

January 18, 2021

A voting meeting of the Washington School Board was held on Monday, January 18, 2021 in the high school media center and via Zoom video conferencing.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by President Sparks-Gatling, followed by the pledge of allegiance, mission statement and audio/vision statement.

**Roll Call:**

Members Present:	Mrs. Rhonda Barnes	Mrs. Amy Roberts
	Mr. John Campbell, Sr.	Ms. Karen Ruby
	Mrs. Patricia Cherry	Dr. Dana Shiller
	Mrs. Marsha Pleta	Mrs. Tara Sparks-Gatling
		Ms. Jenna Ward

Non-Voting Member Present: Dr. James R. Konrad, Superintendent

Present: Mrs. Lisa Coffield, Board Secretary  
Mr. Richard Mancini, Director of District Operations  
Ms. Amanda Jewell, Solicitor

**President Welcomes Visitors:** Mrs. Sparks-Gatling extended a welcome to the public and stated the following, “In accordance with Washington School District Policy No. 005 entitled “Public Participation at Meetings”, this public participation session shall not exceed 20 minutes. Any individual resident may make comments not to exceed three minutes. Any resident who wishes to address the Board should have submitted to the President of the Board or to the Board’s Secretary a written statement including their name and address, the name of the group the speaker is representing, if any, and the general nature of the topic and comments to be made. Any resident who has not submitted a written request shall have the right to speak, time permitting by raising his or her hand so that they may be recognized. No one having any desire to speak, the meeting continued.

**Recognitions**

**School Director Recognition Month**

January is “School Director” recognition month. School Directors were presented with a token of appreciation for volunteering their time and efforts focusing on making sure the students in Washington School District are receiving an outstanding education.

**Moment of Silence**

There was a moment of silence for Ms. Joyce Ellis, who passed away on December 16, 2020. Ms. Ellis was a 1977 graduate of Washington High School. She was named the Observer-Reporter’s “Person of the Year”, a community award that recognized her selfless acts of kindness, concern, generosity and true giving spirit. Her passing is a tremendous loss to our community, school district and children in the City of Washington.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Dr. Konrad stated that today was the first day back to school on the Hybrid learning schedule. Group A of the student body were in attendance. He visited classrooms and students were learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Konrad read a few of Dr. King’s quotes regarding education.

**Executive Session:** The Board met in executive session prior to the start of the meeting to discuss a personnel issue. No action was taken.

**Questions on the Agenda:** The Board reviewed the agenda.

**Agenda:** Mrs. Barnes moved and Mrs. Roberts seconded that the agenda be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes:** Mrs. Barnes moved and Mrs. Cherry seconded that the minutes of the November 16, 2020 regular voting meeting, the December 7, 2020 Reorganization meeting, the December 7, 2020 worksession meeting and the January 11, 2021 worksession meeting be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Reports:** Mrs. Cherry moved and Mrs. Pleta seconded that the November 30, 2020 and December 31, 2020 Treasurer's Reports be accepted as information, said reports showing the following book balances:

	<u>November 30, 2020</u>	<u>December 31, 2020</u>
General Fund	\$ 71,859.02	\$ 176,345.44
Payroll Account	\$ 58,073.85	\$ 31,893.88
Cafeteria Account	\$ 186,744.12	\$ 160,110.43
WHS Athletic Account	\$ 24,501.74	\$ 25,786.15
WHS Activities Account	\$ 77,516.60	\$ 78,405.96
WPS Activities Account	\$ 27,472.14	\$ 24,574.60
WSD Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 259,499.64	\$ 260,214.79
Expendable Benefit Trust	\$ 83,663.79	\$ 83,692.61

Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:** Dr. Shiller moved and Mrs. Barnes seconded that the Board approve the following:

- Family Medical Leave for **Employee #1443**, effective February 22, 2021 through May 18, 2021. *(Per the Family and Medical Leave Act and District Policy No. 410, eligible employees are entitled to take up to 60 unpaid days during a 12-month period for the specific type of FMLA leave requested by this employee. Employee #1443 will be using sick days from January 11, 2021 through February 19, 2021.)*
- The Temporary Long-Term Assignment of **Kelsey Young** as a Kindergarten teacher, Bachelor's Degree, Step 1, pro-rated, retroactive to January 11, 2021 through May 18, 2021. *(This long-term assignment is for 90 days or longer. Mrs. Young will start on Step 1 of the salary scale, receive fringe benefits, medical, dental and vision insurance and must attend Act 80 and/or Inservice Days. This vacancy is due to Employee #1443's Family Medical Leave and Sick Leave.)*
- Resignation of **Suzanne Price** as the Title I Parent Liaison at the elementary school, effective June 30, 2021.
- Addition of **Brittany Gilpin** as an Emergency Day-to-Day Substitute Teacher.
- Change the effective dates of FMLA leave for **Employee #1172** from January 15, 2021 through February 25, 2021 *(originally 30 days of leave)* to January 15, 2021 to January 26, 2021 *(changed to 8 days of leave)*. Employee may use the remaining 52 days of FMLA intermittent leave up until October 30, 2021. *Employee requested to shorten her FMLA leave.*
- Change the effective dates of **Haley Comodor** as a Temporary Assignment Substitute Teacher from November 5, 2020 through February 25, 2021 *(originally 71 days of work)* to November 5, 2020

through January 26, 2021 (*changed to 49 days of work*). *This change is due to Employee #1172 returning early from FMLA leave.*

Motion carried unanimously.

