

**WA-NEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**Elkhart-Kosciusko Counties, Indiana**  
**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**August 9, 2021**

*A Tradition of Excellence: Preparing today's students for tomorrow's challenges.*

The Board of School Trustees of the Wa-Nee Community Schools met Monday evening, August 9, 2021, in their first meeting of the month.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. The meeting was called to order at the Wa-Nee Administration Building at 6:00 PM by School Board President Christina Eshelman.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call

On roll call by School Board Secretary Curt Flickinger, the following members responded as present:

Christina Eshelman    Curt Flickinger  
Lou Bonacorsi        Shawn Johnson        Todd Gongwer

Superintendent Scot Croner, Director of Curriculum Gretchen Thomas, Business Manager Randi Libby and Clerk Lisa Hall were also present.

**II. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

School board member Shawn Johnson made, and Lou Bonacorsi seconded the motion to approve the amendment to the agenda as presented by Mrs. Eshelman. Vote: 5-0.

**III. CONSENT ITEMS**

School board member Shawn Johnson made, and Curt Flickinger, seconded the motion to approve the consent items with additional item as presented by Mrs. Eshelman. Vote: 5-0

- A. Consideration of the regular board meeting for July 12, 2021
- B. Consideration of the claims dated August 9, 2021
- C. Consideration of the Personnel items
  - 1. **Employment** (the following shall be employed upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing)
    - i. Andrea Guerrero, Mental Health Counselor @ NES/WES effective with completion of pre-employment screening
    - ii. Alicia Harkins, 6<sup>th</sup> Gr Science Teacher @ NWMS, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
    - iii. Stacy Riesdorf, 7<sup>th</sup> Gr Science Teacher @ NWMS, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
    - iv. Lisa Sherman, NWAA Middle School Teacher, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
    - v. Holly Worthman, FACS Teacher @ NWHS, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
    - vi. Erin Blomgren, Instructional Ass't @ NES, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
    - vii. Kristin Bourn, Special Ed Ass't Life Skills @ NES, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
    - viii. Braxton Burnsworth, P/T Custodian @ NWMS effective with completion of pre-employment screening
    - ix. Abigail Drzewiecki, Special Ed Ass't @ NES effective with completion of pre-employment screening
    - x. Kina Fuller, P/T Cafeteria @ NES, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
    - xi. Kim Jenkins, Bus Driver Route #46, effective August 12, 2021
    - xii. Courtney Lamb, Special Ed Assistant SOAR @ NES, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
    - xiii. Tori Schwartz, Specialized Instructor -STEM @ WV, effective August 11, 2021
    - xiv. Jessica Shields, Nurse @ NES, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
    - xv. Michele Skipper, P/T Cafeteria NWMS, effective with completion of pre-employment screening

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**Employment** (the following shall be employed upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing)

- xvi. Neil Stephenson, P/T Custodian @ NWHS, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
- xvii. Becky Tice, Bus Driver Route #37, effective August 12, 2021
- xviii. Avery Bontrager, Robotics Sponsor @ NWMS, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
- xix. Payton Grubbs, Ass't Girls Golf Coach @ NWHS, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
- xx. Brittany Harrington, .5 Student Council Sponsor @ NWHS, effective August 11, 2021
- xxi. Jared Lechlitner, Ass't Swim Coach @ NWMS, effective Winter 2021
- xxii. Marcy Porter, .5 Student Council Sponsor @ NWHS, effective August 11, 2021
- xxiii. Brittani Shields, JV Girls Soccer Coach @ NWHS effective with completion of pre-employment screening
- xxiv. Tanner White, 7<sup>th</sup> Gr. Ass't Football @ NWMS, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
- xxv. Jon Yoder, Robotics Sponsor @ WES, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
- xxvi. Kenton Chapman, Robotics Sponsor @ NWMS, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
- xxvii. Shannan Vincent, Ass't Cross Country Coach @ NWMS, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
- xxviii. Scott Lancaster, Social Studies Teacher @ NWHS, effective with completion of pre-employment screening
- xxix. Katie Andrews, Head JV Volleyball Coach @ NWHS, effective August 9, 2021

### 2. Retirement/Resignation/End of Employment

- i. Joshua Estep, Varsity Ass't Baseball @ NWHS, effective July 27, 2021
- ii. Ashly Garl, P/T ESL Assistant @ NES, effective July 12, 2021
- iii. Taylor Grubbs, P/T Special Ed Assistant @ WES, effective July 19, 2021
- iv. Steve Hilty, P/T Custodian @ NWHS, effective July 30, 2021
- v. Julie Isbell, Special Ed Ass't @ NES, effective August 4, 2021
- vi. Sarah Leeper, Special Ed Ass't @ NES, effective July 30, 2021
- vii. Brooke Maes, JV Head Softball @ NWHS, effective July 27, 2021
- viii. Nikki Messier, Special Ed Assistant SOAR @ NES, effective July 21, 2021
- ix. Emily Namisnak, Varsity Ass't Softball @ NWHS, effective July 27, 2021
- x. Kahm Piercy, Specialized Instructor – STEM @ WV, effective July 22, 2021
- xi. Brigitte Stump, School Nurse @ NES, effective August 10, 2021
- xii. Kennedi Troyer, Special Ed Assistant @ NES, effective July 15, 2021
- xiii. Molly Wilson, Science Teacher @ NWMS, effective July 27, 2021
- xiv. Adam Yoder, Social Studies Teacher & Department Chair @ NWHS, effective August 10, 2021

