

WARREN HILLS REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 26, 2021

6:30 p.m. – Executive Session

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, this meeting of the Board of Education will not be physically open to the public. This is to ensure we follow best practices for social distancing. The board meeting will be live-streamed to the public via Zoom (<https://zoom.us>). The link to the meeting will be posted on the District's website. The link can also be found within the posted agenda for this meeting, which is on the District's website. During the meeting, an announcement will be made for any members of the public that wish to participate. At that time, type a question/comment into the chat feature of Zoom. All participants must provide their name and address, and your comment and/or question will be included in the Board's public record of the meeting, just as it would for a standard Board meeting and will be read aloud by the Board Secretary. Electronic notice of this meeting was posted on the district website.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89750475094?pwd=MG1tdXZob0VoNEhnL0ZGeGg2QTFFdz09>

A. Call to Order - Mr. Corey Piasecki, President

B. Roll Call - Mrs. Donnamarie Palmiere, Business Administrator

Roll call was taken by Mrs. Donnamarie Palmiere. Members present were Joseph Bodenschatz, Christopher Cannavo, Christopher Hamler, Lisa Marshall, Christine Pi, Corey Piasecki, Sam Knutson and Eric Walls. Also present were Earl Clymer, Dennis Mack, Dawn Moore and Donnamarie Palmiere.

C. Executive Session- 6:40 p.m

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-11, permits the board of education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss:

- 1) *Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule*
- 2) *Pending Litigation*
- 3) *Personnel Matters*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education reserves the right to discuss such other matters rendered confidential by law should the need arise; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Action may be taken.

Approval to go into Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Hamler and seconded by Mrs. Marshall to go into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. with full board consent.

D. Reconvene: 7:00 p.m.

Approval to Reconvene

Motion by Mr. Knutson and seconded by Mr. Cannavo to go into Open Session at 7:00 p.m. with full board consent.

President's Announcement: Adequate and electronic notice of this meeting in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act has been given by posting one copy of a Notice of Meeting in the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education Office, by mailing copies to *The Express-Times*, *Warren-Reporter*, *Newark Star-Ledger* and to the municipal clerks in the Borough of Washington and Townships of Franklin, Mansfield and Washington. Also, an electronic notice of this meeting was posted on the WHRSD website.

Our Mission Statement

The Warren Hills Regional School District challenges and empowers a dynamic, diverse student body in a supportive learning environment by providing academic and co-curricular opportunities to become successful, productive members of the global community.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Board Minutes

- January 5, 2021 Reorganization and Executive Session Meetings

Motion by Mr. Cannavo and seconded by Mrs. Marshall to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2021, Regular Reorganization and Executive Session Meetings.

MOTION: Chris Cannavo		SECOND: Lisa Marshall		
Name	Ayes	Nayes	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Hamler	X			
Sam Knutson	X			
Lisa Marshall	X			
Christine Pi	X			
Eric Walls	X			
Christopher Cannavo	X			
Corey Piasecki	X			

E. Communications – Mr. Earl C. Clymer, III, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Clymer noted that the board received a communication last week and it has been responded to.

F. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Earl C. Clymer, III

- Met with county office for Mid-Year Budget Review and it went very well. It was a positive meeting with good feedback.
- Elise Tooker was awarded Health/Physical Education Teacher of the year! Congrats to Elise!
We are proud to have her on our staff.
- 26 students participated in PSAT testing this morning - Thank Admin, Supervisors and GC's present.
PSAT administration for 10th & 11th graders:
College Board has provided a window of time between Feb 22 - Mar 26
- Senior Parents able to attend Games -
NJ.com article released on Monday evening
Governor Murphy is considering limited attendance
Will be based on decreasing numbers related to COVID-19
- Bridge Year Pilot Program.
Email was sent to Parents.
Mr. Kavcak is the liaison for the program.

