

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WHEELERSBURG LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SPECIAL MEETING
TIERED CLASSROOM**

Held **MONDAY** **FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

Public Hearing

Chris Porter will be retiring under the State Teachers Retirement System and is seeking employment with this Board thereafter in the same position (Principal) he held prior to such retirement. The Wheelersburg Local School District advertised a public hearing, and then held that hearing at 5:55 p.m. prior to the February 26, 2024 Special Meeting. Superintendent Mark Knapp opened the hearing and invited members of the audience to offer comments. There were no comments.

ROLL CALL

The President called the meeting to order and the following members answered to roll call:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Amy DeFoe-present | Scott Jolly-present |
| Jonathan Eaton-present | Matthew Miller-present |
| Rick Estep-present | |

Prayer was offered by George Grice, Treasurer. Mark Knapp led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION

The Board of Education recognized the District’s counselors for the fine work that they do for our students, which is essential for our students to be able to learn at their highest ability. Mr. Knapp and the building principals each spoke highly of their contributions and detailed many of their specific roles.

- **Jennifer Estep** – employed by ANEW Behavioral Health as a school therapist.
- **Aimee Hall** – Wheelersburg Elementary School guidance counselor.
- **Carrie Hollar** – Wheelersburg Middle School guidance counselor.
- **Cara Hancock** – Wheelersburg High School guidance counselor.
- **Rebecca Davis** – Wheelersburg High School guidance counselor.

Rick Estep left the room at 6:52 p.m.

23-24 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Jolly moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 Organizational and Regular meetings as submitted. Amy DeFoe seconded the motion.

Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-absent; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

Rick Estep re-entered the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

24-24 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

On the recommendation of the Treasurer, Scott Jolly moved to approve the Monthly Financial Report for January 2024 as submitted (Appendix A). Jonathan Eaton seconded the motion.

Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

25-24 ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS

On the recommendation of the Treasurer, Scott Jolly moved to accept donations received during January 2024 as submitted (Appendix B). Jonathan Eaton seconded the motion.

Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

26-24 APPROVAL OF A PURCHASE ORDER

On the recommendation of the Treasurer, Jonathan Eaton moved to approve a purchase order to the Cincinnati Reds from the Fourth Grade Fund for \$7,000.00. Rick Estep seconded the motion.

Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

DISCUSSION ABOUT SENIOR CLASS FUND

The administration presented a plan to the Board regarding the Class of 2024’s fund balance. A large cash balance exists because this class raised funds to go to Washington, D.C., in their Eighth Grade year in May 2020. That trip was cancelled when Ohio schools were closed to in-building attendance due to the outbreak of COVID. Those students are now seniors in high school. After hearing one plan for the distribution of the fund balance, the Board made some suggestions and asked the administration to continue work on an additional plan.

27-24 APPROVAL OF INTERDISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Scott Jolly moved state-wide Interdistrict Open Enrollment be approved for the 2024-2025 school year. Jonathan Eaton seconded the motion.
Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.
The President declared the motion carried.

28-24 EMPLOYMENT OF SUPPORT STAFF

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Jonathan Eaton moved to employ Shelby Reinhardt as an Aide for the 2023-2024 school year with salary based on 184 days per year, 7 hours per day, and step one (1) of the salary schedule, prorated to the actual start date of January 8, 2024.
Scott Jolly seconded the motion.
Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.
The President declared the motion carried.

29-24 EMPLOYMENT OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Jonathan Eaton moved that Ariadna Bentley be employed as a substitute teacher for the 2023-2024 school year, retroactive to January 8, 2024, at a daily rate of \$122.57 for the purposes of providing general intervention services for English language learning students and it is further recommended that per Ohio Revised Code Section 3319.10, that Ariadna Bentley be elevated to the minimum salary on the adopted teachers salary schedule on the sixty-first day of service.
Amy DeFoe seconded the motion.
Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.
The President declared the motion carried.

30-24 APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEERS

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Jonathan Eaton moved to approve the following volunteers for the 2023-2024 school year:

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <u>Softball</u> | <u>Baseball</u> | <u>Boys Tennis</u> |
| Dusty Salyers | Matt Conn | Wes Bussey |
| Jackie Conley | Ryan Walker | |
| Lindsey Fannin | Shane Kemper | <u>Track</u> |
| Michael Estep | Jared Alley | Jeremy Newman |
| | Chase Conley | Carrie Hollar |
| <u>MS Mock Trial</u> | DJ Horton | Steve Sutton |
| Clarah Floyd | | Luke Emnett |

Scott Jolly seconded the motion.
Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.
The President declared the motion carried.

