Level 1, Step 1, \$46,000. During Ms. Stolnis' leave of absence.
Education	Bachelor of Science from Southern Connecticut State University 2010-2015, Master of Science from Southern Connecticut State University 2016-2018
Experience	Special Education Teacher at West Haven Board of Education 8/2015-current, Long Term Substitute at West Haven Board of Education 5/2015-6/2015
Certification	Instructional I, Special Education (Pending)

c. Administrative Staff: Contract - None

d. Support Staff: Contract - None

e. Support Staff: Substitute - None

III. Personnel Events

a. Status Change

	Name	Type	From	To	Effective Date	Salary
1.	Dawn Mader	Administrative	Assistant Principal-Rustin HS	Director of Equity and Assessment, Spellman Administration Building	TBD	\$140,675
2.	Mary Kay Puchalla	Administrative	Assistant Principal-Fugett MS/Acting Principal-Stetson MS	Principal-Stetson MS	TBD	\$139,741

b. Transfer

	Name	Type	From	To	Effective Date
1.	Ryan Kulesza	Involuntary	.6 Instructional Coach-Exton ES/.4 Math Teacher-Peirce MS	1.0 Instructional Coach-Exton ES	01/05/2021
2.	Susan Zacharkiw	Involuntary	.6 Instructional Coach-Penn Wood ES/.4 Math Teacher at Peirce MS	1.0 Instructional Coach-Penn Wood ES	01/05/2021

IV. Personnel Leave

- a. Sabbatical Leave - None
- b. Unpaid Leave - None

V. Additional Information

1.	Connie Barker is a 10-Month Technology Associate at Glen Acres ES.
2.	Dr. Kristen Barnello will receive a stipend of \$916.63 for her work during the month of November, 2020 for Cyber Program.
3.	Andy Grear will receive a stipend of \$1,666.66 for his work during November 12, 2020 through December 1, 2020 for Cyber Program.
4.	Patrick Lewis' start date is 1/4/2021.

VI. Supplemental Contracts - None

On roll call vote, all members present voted "aye." Motion carried 9-0.

VIII. Approval of Consent Agenda

BOARD ACTION: It was moved by Mrs. Tiernan and seconded by Mr. Spackman to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:

Education

1. Approval to Establish the following Account(s):
 - East HS Class of 2024
 - Henderson HS DMI (Defying Mental Illness)
 - Henderson HS Family Reach
2. Approval to Terminate the following Account(s):
 - Henderson High School Rotary-Interact
3. Approval of 2021-2022 School Calendar, Second Reading
4. Approval of Revised Administrative Guideline 918AG2 Title I Parent and Family Engagement School-Parent and Family Compacts, Second Reading

Pupil Services

Personnel

Property & Finance

Other Business

1. Approval of School Board Treasurer’s Report and Statement of Disbursements Summary Schedule for the Period of November 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020
2. Approval of the November 30, 2020 Financial Report
3. Approval of Revisions to Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan for SY 2020-21

On roll call vote to approve the above Consent Agenda Items, all members present voted “aye.” Motion carried 9-0.

IX. School Board Reports

Property and Finance Committee—Mr. Bevilacqua

D-1. Approval of 2021-22 Capital Fund Projects

BOARD ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve 2021-22 Capital Fund Projects not to exceed \$1,311,272.

Location	Project Description	Budget
Rustin High School	Phase 2 - sloped roof replacement	\$ 1,400,000 (\$88,728 over budget)

On roll call vote, all members present voted “aye.” Motion carried 9-0.

D-2. Approval of 2021-22 Capital Reserve Projects

BOARD ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Dr. Herrmann to approve 2021-22 Capital Reserve Projects not to exceed \$2,011,500.

Location	Project Description	Budget
District-wide	Emergency Repairs	\$ 110,000
District-wide	District-wide Roof Survey	\$ 50,000
Facilities	Install Automatic Loading Dock Plate	\$ 13,000
Facilities	Install new Gas & Diesel Tanks with Containment Dike	\$ 95,000
East HS	Upgrading Stadium Lights to LED	\$ 200,000
Henderson HS	Replace 2 Chillers	\$ 680,000
Henderson HS	LED fixtures in Gymnasium (material only - staff installed)	\$ 75,000
Rustin HS	Gymnasium Curtain Replacement	\$ 48,500
Rustin HS	Library Carpet Replacement	\$ 52,000
Rustin HS	Concrete Paving Replacement at Loading Dock	\$ 56,000
Peirce MS	Flooring Replacement (Computer, Music, Choir Rooms)	\$ 60,000
Peirce MS	Select Paving Replacement (Bus Lane alligating)	\$ 125,000
Stetson MS	Flooring Replacement (Computer, Music, Choir Rooms)	\$ 60,000
Exton ES	Replace Shingles on Roof of old Gym wing and Cafeteria	\$ 250,000
Hillsdale ES	Replace Drain and Piping from Kindergarten Playground Area	\$ 42,000
Starkweather ES	Emergency Generator Replacement	\$ 95,000

On roll call vote, all members present voted “aye.” Motion carried 9-0.

