

**MINUTES OF WAPAKONETA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR SESSION  
WAPAKONETA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
7:15 PM**

The meeting of the Board of Education of the Wapakoneta City School District was called to order by President Joshua Little.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Brian Cossel  
Joshua Little  
Ron Mertz  
Gregg Ruppert  
Willie Sammetinger

Also in attendance were Aaron Rex, Superintendent; Angie Sparks, Treasurer; administrators and community members.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joshua Little, Board President.

**BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION**

Mr. Aaron Rex, Superintendent, said a few remarks about all of the Board Members. These remarks are included as part of his report attached to the agenda.

**RETIREE RECOGNITION**

**Retiree Recognition** - Recognize the following retirees:

CHERYL ERB - Bus Driver since November of 1995

TODD GERSTNER - Custodian since June of 1991 and Maintenance since 1993

Mr. Aaron Rex said a few remarks regarding each retiree and congratulated them on their retirement. Both have been rehired by the District so they were also welcomed back.

Mr. Mike Watt also said a few remarks about the retirees. He stated that during Cheryl's career she worked with a lot of students with special needs, which takes a certain kind of person. He thanked her for all of her years of service. Mr. Watt stated that Todd took on the role of

Maintenance Supervisor five years ago. He was a little reluctant at first, but has done a great job. He has built a good rapport with staff and students. He thanked Todd for his leadership.

Mr. Little presented both retirees with a gift from the Board of Education and thanked them for their years of services.

## **EDUCATIONAL REPORTS**

Mr. Aaron Rex stated that it has only been eight school days since the last time administrators shared a report with the school board. He said that if they wanted to share one thing that has happened since then, they are more than welcome to.

Mr. Jason Wolke stated that since the last meeting there have been a lot of assessments going on. He wanted to thank Carrie for all of the reports she has put together for the administrators. They are getting a lot of information and diving deep into it right now. Today the District enrolled the 107<sup>th</sup> new elementary student for this school year. It is a kindergartner. We are still growing and the future looks bright for Wapakoneta City Schools. Mr. Sammetinger asked how many students the District has lost since the start of the school year. Mr. Wolke was not sure of the answer, but he knows that it has been a net positive gain.

Mrs. Nikki Sutton would like to celebrate that Wapakoneta Elementary has kids in school five days a week. She also wanted to mention that the kids are glad to be here as well and that this year they did not have any transition issues coming back from break. She appreciates what everyone is doing to keep our kids in school.

Mr. Will Snyder stated that this is the last week of the nine weeks. He mentioned that they are celebrating their PBIS award winners this week. He briefly described the PBIS system that Mr. Cutnaw has implemented at Wapakoneta Middle School. He also mentioned how wonderful the new health department standards are with quarantines. He stated that they have had several positive cases this week, but they haven't had to take as many kids out of the classroom.

Mr. Aaron Rex stated that he took a tour of the PBIS rewards store. He indicated that many people have donated items towards it. Mr. Snyder mentioned that the goal is to earn the bronze status after the first year of implementation. Wapakoneta would be the only school in the county to achieve this status. If it doesn't happen this year, it should happen next year.

Mr. Scott Minnig stated that last Thursday they had a meeting at the high school with the new student council social group. It gave students the opportunity to speak up about issues in the school that administrators may not see. There were 27 students from all grades and all subgroups in the building at the meeting. They and the members of the Gatekeepers Club worked together to come up with a slogan, "Wapak Way," in order to create a culture of respect. Some of the items they felt were the biggest concerns in the building were mental health, supervision in the bathrooms, students wearing masks correctly, technology access at home for some students, and how kids interact with one another appropriately and inappropriately. This information was compiled and then shared with the entire student body. They were asked to vote on what they thought was the most glaring issue in the building. Of the 185 students who responded, 54% stated mental health was the biggest issue. Mr. Minnig said they will take this

information, meet monthly as a group, and work together to come up with the solutions for the issues they face.

Mr. Aaron Rex brought up the concern regarding supervision in the bathrooms. He mentioned that the concerns arose because of students possibly vaping. Mr. Rex isn't sure that parents understand how big an issue vaping really is. He stated that the District has always struggled with supervising the bathrooms. For one thing, you can't put cameras in there because it is illegal. Staff does not have the time to go stand in the bathrooms to monitor them between classes. They are generally out in the hall monitoring the activity there or getting stuff ready for their next class. It is something they will continue to work on. He liked how the students are being proactive and trying to change these things. He stated that we do a really good job here at Wapakoneta City Schools, but we should always be asking how we can get better.

Ms. Carrie Knoch stated that preschool registration is rolling in quickly. She stated that we are in a position that people may not get their first choice. There is still plenty of room for students, but spots are filling quickly. She also mentioned that the District tracked pretty carefully how many of our students were quarantined from being exposed to a positive case and then ended up being symptomatic or testing positive themselves. She stated that it was less than 5%, so what the staff and students are doing in the buildings is working.