G. Presenter(s):

None

H. Goals:

Warren Hills Board of Education District Goals 2020-2021

1. Implement and support strategies to improve student achievement for ALL students, including but not limited to, Advanced Placement, Vocational Education, Gifted & Talented, General Education and Special Education through course offerings, 1:1 technology Initiative and enhanced PLC's.
2. Establish the Focus for Diversity Group to review, revise and implement best practices related to racial equity by forming subcommittees to review current hiring practices, district curriculum and policy.
3. Ensure effective communication with the School Community prior to, during and following the 2020-21 school year as it pertains to the reopening of schools and Remote & Hybrid Learning during the pandemic.

Warren Hills Board of Education Board Goal for 2020-2021

1. Provide support to the administration, faculty and staff in the pursuit and achievement of the district goals.

I. Committee Reports

Committee	Date	Discussion
Finance, Facilities & Transportation	No meeting held	By Chair: Mr. Hamler
Education & Policy	No meeting held	By Chair: Mr. Piasecki
Personnel & Student Activities	No meeting held	By Chair: Mr. Bodenschatz
Technology	No meeting held	By Chair: Mr. Walls
Negotiations	January 14, 2021	By Chair: Mr. Cannavo
AD Hoc Reopening	No meeting held	By Chair: Mr. Clymer
Focus Group for Diversity	January 20, 2021	Mr. Clymer

Mr. Cannavo reported that negotiations met and this was discussed in executive session and will be meeting with the WHREA in a few days.

Mrs. Marshall reported that Warren County School Boards will be having a virtual budget discussion with Neil Cramer on Monday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Marshall requested that Ed & Policy review a policy on communications from the district to the community.

J. Old Business

There will be a meeting scheduled with the Oxford Board after the open seat is filled. Mr. Hamler and Mr. Piasecki commented on prior meetings with Oxford. Warren Hills will continue to meet with Oxford as we passed a resolution supporting Oxford's regionalization study.

K. New Business

Mrs. Marshall will be making a motion to add a resolution requesting Governor Murphy to include public school district personnel in the official expert vaccine allotment panel's definition of frontline workers.

L. Public Comment – concerning action items.

Public comment shall be governed by the Board of Education Bylaw 0167. There are two public comment opportunities. The first public comment is reserved for Action Items only, those items on the agenda the Board is voting on this evening. The second public comment is set aside for public comment on any school or school district issue that the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the school district. The first public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person. The second public comment length is determined by the board as per policy.

Before making a public comment, participants are to state their name, place of residence, and group affiliation if appropriate.

The Board uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizen concerns, but please be aware that not all issues brought to a board meeting will be resolved this evening; rather, the Board will, in appropriate cases, delegate the authority to investigate the matter to the Superintendent or his designee.

Please let the record reflect that the Board of Education does not endorse your comments nor will the Board of Education be held liable for comments you make about a staff member or other person which the staff member or other person may consider defamatory and/or libelous, as that individual retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against you.

M. ACTION ITEMS

I. PERSONNEL

Motion by Mr. Bodenschatz and seconded by Mr. Cannavo to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions I.1 through I.2 amended and described below:

*1. Motion to approve/accept the following appointments / resignations / retirements as recommended by the Superintendent:

Code No.	Name	Nature of Action	Position	Salary	Location	Date Effective	Date Terminated	Discussion
1	Dawn Moore	Accept	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction	\$141,440	District	6/30/21	6/30/21	Retirement
2	Theresa Chapman	Approve	Testing Coordinator	\$4,000 Stipend	High School	1/27/21	6/30/21	N/A
3	Geri McKelvey	Approve	Testing Coordinator	\$4,000 Stipend	Middle School	1/27/21	6/30/21	N/A
4	Kyle Watt	Approve	Substitute Teacher	\$90/day	District	1/27/21	6/30/21	All paperwork complete & on file

*2. Resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education appoints the following coaches for the Winter, 2020-21 athletic season;