D-5. Approval of ACT 1 Resolution for Inflation Index Budget Limit

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Resolution for Act 1 Inflation Index Budget Limit

WHEREAS, The “Taxpayer Relief Act”, Act 1 of 2006, 53 P.S. §6926.101 *et seq.*, as amended, requires school districts to limit tax increases to the level set by an inflation index unless the tax increase is approved by voters in a referendum or the school district obtains from the Department of Education certain referendum exceptions;

WHEREAS, Act 1 permits a board of school directors to elect to adopt a resolution, as set forth in 53 P.S. § 6926.311(d), indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the public schools for the following fiscal year by more than its index, provided this resolution must be adopted no later than January 28, 2021;

WHEREAS, the West Chester Area School District index for the 2021-2022 fiscal year is 3.0%;

WHEREAS, the West Chester Area School District Board of School Directors has made the decision that it shall not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the West Chester Area School District for the 2021-2022 fiscal year by more than its index.

AND NOW, on this 21st day of December 2020, it is hereby RESOLVED by the West Chester Area School District ("District") Board of School Directors ("Board") that:

1. The Board certifies that it will not increase any school district tax for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
2. The Board certifies that it will comply with the procedures set forth in Section 687, of the Pennsylvania Public School Code ("School Code"), 24 P.S. §6-687, for the adoption of its proposed and final budgets.
3. The Board certifies that increasing any tax at a rate less than or equal to the index will be sufficient to balance its final budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.
4. The Administration of the District will submit the District's information on a proposed increase in the rate of a tax levied for the support of the District to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on the uniform form prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five (5) days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.
5. The Administration of the District will send a copy of this Resolution to the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five (5) days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.
6. The Board understands and agrees that by passing this Resolution it is not eligible to seek referendum exceptions under 53 P.S. § 6926.333(f) and is not eligible to request approval from the voters through a referendum to increase a tax rate by more than the index as established for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.
7. Once this Resolution is passed, the Administration of the District is not required to comply with the preliminary budget requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) and (c) of 53 P.S. § 6926.311. Provided, however:
 - a. The Board understands and agrees that, upon receipt of the information submitted by the District as set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall compare the District's proposed percentage increase in the rate of the tax with the index.
 - b. Within ten (10) days of the receipt of this information, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall inform the District whether its proposed tax rate increase is less than or equal to the index.

- c. If the Pennsylvania Department of Education determines that the District's proposed increase in the rate of the District's tax exceeds the index, the District is subject to the preliminary budget requirements as set forth in paragraph (a) and (c) of 53 P.S. § 6926.311.

ATTEST:

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL BOARD

_____ By: _____

Secretary

President

BOARD ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the Act I Resolution for the inflation index budget limit.

On roll call vote, all members present voted "aye." Motion carried 9-0.

X. Other Business

There were no other business regular agenda items this month.

XI. Comments from Residents

Dr. Sokolowski read public comments on non-agenda items received via google form. The comments will be included in their entirety in the meeting minutes.

Mr. McCune read the following quote: "Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more." ~ H. Jackson Brown, Jr."

XII. Adjournment

BOARD ACTION: On motion by Mr. Bevilacqua, seconded by Mr. Gallen, the Board, on voice vote, agreed to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Board Secretary

