

The regular meeting of the Worcester Central School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at Worcester Central School, Worcester, New York.

MEMBERS PRESENT: William Fisher II, President, Stacey Serdy, Vice President, Tanya Shalor, and Jim Conroe

MEMBERS ABSENT: Peter Kwiatkowski

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Gonzales, Superintendent, Katie Sill, Elementary Principal, Melissa Leonard, Secondary Principal, Gary Pochkar, Valerie Joern (Matzel), Elizabeth Perrillo, Sam Fedor, and Wendy Elliott

At 6:30 p.m. William Fisher, President, called the meeting to order with a quorum present. Pledge of Allegiance recited. CALL TO ORDER

Motion made by Mr. Conroe, seconded by Mrs. Shalor, to approve the agenda. AGENDA

Ayes 4 Nays 0 Motion carried

Faculty and Staff Sharing:

The ELA Curriculum Work Team: Valerie Matzel - representing upper elementary, Sam Fedor - representing the lower elementary K-2, Elizabeth Perrillo - representing RTI, and Diana Brady (absent) - the intervention specialist addressed the Board. The team informed the Board of their work to review curriculum, look at data, assess needs, research programs and options to update and enhance the ELA curriculum that will provide the additional supports needed for the gap areas to demonstrate growth, vertical alignment, continuity through grade levels, and mastery of foundational skills. They started with five and are now down to three to present to the elementary faculty.

Consent Agenda Items:

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

- Approval of Minutes – August 16, 2023 Regular Meeting;
- Treasurer’s Report – August 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 Mrs. Shalor, seconded by Mrs. Serdy
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, does hereby accept the resignation of Brian Shimansky as a Social Studies Teacher, effective August 25, 2023. RESIGNATION
SOCIAL STUDIES
TEACHER
BRIAN
SHIMANSKY

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 appoint Kayleigh Ricks, who holds Professional New York State Teaching Certificates permitting her to teach in the Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6), Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) and Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2) areas in the public schools of New York State, to the position of full-time, Special Education Teacher in the General Special Education tenure area for a probationary period of four (4) years, to commence on September 5, 2023 and to end on September 5, 2027. The salary during the first year of this appointment will be paid in accordance with the salary schedule as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement between the Worcester Teachers' Association and the Board of Education and the base salary will be Step 4 (\$46,798) and will include credit for a master's degree (\$1,145) and graduate hours (\$1,656).

SPECIAL
EDUCATION
TEACHER
APPOINTMENT –
KAYLEIGH RICKS

Ayes 4 Nays 0 Motion carried

Motion made by Mrs. Serdy, seconded by Mrs. Shalor.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby appoint James Kenyon as a Long-Term Substitute, who holds a Permanent New York State Teaching Certificate permitting him to teach Social Studies 7-12, to a non-probationary term-substitute position as a Social Studies Teacher, effective September 5, 2023 through January 26, 2024, and a base salary will be Step 20 per diem and prorated for the semester from September 5, 2023 through January 26, 2024.

LONG-TERM
SUBSTITUTE
TEACHER – SOCIAL
STUDIES
JAMES KENYON

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 appoint Cheryl Jory, who holds Permanent New York State Teaching Certificates permitting her to teach in the Special Education and Reading areas in the public schools of New York State, to the position of Chairperson for Committee of Special Education Consultant (Special Education Consultant), effective September 5, 2023 to June 30, 2024, and approves the agreement dated September 1, 2023 in regard to such employment and authorizes payments set forth therein.

CHAIRPERSON FOR
COMMITTEE OF
SPECIAL
EDUCATION
CONSULTANT
CHERYL JORY
9/5/2023-6/30/2024

Ayes 4 Nays 0 Motion carried

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby amend the appointment of Eric Haley as Part-Time Head Bus Driver to a full-time position as Head Bus Driver, effective October 1, 2023, with a base salary (\$47,923 prorated to October 1, 2023 to be \$43,430) and benefits prorated to the effective date for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the agreement presented, and authorizes the Superintendent to sign the agreement.

HEAD BUS DRIVER
(FULL-TIME
POSITION)
ERIC HALEY
EFFECTIVE
10/1/2023

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 Agreement between Diane Kenworthy, Au.D. and Worcester Central School, as presented, and authorizes the Superintendent to sign the agreement.

AGREEMENT
WITH DIANE
KENWORTHY,
Au.D.