Be it further resolved, that said appointment is contingent on there being a regular athletic season in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic:

Code No.	Name	Nature of Action	Position	Salary	Location	Date Effective	Date Terminated	Discussion
1	Elizabeth Horvath	Approve	Assistant Cheerleading Coach	\$6,883.00	High School	1/27/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
2	Daniel Montgomery	Approve	Head Boys Swim Coach	\$7,404.00	High School	1/27/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 3
3	Elise Tooker	Approve	Head Girls Swim Coach	\$8,720.00	High School	1/27/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
4	David Rader	Approve	Co-Assistant Swim Coach	\$3441.50	High School	1/27/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
5	Hunter Page	Approve	Co-Assistant Swim Coach	\$2,437.00	High School	1/27/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 2
6	Kimberly Kavcak	Approve	Head Winter Track Coach	\$8,720.00	High School	1/27/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
7	Robert Carroll	Approve	Assistant Winter Track Coach	\$6,883.00	High School	1/27/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
8	Mark Smith	Approve	Archery Club Advisor	\$4,100.00	High School	1/27/21	End of Season	Tier 1
9	Adam Slack	Approve	Archery Club Co-Advisor	\$2,050.00	High School	1/27/21	End of Season	Tier 1

Approval of Personnel Motions

MOTION: Scott Bodenschatz		SECOND: Chris Cannavo		
Name	Ayes	Nayes	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Hamler	X			
Sam Knutson	X	#2 Code 1		
Lisa Marshall	X			
Christine Pi	X			
Eric Walls	X			
Christopher Cannavo	X			
Corey Piasecki	X			

Several of the board members extended congratulations to Mrs. Moore on her retirement and thanked her for her many years of service at Warren Hills.

II. EDUCATION AND POLICY

Motion by Mrs. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Knutson to add resolution #3:

MOTION: Lisa Marshall		SECOND: Sam Knutson		
Name	Ayes	Nayes	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Hamler	X			
Sam Knutson	X			
Lisa Marshall	X			
Christine Pi	X			
Eric Walls	X			
Christopher Cannavo	X			
Corey Piasecki	X			

Motion by Mrs. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Cannavo to approve and adopt motions II. 1 though II.3 as described below:

*1. Motion to affirm the administrative decision regarding the following HIB cases:

MS – 20-21 – None
 HS - 20-21 - #003

*2. Motion to approve the following conference requests:

Code No.	Name	Title	Location	Cost/Mileage	Date and Discussion
1	Eric Herner, Kyla Tietz & Hunter Page	NJSIAA Course Training	Virtual	\$100.00 each	NJSIAA requirement for 1 st & 2 nd year coaches
2	Donnamarie Palmiere	NJASBO Google Sheets Series	Virtual	\$150.00	N/A
3	Donnamarie Palmiere	NJASBO Budget Guidelines & Software Review	Virtual	\$50.00	N/A

*3. WHEREAS, the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education recognizes that the United States, the State of New Jersey and local health authorities, as well as the World Health Organization, have declared a public health emergency regarding the Coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the federal and state authorities have put in place guidance detailing the precautionary measures schools must implement to stop its spread of this disease; and

WHEREAS, public schools have a profound impact on millions of students, families and staff and are charged with the care, education, nourishment of their students and are an integral part of the health and safety of our communities; and

WHEREAS, our district has responded to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, providing students and staff members with the technology and resources necessary to ensure the efficient delivery of instruction, virtually and in-person; and

WHEREAS, the board has a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community and ensuring that the district can provide staff and students with a safe and effective educational environment that supports student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the board recognizes that this health emergency made it necessary to close schools and reinvent the educational programs in a virtual setting and that this may have an adverse impact on student achievement and the emotional and social wellbeing of students; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan published by the State of New Jersey Department of Health (December 15, 2020, pgs. 36-37) prioritizes the availability of vaccines to “essential workers” in Phase 1B of the vaccine protocol; and

WHEREAS, school district staff at all levels are essential to the day-to-day operations of this district, responsible for the thorough and efficient education of all students and their social and emotional wellbeing, are critical for virtual and in-class instruction and are “essential workers;”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education finds a substantial public purpose exists to request that Governor Murphy give appropriate priority in the statewide administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to all public school district personnel.