Public Comments and Comments from Residents (submitted via google form)

kujawski.suzie	Comments from residents	The discussion of schools being closed on Wednesday needs and must be a part of the agenda for tonight's meeting.
chrissymcfadden	Comments from residents	<p>School board,</p> <p>We need to allow for the option of returning full time 5 days a week. Starting in January, families need ot make a choice. Either remote or full time learning. Those of us who want full time in person learning deserve that right. ALlow those who do not elect that choice, to stay home. That will allow for all families who want to be there.</p> <p>A few points to make to further prove why our children must be in school aside from the fact that being at home is causing more devastating issues than COVID.</p> <p>Less than 2.5% of Chester County population has contracted COVID and that includes false positives. We DO NOT have an issue in our county.</p> <p>Child infection rate is 1/2 of adults. (Iceland study)</p> <p>Child transmission rate is 1/2 of adults. (Iceland study)</p> <p>Transmission rate is low to non existent in schools and cases are brought in by teachers, not children. (CCHD)</p> <p>Primary factor of transmission is symptomatic (NOT asymptomatic, per CDC). If you are sick, stay home. General rule anyway.</p> <p>Over 50% of cases are not infectious.</p> <p>Treatments are readily available.</p> <p>Transmission from student to teacher is extremely rare (Iceland study).</p> <p>Students are suffering greatly more at home than risking COVID:</p> <p>Grades/performances</p> <p>Depression</p> <p>Isolation</p> <p>If you follow any of the science, it is 1000% clear these children should be back in school. It's a tragedy it is not already happening.</p>

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		Please make the allowances to discuss at today's meeting. It's too important!
markweinmann44	Comment	<p>Please consider the mental health of our community as I see crippling situations with families and individuals. Kids need school more than ever and the effects of Covid mentally are worse than the actual virus for children. We see the models throughout the world that are working.</p> <p>Get the youngest back first. Monitor. Stay clean and continue healthy habits.</p> <p>Protocols to attend school daily should be strict and communication will be key.</p> <p>Do not allow fear to keep us from moving forward. Be brave. Believe in science and the vaccine. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Father of 2 Hillsdale elementary girls. Mark Weinmann</p>
john	Comment	<p>In-person education at our schools is low risk and WCASD should be open 5 days for in-person learning for all students. The politics of remaining in hybrid is shameful when the evidence is so overwhelming in favor to safely reopen 5x in person:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Child infection rate is 1/2 rate of adults (Iceland study)2) Child transmission is 1/2 of adults (Iceland study)3) Transmission rate in schools is low. Most cases enter schools from teachers (CCHD). Teachers forced to quarantine due to not following protocols should be put on unpaid leave until they return.4) Primary factor of transmission is Symptomatic people (NOT asymptomatic, per CDC study). There is no evidence of transmission from surfaces, and and potential risk is mitigated with hand washing and hand sanitizer.5) Transmission from student to teacher exceedingly rare (Iceland study)

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	<p>6) Covid-19 IFR and CFR extremely low. Treatments are available, most have minor symptoms.</p> <p>7) Greatest vulnerable population is in Long Term Care and they don't go to school</p> <p>8) Over 50% of PA and Chester County 'cases' are not infectious. The state lab does not reveal the PVR test cycles used when sharing test results, and is running tests up to 40 Ct cycles. Even Dr. Fauci admits it's impossible to be infection with a Ct result over 35. The state has the the test result data, but does not share it, which inflates case counts with people who are not infectious, creating an artificial barrier to reopening 5x in person.</p> <p>9) Gov Wolfs prior shutdown orders were already ruled unconstitutional (too expansive). The Attestation Mandate is folly because the State and County case numbers are inflated with non-infectious cases (high Ct scores). WCASD can defend reopening 5-days until the true case numbers are revealed. Stop playing by the State's bogus rules and get the kids back in class!</p> <p>10) Students suffering greatly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- grades & performance- depression & isolation- increase in drug use and suicides <p>11) Many schools, and districts are open 5x-in person in our area. Those schools are demonstrating leadership and courage in the face of political pressure based upon artificial risk.</p> <p>12) The PSEA is putting politics ahead of children's education. The WCASD is doing the same by not immediately returning to 5x in person for all students.</p> <p>13) Our School board must be brave and take a stand against politics and policies that harm our children.</p> <p>14) PA has already reached 23% heterogeneous immunity and spread is naturally slowing. Demand that Harrisburg shares the</p>
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		Brookhaven National Laboratory results on the PA heterogeneity rate.
triciabstevens	X3	<p>Please DO NOT APPROVE the new school safety guidance from the PDE. Many students are suffering irrevocable educational, social and emotional harm from remote learning. These are all known impacts by all in education, pediatrics, public health, & psychology - unknown only by the parents who are now facing how to handle it and help their children.</p> <p>Regarding the new guidance, Dr. Scanlon has noted that "it will be extremely difficult to keep our schools open (hybrid, or five days per week) with the latest required order issued to school districts by the State Department of Health." So, impacts from remote learning will only be further compounded with this new guidance.</p> <p>The Butler Area School District, along with families, are suing the PA DoH and PDE as this new order is taking away local decisions. According to all local health departments in-school, in-classroom transmissions ARE VERY LOW while 75-80+% of community spread is occurring at social events and family gatherings. Keeping kids out of school is not helping to reduce community transmission and is only harming many of our children.</p> <p>Some public schools in neighboring counties have made full-time in-person schooling CHOICE work. Likewise, Private schools in our own area have also been making full-time in-school choice work. Education and the well-being of our students should not be for sale and only available for those with means. We have asked multiple times for their to be an assessment of how these schools are making it work and transparency around why WCASD can or cannot do the same. Please add this to the next school board meeting agenda.</p> <p>REJECT this new guidance and create policy that allows families the CHOICE for 5 days in-school learning with a focus on safety whereby classrooms or children & teachers within classrooms are quarantined when transmission is occurring in those classrooms.</p>