### 3. Transfer

- i. Rhonda Bellman, F/T Custodian @ NWHS to P/T Cafeteria @ WV, effective August 12, 2021
- ii. Wendy Briscoe, Special Ed Ass't to ESL Ass't @ NES, effective August 12, 2021
- iii. Bobbi Croner, Substitute Teacher to Special Ed SOAR Ass't @ NES, effective August 12, 2021
- iv. Darin Simms, Special Ed Ass't to Specialized Instructor Credit Recovery @ NWHS, effective August 11, 2021
- v. Jill Slabaugh, Bus Monitor Bus #6 to Bus Monitor - Head Start, effective August 17, 2021
- vi. Dawn Slein, from 7<sup>th</sup> Gr. Science Teacher @ NWMS to Science Teacher @ NWHS, effective July 16, 2021
- vii. Steve Taylor, from P/T Cafeteria to Life Skills Ass't – YAP @ NWHS, effective August 12, 2021
- viii. Brittany Weingart, from P/T Cafeteria to Sub Cafeteria, effective August 1, 2021
- ix. Karen Weldy, Cafeteria Substitute to P/T Cafeteria @ WV, effective August 12, 2021
- x. Rhonda Bellman, F/T Custodian @ NWHS to P/T Custodian @ WV, effective August 12, 2021

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4. **Leave of Absence**

- i. Jeanne Balogh, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher @ WES, effective August 11, 2021 to TBD

D. **Consideration of Professional Leave Requests**

- i. Beth Beer, High Ability Bootcamp, 9/21 to 10/2, 2020, Virtual meeting
- ii. Jade Sipic, Elk. County Counselor's Breakfast, August 20, 2021, Lerner Theater, Elkhart, IN

E. **Consideration of Grants and Donations**

- i. \$1,000 gift of Scientific Calculators from Cutting Edge Machine & Tool to NWHS teacher Tina Davidhizar
- ii. \$100 donation from Seifert Drugs to NWHS Band Camp-Red Regiment
- iii. \$51 donation from Hampton Inn to NWHS Band Camp-Red Regiment
- iv. \$1,500 donation from St. James Holding LLC to NorthWood Athletics
- v. \$100 donation from David & Kara Kauffman to NWHS Boys Cross Country

IV. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC INPUT**

Amy Beer introduced to the Board the 3 new Agriculture Teachers Grace Allen, Morgan Alexander and Brandi Henderson. They shared with the Board their vision and excitement for growing the Agriculture program at Wa-Nee.

Aaron Mullet expressed his thanks to the Board for making wearing a mask a parental choice and shared that if masked became required he would withdraw his son from school.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS ITEMS**

There was none.

VI. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **Adoption of Policy 0160.01 Electronic Participation by Board Members in Board Meetings**

School board member Shawn Johnson made, and Todd Gongwer seconded the motion to approve the adoption of Policy 0160.01 Electronic Participation by Board Members in Board Meetings as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 5-0

B. **Approval of Policy 3220.01 Teacher Appreciation Grant**

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and Shawn Johnson seconded the motion to approve the Policy 3220.01 Teacher Appreciation Grant as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 5-0

C. **Approval of the Renaming NWMS "Old Gym" the "Brad Eby Gym"**

School board member Shawn Johnson made, and Lou Bonacorsi seconded the motion to approve the renaming NWMS "Old Gym" the "Brad Eby Gym" as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 5-0

D. **Approval of the Pre-Approval for overnight and/or out of state travel requests**

School board member Shawn Johnson made, and Todd Gongwer seconded the motion to approve the Pre-Approval for overnight and/or out of state travel requests as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 5-0

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E. Approval of the out of state or overnight travel requests for:

- NWHS FFA, FFA Officer Retreat, August 20-21, 2021, Eby Pines, Bristol, IN
- NWHS Sports Medicine Students, State Football Game, November 25-27, 2021, Indianapolis
- NWHS Cheer, State Cheer Competition, November 5-6, 2021, Indianapolis
- NWHS FFA, Leadership Development Workshop, September 10-12, 2021, Trafalger, IN

School board member Shawn Johnson made, and Todd Gongwer seconded the motion to approve the out of state or overnight travel requests as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 5-0

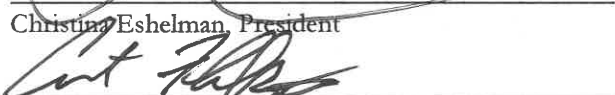
VII. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

- i. Athletic Training Services Update – Paul Widner
- ii. Policy 5540 The Schools and Law Enforcement Agencies
- iii. Policy 5540.01 Interview of Students by Child Protective Services
- iv. Policy 6320 Purchasing
- v. Opening of schools / Construction Update – Scot Croner

There being no more items to come to the attention of the board, school board member Shawn Johnson made, and Lou Bonacorsi supported the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Vote: 5-0

SIGNED:

  
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Christina Eshelman, President

  
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Curt Flickinger, Secretary