

**Northwest Area School District
School Board Meeting
JANUARY 20, 2021**

The Northwest Area Board of Education held its regular meeting virtually. Mr. Benson, School Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

The following members were present virtually during the meeting: Mr. Benson, Mr. LeValley, Mrs. Biller, Mr. Sutliff, Mr. Lanza and Mr. Beleski. Mr. Long, Attorney Angela Evans, Mrs. Straub, Ms. Kratz, Mr. Miner, Mr. Mills, Mr. Shults, Mr. Sorber, and Ms. Hurst were also present via Zoom. The meeting was live via YouTube.

Mr. Benson reported that there was an Executive Session prior to the meeting from 5:00-7:00 to discuss personnel issues, litigation and mode of education.

1. Approve of Minutes
Mr. Benson made a motion, seconded by Mr. LeValley to accept the minutes of the following previous meeting:
 - a. Reorganization School Board Meeting/Executive Session –December 2, 2020
 - b. Regular School Board Meeting/Executive Session - December 2, 2020
 - c. Executive Session - January 7, 2021
 - d. Executive Session - January 11, 2021Upon voice vote, all present voted yes, motion passes.

2. Comments: No Comments

3. Reports
Mr. Benson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Biller to approve the reports.

Upon voice vote, all present voted yes, motion passes.

4. Payment of Bills
Mr. Benson made a motion, seconded by Mr. LeValley, to approve the payment of the following bills:
 - 5.1 General Account list of pre-paid for December 2020 - \$437,850.08
 - 5.2 General Account list of bills for January 2020 - \$144,130.52

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes.

5. Superintendent's Comments – Mr. Long noted that there was a good discussion regarding mode of education during the work session this evening. Mr. Long announced that January is School Board Appreciation Month, and awarded all board members with a certificate.
6. Administrative Reports – The administrative staff deferred to their attached reports.
7. Policy/Procedures – No Report.
8. Personnel
Mrs. Biller made a motion, seconded by Mr. LeValley to approve the following:
 - a. Approved the FMLA request of employee 6073, effective January 4, 2021.

- b. Approved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Bobbie Bonham, Paraprofessional, effective December 11, 2020.
- c. Approved the interim action to appoint Samantha Yaron as a part time Paraprofessional, effective January 11, 2021, as per the Support Staff CBA.
- d. Approved the interim action to appoint Emma Herbert as a full time Personal Care Assistant, effective December 21, 2020, as per the Support Staff CBA.
- e. Approved, with regret, the resignation of Cassidy Shults as elementary principal with an effective date of on or before February 18, 2021.
- f. Approved the interim action of administration to post and advertise for an Elementary Principal.
- g. Accepted, with regret, the resignation of [Amy Hayhurst](#) , Cafeteria Worker, effective, January 15, 2021.
- h. Accepted, with regret, the retirement of [Jeanette Maurer](#) , Central Supply/Courier, effective September 22, 2021.
- i. Approved to post and advertise for an anticipated opening of a part time Desk Top Computer Technician.
- j. Approved to appoint Tracie Noss, part time Cleaner, pending submission of required paperwork.
- k. Approve to accept, with regret, the resignation of Northwest Area School Board Member, Michael Kreidler, effective January 20, 2021.
- l. Approved to post and advertise for a Northwest Area School Board Member.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, with the exception of Mr. Beleski who abstained to Items c) and i), motion passes

9. Finance –

Mr. Sutliff made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Biller to approve the following:

- a. Approved the standard mileage reimbursement rate of .56 per mile, effective January 1, 2021. Rate per mile is established by I.R.S. and stipulated in current collective bargaining agreements.
- b. Approved the real estate tax refund in the amount of \$1,874.84 due to an abatement.
- c. Approved the purchase of Dell chrome books for the district's 1:1 initiative at a total cost not to exceed \$310,000 (funded by ESSER II funds)
- d. Approved the special education Settlement Agreement and Release for student number 919805.
- e. Approved the Recommend and move to approve the preliminary budget for the 2021-2022 school year of expenditures \$20,315,608 and revenue \$19,799,967 and further sets a tax rate at 12.154 mills and that the following tax resolutions be enacted without substantial change for the 2021-2022 school year:
 1. A \$5.00 Per Capita Tax enacted under the School Code.
 2. A \$5.00 Per Capita Tax enacted under Act 511.
 3. A \$10.00 Occupation Assessment Tax enacted under Act 511 for all governmental units except Huntington Township.
 4. A \$5.00 Occupation Assessment Tax enacted under Act 511 for Huntington Township.
 5. An Earned Income Tax in the amount of ½ of 1% enacted under Act 511.

Comments: Mr. Long noted that the decision was made in order to allow flexibility and cover all bases so that the district can do what needs to be done financially.

A member of the community asked what our current millage is. Mrs. Straub replied that the current millage is 11.466.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes.

10. Buildings & Grounds/Safety

Mr. LeValley made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Biller to approve the following:

- a. Approved the replacement of the identified interior classroom doors at the high school and Intermediate School at a cost of \$23,867.10. (grant funded)
- b. Approved for a Covid -19 Immunization Clinic for Northwest Area employees and transportation drivers.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes.

11. Education/Curriculum –

Mrs. Biller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beleski to approve the following:

- a. Approved to return to in person instruction, four days per week, for grades K-12 beginning on February 1, 2021.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes.

12. Co-Curricular –

Mr. LeValley made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Biller to approve the following:

- a. Appointed Lon Hazlet as the Head Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2020-21 school year/season.
- b. Appointed Kevin Harvey as the Head Varsity Softball Coach for the 2020-21 school year/season.
- c. Appointed Todd Culver as the Head Varsity Track and Field Coach for the 2020-21 school year/season.
- d. Approved to post for the following Assistant Coaches:
 - Baseball
 - Softball
 - Track and Field
- e. Approved to post for the following Junior High Coaches:
 - Baseball
 - Softball
 - Track and Field

Comments: None

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, with the exception of Mr. Beleski who voted no to item a), motion passes.

13. Transportation – No Report

14. Additions to the Substitute List –

Mr. Sutliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. LeValley to approve the following:

- a. Appointed the following substitutes for the 2020-21 school year, pending required clearances:
 - Amy Kulp - Teacher
 - Frazee Sutphen - Teacher, Paraprofessional

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, motion passes.

15. Tabled Items: None

16. Legislative –No Report

17. West Side CTC – Mr. Long noted that WSCTC will be going back to in school instruction on January 28, 2021.
18. LIU Update – Mr. Lanza attended the meeting and minutes are available upon request. Mr. Long noted that the IU budget will be discussed next month.
19. Old Business – No Old Business
20. New Business – No New Business
21. Solicitor's Report – No Report
22. Comments – Mr. Long noted that the district is in need of cafeteria workers, cleaners, and paraprofessionals. Please call the Superintendent's Office if interested.
23. Adjourn – Mr. LeValley made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Biller and unanimously by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pete Lanza, Board Secretary