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 Alondra Vazquez as a substitute teacher (non-certified), substitute LTA, substitute teacher aide, substitute library aide, and substitute school monitor, pending fingerprint clearance.

SUBSTITUTE
ALONDRA
VAZQUEZ

Ayes 4 Nays 0 Motion carried

Motion made by Mrs. Serdy, 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 Hope Egnaczak-Martin as a substitute teacher (non-certified), substitute LTA, substitute teacher aide, substitute library aide, and substitute school monitor, pending fingerprint clearance.

SUBSTITUTE
HOPE
EGNACZAK-
MARTIN

Ayes 4 Nays 0 Motion carried

Motion made by Mrs. Serdy, 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 Dani Cherkis as a substitute teacher (non-certified), substitute LTA, substitute teacher aide, and substitute library aide.

SUBSTITUTE
DANI CHERKIS

Ayes 4 Nays 0 Motion carried

Motion made by Mrs. Serdy, 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 Aubrey Arrick as a substitute teacher (non-certified), substitute LTA, substitute teacher aide, substitute library aide, and substitute school monitor.

SUBSTITUTE
AUBREY ARRICK

Ayes 4 Nays 0 Motion carried

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby appoint Arlene Nealis (Indoor and Outdoor Free Play) as an After School Enrichment Workshop Leader (grant funded) for the Fall 2023 program from October 2, 2023 through December 7, 2023, with after school hours of 3:05 p.m. to 5:05 p.m., and to be paid at a rate of \$42 per hour.

FALL AFTER
SCHOOL
ENRICHMENT
WORKSHOP
LEADER
APPOINTMENT
ARLENE NEALIS

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 appoint Melanie Felitti and Delana Baldwin-Rhodes as CROP Peer Tutors for the 2023-2024 school year, to be paid at a rate of \$14.20 per hour or as per the current New York State Department of Labor minimum wage hourly rate.

CROP PEER TUTORS
2023-2024

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 appoint Sarah Kayhart as Art Club Advisor and Trevor Fancher as coach for Modified Boys Soccer Coach for the 2023-2024 school year.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR (EXTRA DUTY) ART CLUB – SARAH KAYHART MODIFIED BOYS SOCCER – TREVOR FANCHER

Ayes 4 Nays 0 Motion carried

Motion made by Mrs. Serdy, 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 Michele Wright as a Level 1 Mentor for Kayleigh Ricks for the 2023-2024 school year.

2023-2024 MENTORING ASSIGNMENT

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 Mrs. Serdy.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, does hereby approve to accept a donation of \$1,000 from New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal, along with a corresponding increase to the 2023-2024 budget under code A1010-400-000 Board of Education-Contractual. This donation was made to offset the opening day conference luncheon expense.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION (NYSIR) AND BUDGETARY INCREASE

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 to create Learning Loss Enrichment Teacher Positions (up to 6 that are grant funded) for secondary students for the 2023-2024 school year, with after school hours of 3:05 p.m. to 5:05 p.m., and to be paid at a rate of \$42 per hour.

LEARNING LOSS ENRICHMENT TEACHER POSITIONS – GRANT FUNDED (UP TO 6)

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 appoint Jillian Hahn, Steven Fyfe, Kendal Darling, Savannah Cater, Kevin Bedient as Learning Loss Enrichment Teachers and Emily Moon and Marie Carrasco as Substitute Learning Loss Enrichment Teachers for secondary students for the 2023-2024 school year (grant funded) with after school hours Monday through Friday from 3:05 p.m. to 5:05 p.m., and to be paid at a rate of \$42 per hour.

LEARNING LOSS ENRICHMENT TEACHERS (GRANT FUNDED): J. HAHN, S. FYFE, K. DARLING, S. CATER, K. BEDIENT, SUBSTITUTE: M. CARRASCO

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 resolution authorizing litigation against social media companies as follows:

RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING
LITIGATION
AGAINST SOCIAL
MEDIA COMPANIES

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LITIGATION AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has issued an Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health which:

- “calls attention to the growing concerns about the effects of social media on youth mental health;”
- emphasized that “now is the time to act swiftly and decisively to protect children and adolescents from risk of harm;”
- “the onus of mitigating the potential harms of social media should not be placed solely on the shoulders of parents and caregivers;” and
- “technology companies play a central role and have a fundamental responsibility in designing a safe online environment and in preventing, minimizing, and addressing the risks associated with social media.”

