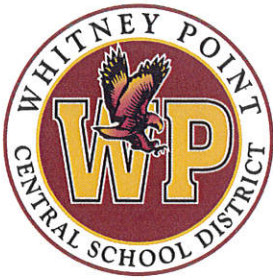


WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting

Whitney Point High School Building
High School Library
PO Box 249
Whitney Point, NY 13862



MINUTES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

6:30 p.m.

District Mission:

To provide an excellent education ensuring that all children maximize their potential, become contributing citizens, and pursue lifelong learning.

District Beliefs:

- All children possess unique qualities and come to school eager to learn and be successful.
- We respect all people within our community and treat them with dignity at all times.
- Learning is a partnership that includes school staff, parents, family and the community.
- Knowledge allows for critical thinking and effective decision-making.
- The community is well served by maximizing the use of available resources and by the responsible stewardship of assets.
- Purposeful and intentional change is a constant that leads to educational improvement and positive results.
- Compliance with state and federal regulations is critical to School District success.

District Vision:

To be a community of excellence achieved through a commitment to HIGH performance, morale, and involvement.

Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Stephanie Champney	President	X	_____
Christine Widdall	Vice-President	X	_____
Thomas McGrath	Member	_____	X
Tyanna Moseman	Member	X	_____
Erik Sculley	Member	X	_____
Thomas Tasber	Member	X	_____
Molly Willis	Member	X	_____
Jo-Ann Sexton	Superintendent of Schools	X	_____
Shannon Gillette	Assistant Superintendent	X	_____
Zachary Woodard	School Business Executive	X	_____
Stacey Black	District Clerk	X	_____

Others in attendance: Aaron Kaminsky, Lauren Prokop, Debra Burdick, Matt Szeliga, Molly Hawley, Devlin Woughter, Austin Kicsak, Jacob Quail, Murphee Hayes

A. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

No need at this time.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

C. POLICIES 1st READING

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the replacement of policy number **6173 Sexual Harassment Prevention** with policy **6173 Sexual Harassment in the Workplace** for first reading.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Thomas Tasber

Ms. Sexton stated that there is a lot of redundancy with this and the following existing policies. The recommendation is to have one non-discrimination and anti-harassment policy, one sexual harassment policy, and a suggestion to change from the current bullying policy to the DASA policy. Our bullying policy meets the requirements and is not very old but DASA is law. She said that she would like to follow Erie1s policy and add Sexual Harassment in the Workplace and a student version. She referenced "Title IX and Sex Discrimination Procedure."

Ms. Moseman asked if specific people are usually identified in a policy by name or if the district usually uses a title.

Ms. Sexton stated that the district prefers to use a title, but it is recommended to use the name of the person in this instance.

Ms. Moseman asked who the Title IX and DASA coordinators are.

Ms. Sexton responded that Mrs. Gillette holds both of those titles.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Aye - Stephanie Champney, Christine Widdall,
Tyanna Moseman, Erik Sculley, Thomas Tasber, Molly Willis

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the replacement of policy number **6170/7370 Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment** with policy **6170/7370 Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the District** for first reading.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Erik Sculley

Ms. Sexton stated that these were originally instituted in 2005 and reviewed in 2012 but are very similar.

Mrs. Willis stated that the Erie1 recommendation seems to leave out the bullying portion and also leaves out the informal complaint process.

Ms. Sexton stated that the next policy to be discussed, 6172/7372 does review more about bullying. However, the new policy goes directly to a formal complaint without mentioning an informal complaint. She added that all complaints are taken seriously and have a full investigation, so there really is no informal complaint process. She continued on to explain the day-to-day processes of handling harassment issues.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Aye - Stephanie Champney, Christine Widdall,
Tyanna Moseman, Erik Sculley, Thomas Tasber, Molly Willis

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the replacement of policy number **6172/7372 Bullying/Harassment Prevention and Intervention** with policy **6172/7372 Dignity for All Students** for first reading.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Thomas Tasber

Ms. Moseman asked if this policy has been changed from the current title to “DASA” because of the law.

