

The regular meeting of the Worcester Central School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at Worcester Central School, Worcester, New York.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stacey Serdy, Vice President, Tanya Shalor, Jim Conroe, and Peter Kwiatkowski

MEMBERS ABSENT: William Fisher II, President

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Gonzales, Superintendent, Katie Sill, Elementary Principal, Melissa Leonard, Secondary Principal, Kyle Schoonmaker, Gary Pochkar, Glenn Jaquish, and Wendy Elliott

At 6:30 p.m. Stacey Serdy, Vice President, called the meeting to order with a quorum present. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion made by Mr. Kwiatkowski, seconded by Mrs. Shalor, to approve the agenda with a change.

AGENDA

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried

Faculty and Staff Sharing:

There was no one present who wished to address the Board.

Special Presentation:

Kyle Schoonmaker, Commercial Developer with Stewart's Shops Corporation, presented to the Board a proposal to purchase property located at 831 Hollenbeck Road in Worcester, NY from the Worcester Central School District. Discussion ensued.

Consent Agenda Items:

Motion made by Mrs. Shalor, seconded by Mr. Conroe, to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes – September 27, 2023 Audit Committee Meeting;
- Approval of Minutes – September 27, 2023 Regular Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report – September 2023.

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried

Public to be Heard:

There was no one present who wished to address the Board.

Action Required:

Motion made by Mr. Conroe, seconded by Mrs. Shalor

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby approve Ryan Birch as a substitute cleaner, pending fingerprint clearance.

SUBSTITUTE CLEANER RYAN BIRCH

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried

Motion made by Mrs. Shalor, seconded by Mr. Conroe.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby approve Michael Marshall as a substitute bus driver, pending required licenses, certification, and fingerprint clearance.

SUBSTITUTE BUS  
DRIVER  
MICHAEL  
MARSHALL

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried

Motion made by Mr. Conroe, seconded by Mrs. Shalor.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby approve Sheri Harrison as a Tutor for the 2023-2024 school year.

EXTRA-  
CURRICULAR  
(EXTRA DUTY)  
TUTOR – SHERI  
HARRISON

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried

Motion made by Mrs. Shalor, seconded by Mr. Conroe.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, does hereby accept the Student Association Quarterly Report for the period of July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023, as presented.

STUDENT  
ASSOCIATION  
QUARTERLY  
REPORT

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried

Motion made by Mrs. Shalor, seconded by Mr. Conroe.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, does hereby accept the Claims Auditor Exception Report for the period August 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023, as presented.

CLAIMS AUDITOR  
EXCEPTION  
REPORT

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried

Motion made by Mrs. Shalor, seconded by Mr. Conroe.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby approve the Management Response and Corrective Action Plan to the 2022-2023 financial Statements conducted by Raymond G. Preusser, CPA, P.C.

MANAGEMENT  
RESPONSE AND  
CORRECTIVE  
ACTION PLAN TO  
THE 2022-2023  
AUDITED  
FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried

Motion made by Mrs. Shalor, seconded by Mr. Conroe.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby approve the Management Response and Corrective Action Plan to the 2022-2023 Extraclassroom Activity Fund Audit conducted by Raymond G. Preusser, CPA, P.C.

MANAGEMENT  
RESPONSE AND  
CORRECTIVE  
ACTION PLAN TO  
THE 2022-2023  
AUDITED EXTRA  
CLASSROOM  
ACTIVITY FUND

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried

Motion made by Mrs. Shalor, seconded by Mr. Conroe.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby authorize a budget transfer of \$50,000 from the district's unappropriated fund balance to the district's Retirement Contribution Reserve Sub Fund, as authorized by General Municipal Law 6-r.

BUDGET  
TRANSFER TO  
RESERVES

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried



Motion made by Mrs. Shalor, seconded by Mr. Conroe.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby adopt the Worcester Central School District Reserves Plan as of June 30, 2023, as presented.

WCS RESERVES  
PLAN AS OF  
JUNE 30, 2023

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried

Motion made by Mrs. Shalor, seconded by Mr. Conroe.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, does hereby approve the CSE/CPSE recommendations, as presented for students: #3848, #600006024, #600006034, #600006037, #2628, and #3827.