**Contracts, Agreements and Grants:** Mrs. Pleta moved and Mrs. Roberts seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Agreement between Washington School District and Penn Commercial for their related educational programs in medical assistant, medical office administration, medical billing/coding and practical nursing, effective January 2021 through January 2022.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Business and Finance:** Mrs. Cherry moved and Ms. Ward seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Impact Aid Resolution: The Board of School Directors of the Washington School District authorizes and directs the filing of an application for school assistance in federally-affected areas. Further, the directors name Dr. James R. Konrad, Superintendent, as their representative to file said application and to make the representations and commitments for, and on behalf of the Washington School District, and otherwise act as their authorized representative in connection with said application. (*Public Law provides financial assistance to public schools where there is a high concentration of parents employed by the federal government or live on federal property or where parents are on active duty in the uniformed services. The Washington School District is qualified to receive federal funds under the provisions of this act.*)

-Purchase of athletic supplies for Spring sports for the 2020-2021 school year in the total amount of \$9,886.14. Exhibit A

-Resolution for the sale of the former Clark School Building, located at 1099 Allison Avenue, Washington, PA 15301, to TEA Real Estate, LLC for \$500,000. Exhibit C

Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution:** Mrs. Barnes moved and Mrs. Cherry seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Adopt the attached Resolution indicating that Washington School District will not raise its tax rate for the 2021-2022 school year by more than the allowable index. Exhibit B

Motion carried unanimously.

**Ratification and Payment of Bills:** Mrs. Cherry moved and Mrs. Roberts seconded that the Board approve the following:

-Ratification and payment of bills in the amount of \$1,064,775.57.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

-Board Docs – Dr. Konrad informed the Board that the district policies will be posted on the website through a program called “Board Docs”. The public will be able to access all district policies through the Board Docs link that will be placed on the website.

-Hybrid/Cyber Students – Dr. Konrad stated that at the current time there are 18 students who would like to change from the Hybrid schedule to the Cyber schedule. There are also 18 students who want to change from the Cyber schedule to the Hybrid schedule.

-COVID-19 Vaccinations for Staff – Dr. Konrad let Board members know that there are approximately 114 staff members signed up for the vaccine. Curtis Pharmacy will be administering the first dose of shots on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> in the school buildings.

**Superintendent’s Report:** Dr. Konrad had no report.

**Solicitor’s Report:** Attorney Jewell stated that she recommends PSBA doing a policy review on the district’s policies. Once PSBA has completed their review, she will do a final review to see if any policies need revised.

### **Special Representative Reports**

-Western Area Career & Technology Center – Ms. Ruby stated that their students are back to school on a full-time schedule, they have live sessions with parents every Wednesday, and they have started the negotiation process with their instructors.

-PSBA – Mrs. Pleta stated that she is happy that the district will be getting a policy review by PSBA, and she officially takes her seat as PSBA’s Western-at-Large Representative voting member tomorrow.

-Parking Authority – Mr. Mancini stated that they had no meeting in January.

-Citywide Development Corporation (CDC) – Mr. Mancini stated that they had no meeting in January.

### **Information**

#### **A. February Board Meetings**

Worksession Meeting – Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

Regular Voting Meeting – Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

**B. Ethics “Statement of Financial Interests” Forms** – Please complete your forms and return them to Mr. Mancini by the end of January. The forms were mailed to your home address.

**Executive Session:** Mrs. Sparks-Gatling announced the need for an executive session for the following reason: *Litigation*

Moved by Mrs. Roberts and seconded by Mrs. Barnes that an executive session be held.  
Motion carried unanimously. 7:36 pm.

Moved by Mrs. Roberts and seconded by Mrs. Barnes that the executive session be adjourned.  
Motion carried unanimously. 9:29 pm.

**Additional Opportunity for Public Participation:** Mrs. Sparks-Gatling inquired if anyone desired to speak. No one having any desire to speak, the meeting continued.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Pleta that the meeting be adjourned.  
Motion carried unanimously. 9:30 pm.

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/s/ Lisa Coffield  
Lisa Coffield, Board Secretary