Mr. Mike Watt stated that this week the District got some good news from the City of Wapakoneta. They are going to start offering some LED incentives, which will be good as we change out the lights at Wapakoneta Middle School this coming March/April and then Wapakoneta Elementary School after that.

Mr. Brad Rex thanked Caitlin Helmstetter for her reaction to a student from Fairview High School having seizures during the big wrestling tournament that was held at the high school this past weekend. She handled it very calmly. He also thanked the City for their quick response with an ambulance. Mr. Rex spoke to the mother of the young man and he is okay.

Mr. Aaron Rex thanked Brad for following up with the mother, which he knew helped ease her mind. He wanted to point out that this is an example of how our employees are going above and beyond.

Mr. Aaron Rex's Board report can be found attached to the minutes.

### **REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**

Mr. Ron Mertz, Apollo Representative, stated that at the recent meeting Jackie Place was elected President of the Apollo Board and Ned Stechschulte was elected Vice-President. He stated that for the first time since the inception of the LPN program, all students collected enough credits to take the state board and all passed.

## **ROUTINE BUSINESS**

**3-21** Member Gregg Ruppert moved, Member Brian Cossel seconded to approve the following items:

**Approve minutes** from the meetings held December 15 and December 30, 2020.

**Approve monthly financial reports.**

**Approve Permanent Appropriations for FY '21.**

**Accept donations from the following:**

\$1,000 - from Rotary Club for masks

\$250 - from Sertoma for FFA

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **carried 5 – 0**.

## **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

**4-21** Member Ron Mertz moved, Member Joshua Little seconded to approve the following items:

**Accept the following retirements:**

KAY DORNER - end of the 2020-21 school year

DEBORAH VANTILBURG - July 31, 2021

**Approve the following employee leaves:**

LINDA NIGH - approximately two weeks beginning 1/11/21

JARED SELOVER - five days beginning approximately 1/19/21

KIM SELVEY - 1/4/21 through 1/8/21

KARA SPRINGER - approximately four weeks beginning approximately 3/15/21

**Employ the following substitutes for the 2020-21 school year:**

TRACY CHESS - Secretary

TRACY CHESS - Paraeducator

ALAYNA TREADWAY - Teacher

**Employ the following on supplemental contracts:**

TRAVIS MOYER - Weight Room Coordinator - Winter - Step 4 - \$2,445.61

MIKE BOGAN - Weight Room Coordinator - Winter Ratio (1/2) - Step 4 - \$922.12

NICK TRUESDALE - Weight Room Coordinator - Winter Ratio (1/2) - Step 4 - \$922.12

SCOTT WILSON - Softball Assistant - Step 4 - \$4,690.76

MARK SCHLOSSER - Track Assistant - Step 4 - \$4,690.76

DANIEL KETNER - Track Assistant - Step 1 - \$3,608.28

JENNIFER ZWIEBEL - MS Track - Step 4 - \$3,528.10

TARYN NEWMAN - MS Track - Step 4 - \$3,528.10

Mr. Gregg Ruppert wanted to go on record as saying that he wants to make sure the three weight room coordinators hired tonight will be working with all off-season coaches to assist with all off-season athletes to strengthen all programs.

Mr. Josh Little wants the weight room to be open to all sports and for our staff to be inclusive of all sports as well.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **carried 5 – 0**.

### **ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL ITEMS**

**5-21** Member Willie Sammetinger moved, Member Ron Mertz seconded to approve the following item:

#### **WCA Memorandum of Understanding**

Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wapakoneta Classified Association, which will amend the Collective Bargaining Agreement dated July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2021, to set forth language related to maternity leave. (copy included in minutes)

Mr. Aaron Rex stated that the reason this is taking place tonight is that there was no language in the contract regarding maternity leave for classified staff. Therefore, the language was taken from the certified contract and will be used. It is a benefit to our employees.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **carried 5 – 0**.

**6-21** Member Ron Mertz moved, Member Gregg Ruppert seconded to approve the following item:

#### **Employ the following on a supplemental contract:**

TRACI TURNER - MS Track - Step 4 - \$3,528.10

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0** Abstain: **1**. The motion **carried 4-0-1** with Brian Cossel abstaining.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There is no school on January 15 and January 18. The second semester begins January 19.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**7-21** Member Willie Sammetinger moved, Member Gregg Ruppert seconded to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:42 p.m. for the following purpose: appointment or employment of public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing; with no action to be taken.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **carried 5 – 0**.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**8-21** Member Gregg Ruppert moved, Member Willie Sammetinger seconded to exit executive session and adjourn the meeting at 9:05p.m.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **carried 5 – 0**.

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President

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Secretary