Ms. Sexton stated that this does not need to be changed but the recommended policy talks about all of the things that are in our current policy and goes further into DASA requirements.

Dr. Widdall stated that she likes the DASA policy because it’s nationally known and is more recognizable.

Mrs. Champney stated that she likes that changing the name establishes it from the other policies.

The Board and Ms. Sexton discussed the policy.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Aye - Stephanie Champney, Christine Widdall,
Tyanna Moseman, Erik Sculley, Thomas Tasber, Molly Willis

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the removal of policy number **7371/6171 Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying**.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Thomas Tasber

Ms. Sexton stated that the proposal is to remove this policy, which is very similar to policy 6170/7370 Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the District.

Mrs. Willis stated that she likes some of the words that were used in this policy.

Ms. Sexton suggested reviewing the polices further prior to the second reading.

Mrs. Champney stated that there is still a second reading to review this and voting on second reading may still be postponed if the Board is not prepared to make a decision.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Aye - Stephanie Champney, Christine Widdall,
Tyanna Moseman, Erik Sculley, Thomas Tasber, Molly Willis

D. POLICIES 2ND READING

None.

E. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

F. COMMENDATIONS

Ms. Sexton commends:

- Mrs. Prokop, Mrs. Whittaker, and Opportunities for Broome, and the Early Eagles Program for organizing and holding PreK Orientation for our new PreK students on August 23rd. Ms. Sexton added that it was a great night and very informative.
- Whitney Point administrators, faculty, and staff for a successful Welcome Back Night across all schools held on Tuesday, September 5th. Thank you to our Board of Education, BU STEM Program Representatives, Community Schools, and the Whitney Point Transportation Department for tabling and helping to welcome back our students.
- Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Gillette and the Whitney Point Central School District Leadership Team for providing support and information while implementing successful Superintendent's Conference Days on September 5th and 6th.
- Captain Christopher Streno of the Town of Vestal Police Department for presenting to the entire school district administration, faculty, and staff during the Superintendent's Conference Days.
- The Whitney Point PTA, Principal Mr. Szeliga (special guest DJ), and Assistant Principal Mrs. Burns for a fun 4th Grade Dance Party to welcome 4th graders to the TRA.
- Whitney Point administrators, faculty, staff, students, and families for a successful start to the 2023-2024 school year.
- Thank you to our faculty and staff for ensuring that our students felt supported and had routine and predictability today during a sad day after losing one of our staff.

G. OLD BUSINESS

None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation

Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Gillette presented on district goals, professional development plan, PLC, and the summer committee.

- District SMART Goals
- Professional Development Plan
- Technology Plan
- Professional Learning Communities
- Summer Enrichment 2023

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

Items under the Consent Agenda will be enacted under one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items prior to the time of the Board vote, unless a Board member requests an item to be removed from the consent Agenda for separate discussion and action.

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. **Board of Education Meeting Minutes** – August 15, 2023
- b. **Extraclassroom Activity Report** – August 2023
- c. **Treasurer Reports** – June 2023 and July 2023
- d. **Committee on Special Education Recommendations**
- e. **Resignation** – Thomas Sanford, Math Teacher – effective September 30, 2023
- f. **2023-2024 Extracurricular Advisor Application**
 - *Peer Mentoring Elizabeth Konicki
 - *Peer Mentoring Jennifer Westcott

*Will serve for one year without stipend

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Molly Willis

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Aye - Stephanie Champney, Christine Widdall,
Tyanna Moseman, Erik Sculley, Thomas Tasber, Molly Willis

3. Appointments

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the appointment of **Kimberly McBrien**, Secondary Special Education Teacher, contingent on certification completion, effective September 1, 2023.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Erik Sculley

Ms. Sexton stated that Ms. McBrien is a special education teacher and is getting her supplementary certification in secondary special education.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Aye - Stephanie Champney, Christine Widdall,
Tyanna Moseman, Erik Sculley, Thomas Tasber, Molly Willis