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rachel.langan	X3	<p>1. It does not appear that there is a plan to get kids back into school 5 days a week. If the board cannot make a firm commitment to this, then that needs to be publicly stated because families who are dissatisfied with the status quo will need to make arrangements to migrate to private schools for the 2021-22 school year (application deadlines for private schools are due in early 2021.)</p> <p>2. I oppose the signing of the Attestation Order. The governor nor the health secretary have the right to force the WCASD board and superintendent to sign over localized control of our schools to the state of PA. This violates the the PA Constitution as well as the laws of the Commonwealth of PA:</p> <p>“No power of suspending laws shall be exercised unless by the Legislature or by its authority.” Pa. Const. art. I, § 12.</p> <p>“The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth.” Pa. Const. art. III, § 14.</p> <p>Under the separation-of-powers, the legislative branch of government creates laws, and the Governor is bound to execute them, not to create or interpret them.</p> <p>The Attestation Requirements, the Governor’s Mitigation Order, and the Secretary’s Mitigation Order usurp the powers of the Pennsylvania Legislature because they suspend, modify, and are contrary to existing Pennsylvania law.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Secretary of Health (nor the Chester County Health Department) are authorized to shut down schools, nor limit in person instruction. (See 71P.S. 1403, 71 P.S. §§ 1401 – 1414.</p> <p>This is an unlawful power grab by our governor and rather than sign over control to Harrisburg, you should be fighting for the rights of the WCASD to make its own decisions.</p>
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john	X3	<p>WCASD is exempt from the mandate because the State lab in Exton controls the PCR test results for Chester County, and has not revealed the number of PA cases that are NOT infectious (high Ct scores over 30). These 'cases' pose no risk to the community, to students or to teachers, and thus the notion 'Substantial' transmission in PA is contrived.</p> <p>Until the State reveals that information, no county is obliged, and no student, can have their rights to education diminished. The burden of proof lies with the state. They must prove the benefit of Coronavirus restrictions, and no proof has been provided.</p>
bevgrav727	Comment	<p>Why don't you just fire the teachers that do not want to teach and hire the multitudes of teachers posting their ability online? Why is there not 1 platform that all students work from instead of the separate platforms that the kids are expected to maneuver through? Cyber schools have been running successfully on a single platform for years.</p>
kuegler1	X3	<p>I am writing to request that WCASD accelerate the plan to return to 5 days a week In Person instruction. Science and studies support in person learning over remote, with minimal risk to Covid for students and staff. If there in no approved plan, the District needs to communicate this to parents so that they have time to plan their departure from public school to private schools who will provide the in person education our children need.</p> <p>I oppose the signing of the PA Attestation Form because it removes local control of schools and consolidates that power in Harrisburg. This is NOT in the best interest of our children nor our school district.</p> <p>Additionally, I ask the board and district to evaluate the low response to onsite learning during the Hybrid period. Many are remaining remote, but very few due to concerns about Covid. The overwhelming majority are staying home because of the stringent rules in School and because they claim none of their friends will be there. This is a real problem and poses a major obstacle to our hopes for a return to full time onsite learning.</p>

West Chester Area School District

December 21, 2020 Board Meeting

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		<p>We need our kids to be in school, learning face-to-face and person-to-person. How do we change the perception for students and parents to encourage them to come back to school? People like me are frustrated; I know that we will continue to push to get schools reopened. We are looking to the Board and to the District for leadership here.</p> <p>Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of our children.</p> <p>Best Regards, Rich</p>
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