31-24 EMPLOYMENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL DUTY PERSONNEL

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Jonathan Eaton moved to employ the following on supplemental contracts effective for the 2023-2024 school year with salary based on years of experience; and that employment is specifically conditioned on and subject to the activity/season occurring, with proration in the event of partial performance as determined by the administration:

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Dirk Newman | Junior High Boys' Track Coach | 3 Years' Experience |
| Lori Newman | Junior High Girls' Track Coach | 4 Years' Experience |

Scott Jolly seconded the motion.
Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.
The President declared the motion carried.

32-24 APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 WHS REGISTRATION GUIDE

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Jonathan Eaton moved to approve the Wheelersburg High School 2024-2025 Registration Guide as submitted (Appendix C). Scott Jolly seconded the motion.
Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.
The President declared the motion carried.

33-24 APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Jonathan Eaton moved to approve a resignation from Brandy Starrett, bus driver, effective January 26, 2024. Scott Jolly seconded the motion.
Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.
The President declared the motion carried.

34-24 APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION

January 24, 2024
Mr. Mark Knapp,

I am informing you of my plan to retire at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. It has been a pleasure to serve the students, administration, and community of the Wheelersburg School District for the past twenty-five years.

s/Debbie Salyers

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Jonathan Eaton moved to approve a resignation for the purpose of retirement from Debbie Salyers, aide, effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Scott Jolly seconded the motion.

Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

35-24 EMPLOYMENT OF SUBSTITUTE SUPPORT STAFF

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Jonathan Eaton moved that the following be employed for the 2023-2024 school year and be paid the Board adopted rate for hours worked.

Brandy Starrett
Ronald Mills

Bus driver (effective 1/27/2024)
Bus driver (effective 2/1/2024)

Scott Jolly seconded the motion.

Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

36-24 APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Jonathan Eaton moved to approve a resignation from Sarah Hammond, aide, effective February 16, 2024. Scott Jolly seconded the motion.

Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

37-24 ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF SUPPLEMENTAL DUTY

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Jonathan Eaton moved to accept the resignation of Brooke Elswick, Girls Junior High Track Coach, effective the 2023-2024 school year.

Scott Jolly seconded the motion.

Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

38-24 APPROVAL OF UNPAID LEAVE

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Jonathan Eaton moved to approve an unpaid leave of absence for Linda Bailey, bus driver, retroactive to February 23, 2024, for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. Scott Jolly seconded the motion.

Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

39-24 ADJUSTMENT OF STIPEND

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Jonathan Eaton moved to adjust the stipend for EMIS Coordinator to \$7,500.00 and applied retroactively for the entire 2023-2024 school year for Deena Armstrong, Administrative Secretary. Scott Jolly seconded the motion.

Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

40-24 APPROVAL OF MOU

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Scott Jolly moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wheelersburg Education Association that will add the supplemental positions of Assistant Soccer Coach (B&G), Assistant Volleyball Coach, Assistant Track Coach (B&G), High School eSports coach, and Director of Elementary Musical (Appendix D). Amy DeFoe seconded the motion.

Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

41-24 APPROVAL OF SCHOOL CALENDAR

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Jonathan Eaton moved to approve the 2024-2025 school year calendar (Appendix E). Scott Jolly seconded the motion.

Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

42-24 APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION

February 25, 2024
To Mr. Eaton, Mr. Knapp, and the Board of Education,

After much prayer and soul searching, I have decided that it’s time to start my retirement journey. I have great respect for the past Wheelersburg leaders as well as for the present administration: Mr. Knapp, Mr. Eaton, Mrs. Kelly, and the staff of Wheelersburg Schools. You see, in August of 1973, you registered two 8th grade girls who had just moved to this area and little did you know what a great impact this Burg Family would have on our lives. God had just moved my mom, sister, and I to Scioto County to be around family within a few weeks of the sudden passing of our father at the age of 47. My older brother bought our Michigan home place, my other 2 brothers decided to stay there as well. Even though my mom was a graduate of South Webster, she wanted to send us to the best school in the area. The Burg!! We knew no one from the Burg. In fact, every day for a month we drove from South Webster to Burg for school each morning and back to South Webster each evening until the closing on our house on Dogwood Ridge. I sure did not understand life at all then, but I can see clearly now how the great Lord above had guided our lives. God orchestrated it all. It is amazing to see how God took an impossible situation in our lives and turned it around for His good purpose.