COVID-19 Vaccination Plan published by the State of New Jersey Department of Health, see: <https://nj.gov/health/legal/covid19/NJ%20Interim%20COVID-19%20Vaccination%20Plan%20->

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the member of the insert legislative district number 23rd legislative district delegation, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Governor Phil Murphy, and to the New Jersey School Boards Association

Approval of Education & Policy Motions

MOTION: Lisa Marshall		SECOND: Chris Cannavo		
Name	Ayes	Nayes	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Hamler	X			
Sam Knutson	X			
Lisa Marshall	X			
Christine Pi	X			
Eric Walls	X			
Christopher Cannavo	X			
Corey Piasecki	X			

III. BUDGET AND FINANCE

Motion by Mr. Hamler and seconded by Mr. Knutson to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions III. 1 through III. 12, as described below:

*1. The Warren Hills Regional Board of Education approves the December, 2020 Board Secretary and Treasurer's Report as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board Secretary, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, does hereby certify that as of the date of this report, no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(a);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education accepts the monthly financial report of the Secretary and the Treasurer for the month of December, 2020; in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, that the Board of Education certifies that no major account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(b), and that as of this report sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligation for the remainder of the year.

*2. Motion to approve the bill list for the period January 7, 2020 through January 27, 2021, in the amount of \$2,070,504.68.

*3. Motion to approve Student Activities bill list for the period December 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 in the amount of \$7,830.92.

*4. Motion to approve Athletic bill list for the period December 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 in the amount of \$430.00.

*5. Motion to approve transfers in the amount of \$13,216.00 for the month of December, 2020.

*6. Motion to approve Home/Bedside Instruction Agreement with Silvergate Prep for Student #3501662512, commencing January 4, 2021 until further notice, in the amount of \$41.00 per hour for a total of 10 hours per week.

*7. Motion to approve Home/Bedside Instruction Agreement with Silvergate Prep for Student #3185003317, commencing January 6, 2021 until further notice, in the amount of \$41.00 per hour for a total of 10 hours per week.

*8. Motion to approve Home/Bedside Instruction Agreement with Silvergate Prep for Student #4639798820, commencing January 7, 2021 until further notice, in the amount of \$41.00 per hour for a total of 10 hours per week.

*9. Motion to approve Home/Bedside Instruction Agreement with Brookfield Educational Services Program for Student #3660352689, commencing January 7, 2021 until further notice, in the amount of \$45.00 per hour for a total of 10 hours per week.

*10. Motion to approve the following Special Education Tuition Contracts for the 2020-2021 regular school year:

Student	School	Amount	Aide	Effective
6006202566	Mercer County Special Services	\$47,338.00	N/A	12/1/20-6/30/21

*11. Motion to accept the FIRST Robotics Team Grant in the amount of \$500 for the High School Student Activity Robotics Program.

*12. Motion to approve the following Transportation Contract renewal for the 2020-2021 school year (Late Bus Routes):

Snyder Bus Service, Inc.

<u>Route #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
102	\$ 140.48 per diem
103	\$ 13,553.56

Approval of Budget & Finance Motions

MOTION: Chris Hamler		SECOND: Sam Knutson		
Name	Ayes	Nayes	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Hamler	X			
Sam Knutson	X			
Lisa Marshall	X			
Christine Pi	X			
Eric Walls	X			
Christopher Cannavo	X			
Corey Piasecki	X			

N. Public Comment

- A member of the public asked when the minutes will be posted and was told they will be posted after they are approved on February 9th.
- Jennifer Knittel expressed her recommendation for Paula Merrill for open board seat.
- Geri McKelvey extends her well wishes to Dawn Moore.
- Kristen MacLean is a new Oxford Board member and has volunteered to attend the Warren Hills Board meetings. She is concerned that there is no meeting scheduled between Oxford and Warren Hills at this time.