CPSE/CSE  
RECOMMENDATIONS

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried

Motion made by Mr. Conroe, seconded by Mrs. Shalor.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby approve the resolution that authorizes the partial settlement of the vaping lawsuit against defendant Altria, as follows:

RESOLUTION  
AUTHORIZING  
PARTIAL  
SETTLEMENT OF  
VAPING  
LITIGATION

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTIAL SETTLEMENT OF VAPING LITIGATION**

**WHEREAS**, in recent years the use and abuse of e-cigarettes and vaping devices increased dramatically among high school and middle school students, leading to significant risks of addiction and potentially life-threatening respiratory ailments; and

**WHEREAS**, students attending the Worcester Central School District (the “School District”) have not been immune to this phenomenon with the School District observing students using e-cigarettes and vaping devices in school and on school grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of e-cigarettes and vaping devices by students has caused the School District to incur costs in the form of staff time, disciplinary proceedings, and other costs, with the expectation that these costs will only increase unless and until student use of these devices decreases and stops; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District authorized the law firms of Ferrara Fiorenza PC, and the Frantz Law Group, APLC, to initiate litigation against Altria Group, Inc. and Philip Morris USA, Inc., Altria Client Services LLC, Altria Enterprises LLC, and Altria Group Distribution Company (collectively “Altria”) by board resolution relating to the production, marketing, sale, and distribution of e-cigarettes and vaping devices; and

**WHEREAS**, a tentative settlement has been reached with Defendant Altria whereby in return for discontinuing the litigation, the School District would receive certain cash payment; and

**WHEREAS**, the amount that the School District receives will be no less than \$2,524 ; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education (the “Board”) has determined it is necessary, advantageous, desirable, and in the public interest and the best interests of the School District that it settle this litigation against Altria.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of the School District, as follows:

1. The Board authorizes the partial settlement of the vaping lawsuit against defendant Altria.
2. A Settlement with the substantive terms contained herein is hereby approved in substantially the form reviewed by the Board and together with such minor modifications as are deemed necessary by the School District’s attorneys and administrators to protect the best interests of the School District.

3. The Board President, Superintendent and their designee(s) are hereby authorized to finalize, sign and enter into the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the School District and take all actions and execute all documents necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this Resolution.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Ayes 4

Nays 0

Motion carried

Principal Reports:

Mrs. Sill reported to the Board about elementary level news and information.

Mrs. Leonard reported to the Board about secondary level news and information.

Board Member and/or Superintendent Items:

Mr. Gonzales advised the Board that the capital project remains on schedule. A document needed to be corrected to resubmit along with the accompanying documents to SED. BCA expects comments back in January and to go out to bid in February. More carpet samples will be here tomorrow.

Mr. Gonzales is waiting to hear from Dr. Huber about December and January Board Retreat dates.

Mr. Gonzales provided the Board with a recap of the NYS Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS) Conference:

- Civil Service Reform - NYSCOSS is advocating a major overhaul and that it is outdated and are also against 30-20A rights of non-certified staff.
- Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) Teacher Evaluation – NYSCOSS is advocating for local control by school districts and not NYSED.
- The Foundation Aide formula in use has not changed since 2007.
- Expected Holidays – Asian Lunar New Year and others (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Diwali) could result in the elimination of February vacation.
- NYS Bus Incentive Program Launched - \$100M available (rebate program to help off set up to 100% of the difference in cost between a regular bus and an electric bus)
  - Funding will also be available for charging stations.
  - Funding will be on a first come first served basis.
  - Applications for the rebate will be submitted by the school bus manufacturer and/or vendor.
  - Additional guidance will be released in late November.
- Electric Buses - EPA currently has a rebate program with an application due January 2024.
- NYCOSS is pushing back on electric buses.

Mr. Gonzales shared with the Board that the Rural Schools membership costs \$850 per year, but they do not prorate the membership.

Informational:

The September 2023 bus mileage reports were given to board members for their review.

The Catskill Area School Study Council (CASSC) Fall School Boards Institute: Strategic Long-Term Fiscal Planning for Schools to be held on Tuesday, November 28 information was given to board members.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

Motion made by Mr. Conroe, seconded by Mrs. Shalor, to go into executive session at 7:04 p.m. to discuss: the employment history of a particular person. Mr. Gonzales and Mrs. Sill were invited into executive session. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried

Motion made by Mrs. Shalor, seconded by Mr. Conroe, to return to the business of the regular meeting at 7:33 p.m. RECONVENE

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried

Motion made by Mrs. Shalor, seconded by Mr. Kwiatkoski to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. ADJOURN

Ayes 4                      Nays 0                      Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Elliott  
District Clerk