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the appointment of **Fallon Huyck**, Full-Time Teacher's Aide, effective September 13, 2023.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Molly Willis

Ms. Sexton stated that this is to fill the full year leave of Johanna Leet.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Aye - Stephanie Champney, Christine Widdall,
Tyanna Moseman, Erik Sculley, Thomas Tasber, Molly Willis

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Ms. Sexton stated that Welcome Back Night went very well. She thanked the Board for their participation and said that it was meaningful for people to see them there. She added that there was a great turnout in all buildings, there was a lot of good feedback and many students appreciated being able to find their classrooms before school began.

Ms. Hayes held her first sports committee meeting with good representation. She's put together an application process for proposed new sports and has that in a google form.

Ms. Hayes stated that the group plans to meet regularly on various sports related topics.

Ms. Sexton stated that the first game on our turf field is on Saturday, September 16th. She stated that the district has had a request to have a rededication of the field. She invited the Board to attend the ribbon cutting and rededication prior to the football game.

J. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

K. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Mrs. Champney stated that she thinks the welcome back night was one of the best attended in a long time and the students had a great time. Parents appreciated bringing in supplies for the younger students.

Mr. Sculley stated that everyone he spoke to at Welcome Back Night said that there was a great turnout and he thought it was nice to meet parents and students in the district. Our SROs were so awesome! It was super to see the engagement they had with the students.

Mrs. Champney asked how everyone felt about SuperEval and if they would like to move forward with purchasing it.

The Board and Ms. Sexton discussed the program, its cost, and benefits. The Board agreed to purchase the program.

Mr. Woodard provided an overview of the past 5 years of School Board budget information.

Mrs. Champney presented cost information for BoardDocs.

The Board discussed BoardDocs and requested a presentation for the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Champney discussed the introduction to public comment. She asked the Board to take a look at each of the sample comments sections previously provided and to be prepared to discuss this at the October board meeting.

Dr. Widdall suggested air conditioning in the CEA and TRA libraries during hot days to prevent heat and humidity damage to books. She also said that a parent mentioned the model of the Welcome Back Night timing being difficult for parents of students in all three buildings. She suggested making the timeframe for the CEA and High School the same and the TRA later for next year.

Mr. Woodard stated that there were also sporting events being held, which added to the parking issue.

Mrs. Willis asked if locker rooms will be open for PE classes to allow students to change.

Mrs. Hawley stated that during the pandemic we weren't allowed to use them, and PE participation increased. The district had some requests and gave students a choice to change their clothing, but there were some security and vaping issues in the locker rooms, so the PE teachers and principals closed them. She added that we may be able to work with students on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Tasber stated that one of the things he liked about the summer programs was that it was across multiple grades and was open to all students rather than being "targeted" at students who struggled academically. He said he would like to see that continue. Mr. Tasber also said that he spoke with a teacher who mentioned that they have never seen BOE members at opening day session in any other school district.

Ms. Sexton stated that many teachers said that it meant a lot to have Board members at opening day and Welcome Back Night.

Mrs. Champney stated that she enjoyed the way new employees were introduced and participating in giving out years of service awards.

Ms. Moseman stated that she has never attended the opening day ceremony and she enjoyed Ms. Sexton's speech.

Mr. Sculley stated that Whitney Point is not just a school district, it's a family and it is seen within the district and from those outside of our district. He added that he thinks that is a great asset.

L. ADJOURNMENT

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the motion to adjourn the Public Meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Erik Sculley

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Aye - Stephanie Champney, Christine Widdall,
Tyanna Moseman, Erik Sculley, Thomas Tasber, Molly Willis

M. FYI

September 29, 2023 – Half Day for ALL Students

October 5, 2023 – Early Dismissal Drill – 15-minute early release

October 6, 2023 – NO SCHOOL – Conference Day

October 9, 2023 – NO SCHOOL – Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day

October 10, 2023 – Board of Education Meeting, HS Library, 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacey Black
District Clerk