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has further concluded that:

- “Social media use by youth is nearly universal. Up to 95% of youth ages 13-17 report using a social media platform, with more than a third saying they use social media ‘almost constantly.’”
- “nearly 40% of children ages 8-12 use social media;”
- “in early adolescence ... brain development is especially susceptible to social pressures, peer opinions, and peer comparison;”
- “social media may ... perpetuate body dissatisfaction, disordered eating behaviors, social comparison, and low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls;”
- “in a nationally representative survey of girls aged 11-15, one-third or more say they feel addicted’ to a social media platform;”
- “over half of teenagers report that it would be hard to give up social media;” and
- there is a consistent relationship between excessive social media use “depression among youth.”

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has specifically urged that it is “urgent that we take action.”

WHEREAS, it has been reported that students, “more than ever, were glued to their cellphones during class.”

WHEREAS, it has been reported that “a growing number of educators ... find themselves on the front lines of a fight to change how students use social media” and “there was been a push for more schools to ... develop programs to help educate students on the dangers of social media.”

WHEREAS, the Worcester Central School District (the “School District”) has and continues to experience significant problems with student use of social media, which use, among other things: (i) has created a substantial and ongoing interruption of and disturbance to its educational mission; (ii) has resulted in the diversion of substantial resources in an attempt to abate and prevent such use and its results harms; and (iii) poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of its students; and

WHEREAS, the School District is a leader in education excellence whose faculty and administrators care deeply about the education and well-being of its students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

That the Board of Education authorizes the law firm of Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLP and Ferrara Fiorenza PC to initiate litigation and file suit against any appropriate parties to seek compensation to the School District for damages suffered by the School District and its students as a result of the development, operation, and marketing of social media platforms, and to seek any other appropriate relief. The School District hereby authorizes its Superintendent of Schools or their designee to sign all appropriate documents and fee agreements on behalf of the School District.

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 to reopen the Future Farmers of America (FFA) account within the Student Association Accounts.

REOPEN FUTURE
FARMERS OF
AMERICA

Ayes 4

Nays 0

Motion carried

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Worcester Central School District, does hereby approve the CSE/CPSE recommendations, as presented for students: #3948, #3925, #2483, #2690, #3891, #3890, #3892, #3745, #3879, #3651, #3743, #3920, #3839, #2365, #2638, #2756, #2615, #3940, #2490, #2414, #3505, #2509, #3657, #3656, #2452, #2575, #3914, #3873, #3855, 3880, #3948, #2623, #3833, #3015, #3823, #3935, #3704, #3536, #2863, #3518, #3822, #3578, #2342, #3739, #2584, #3912, #2460, #2595, #2626, #3849, #3592, #3587, #3932, #3929, #3930, #3939, #3749, #3812, #3878, #3686, #3760, #3925, #2780, #3757, #3756, #3758, #2775, #3889, and #3889.

CPSE/CSE
RECOMMENDATIONS

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 Audit Committee recommendation to accept the 2022-2023 audited basic financial statements, the 2022-2023 audited extra classroom activity fund financial report, and the auditor communications as presented by the external auditors, Raymond G. Preusser, CPA, P.C.

EXTERNAL AUDIT

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 overall, the capital project is on schedule, with approval and bidding still on time, and final documents to go to SED this week. The BCA engineer further inspected the wall in the gym and feels there are no structural concerns with the small cracks, it is more cosmetic. He will be writing up a report for this.

Discussion was held about options for the main office footprint and carpet samples were discussed.

The Board Retreat dates were discussed and Mr. Gonzales will get some additional dates from Dr. Huber.

Mr. Gonzales reported to the Board on the start of the school year with teachers and new staff doing well, CROP with over 60 students, 6 Fall Enrichment Workshops with 39 students enrolled, and said that Special Education costs are up at Cobleskill, but with one student moving out of the district things are balanced.

Stewart's land information will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Discussion was held about volunteer coaching. The New York State High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) does not recognize volunteer coaches. Coaches need certification to coach, and only certified coaches can facilitate practice. Mr. Gonzales shared some liability and risk considerations with a volunteer. Discussion ensued.

Informational:

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

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

Motion made by Mrs. Shalor, seconded by Mr. Conroe to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. ADJOURN

Ayes 4

Nays 0

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Elliott
District Clerk