- Sherri Miller asked how the board would make up the 1.6-million-dollar deficit if Oxford sent to another district.
- Jenna Somogyi said that the majority of Oxford parents want to continue sending their students to Warren Hills but they are being told they could be sent to another high school in the next two years.
- Mr. Piasecki said that the board will not discuss this now, but be assured that he and Mr. Cannavo will be meeting with Oxford in the near future.
- Sherri Miller said that she was very happy with the Hills and it has been a positive experience. Oxford told parents that kids already attending Warren Hills would be grandfathered.
- Mr. Hamler said that he had prior discussions with Oxford regarding send/receive agreement for 7-12 and was told by Oxford that this would not work for them. He hopes we can work together because it's all about the kids. He would love to see a 7-12 regionalization.
- Mrs. Marshall commented that the tuition is set by the state and there are extra costs involved for special education. We always wanted the students to be part of Warren Hills.
- Mr. Clymer mentioned that Oxford is included in cluster discussions that Warren Hills has with the sending elementary schools.
- Suzanne Taranto, President of the Oxford Board of Education said that they do not have a send/receive agreement.
- Mr. Cannavo said that following interviews for vacant board seat, meeting with Oxford is a priority.
- Mrs. Marshall explained that legally for Oxford to have a seat on the Warren Hills Board of Education, Oxford must have at least 10% of the student population.

O. Interviews for vacant Board seat

Mr. Piasecki explained the interview process to the public. There are three candidates that will be interviewed for the open Washington Borough seat. The candidates are:

Paula Merrill

Victor Cioni

Eric Horton

Following the public interview, the board will go into executive session to discuss and hopefully come back after about 20 minutes and appoint a new board member.

P. Second Executive Session 8:45 p.m.

Executive Session- 8:45 p.m.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-11, permits the board of education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss:

1) *Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education reserves the right to discuss such other matters rendered confidential by law should the need arise; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Action may be taken.

A motion was made by Mr. Cannavo and seconded by Mrs. Marshall to go into Executive Session #2 at 8:45 p.m.

Approval to go into Second Executive Session

MOTION: Chris Cannavo		SECOND: Lisa Marshall		
Name	Ayes	Nayes	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Hamler	X			
Sam Knutson	X			
Lisa Marshall	X			
Christine Pi	X			
Eric Walls	X			
Christopher Cannavo	X			
Corey Piasecki	X			

A motion was made by Mr. Cannavo and seconded by Mr. Knutson to reconvene at 9:09 p.m.

Approval to Reconvene

MOTION: Chris Cannavo		SECOND: Sam Knutson		
Name	Ayes	Nayes	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Hamler	X			
Sam Knutson	X			
Lisa Marshall	X			
Christine Pi	X			
Eric Walls	X			
Christopher Cannavo	X			
Corey Piasecki	X			

Appointment to Vacant Board Seat

Motion by Mr. Knutson and seconded by Mr. Hamler to appoint Eric Horton to the open Washington Borough Board of Education seat for the term 2021-2022.

MOTION: Sam Knutson		SECOND: Chris Hamler		
Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Hamler	X			
Sam Knutson	X			
Lisa Marshall	X			
Christine Pi	X			
Eric Walls	X			
Christopher Cannavo	X			
Corey Piasecki	X			

Public Comment

Mrs. Knittel welcomed Mr. Horton and wished Mrs. Merrill her best.

Q. Adjournment 9:14 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Cannavo and seconded by Mrs. Marshall to adjourn at 9:24 p.m. with full board consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Donnamarie Palmiere
Business Administrator/Board Secretary