This school family was here for us when we needed its guidance the most, and we gained many positive attributes and needed knowledge from the leaders of this school. When I graduated from Burg-with honors in 1978, I soared like an Eagle to college and again, graduated with honors, to begin my teaching career in Kansas. I landed back at this same GREAT school in 1996. Wheelersburg Local Schools, thank you for your part in my life. I really mean it when I say, you have been used as God’s angels in my life.

I now have chosen to fulfill the next step in my life with my family. After a few years of tears as I pondered about retirement, I always choose to stay in my safe place. I am now ready to soar to new adventures with my family. So, as the end of this 2024 school calendar year, I will be physically leaving my science classroom #2239 but my Wheelersburg family will never leave my heart. I have been blessed to work with such a great staff and to teach such amazing children.

Sincerely,
s/Marjorie E. O’Brien

On the recommendation of the Local Supt., Jonathan Eaton moved to approve a resignation for the purpose of retirement from Marjorie O’Brien, teacher, effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
Scott Jolly seconded the motion.
Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.
The President declared the motion carried.

43-24 FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES

Scott Jolly moved to note the first reading of the following policies:

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|--------------|---|
| Policy: IGD | Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities |
| Policy: IGDJ | Interscholastic Athletics |
| Policy: KGB | Public Conduct on District Property |
| Policy: DID | Inventories (Fixed Assets) |

Amy DeFoe seconded the motion.
Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.
The President declared the motion carried.

44-24 APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION

February 21, 2024
To the members of the Wheelersburg Board of Education,

Please accept this as my notice to resign for the purpose of retirement, effective August 1, 2024. Thank you for the opportunity to work in this school district with many fine teachers, support staff members, and fellow administrators. I have also had the blessing of working with the finest local boards of education that any treasurer could ever desire. I have enjoyed being a member of the boards’ team with superintendents John Eaton and Mark Knapp. So many people here have challenged me uniquely to grow, both as a colleague and as a person.

When the Board first hired me in 1996 I knew that if I had success, much of that would be due to good people in my office. I have Lyna, Pam, Gloria, Amy, and Mandy to thank for their valuable contributions.

44-24 APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION (continued)

The level of excellence that we aim for together, in everything that we do, has given me pride to know I have played a small role for good in my home community. I have also known kindness and compassion in the time that I have been a part of the Pirate family. I am a home-grown Pirate and Wheelersburg is the only district for which I have worked as the treasurer. In twenty-eight years, I never wanted to be anywhere else.

Sincerely,
s/George Grice

Jonathan Eaton moved to approve a resignation for the purpose of retirement from George Grice, Treasurer, effective August 1, 2024. Scott Jolly seconded the motion.
Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes; Matthew Miller-yes.
The President declared the motion carried.

DISCUSSION ABOUT SOFTBALL PARK PHASE 1

Jonathan Eaton reported that the preliminary layout of the WHS Softball Park would need to be modified to situate home plate so that batters would not be looking into the sun, and he described how the park could be repositioned on the same site to correct that issue. Emphasis was placed on doing now what the District can with the funds that are on hand so that the playing surface can have the time necessary to be developed, since this is a process when done correctly A quote has been obtained to do phase one of the project, which would primarily deal with developing the field itself and creating a material drop off area that would later become the park’s main parking area..

Matthew Miller left the meeting towards the end of the discussion at 8:30 p.m.

45-24 AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT

Jonathan Eaton moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract for Phase One of development of the WHS Softball Park, for hardscape and landscaping, not to exceed \$50,000.00.
Rick Estep seconded the motion.
Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes.
The President declared the motion carried.

46-24 ADJOURNMENT

Scott Jolly moved the Board adjourn. Jonathan Eaton seconded the motion.
Roll call: Amy DeFoe-yes; Jonathan Eaton-yes; Rick Estep-yes; Scott Jolly-yes.
The Vice-President declared the motion carried.

The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room at the Wheelersburg Board of Education Administrative Offices at 620 Center Street.

President;

Treasurer