

# WARREN HILLS REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 2, 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/84257554217?pwd=Zm5hZ1MyWTlFaEY1T2tJc2NqcGh1UT09>

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. Eric Horton was absent.

C. Executive Session- 6:30 p.m. (If Necessary)

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 6:34 p.m. with full board consent.

D. Reconvene: 7:14 p.m.

Approval to Reconvene

Motion by Mr. Cannavo and seconded by Mr. Knutson to go into Open Session at 7:14 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

- February 9, 2021 Regular and Executive Session Meetings

Motion by Mr. Knutson and seconded by Mrs. Marshall to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021, Regular and Executive Session Meetings.

MOTION: Sam Knutson		SECOND: Lisa Marshall		
Name	Ayes	Nayes	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Hamler			X	
Eric Horton				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**

There were several emails received by the board in the last few weeks.

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

- 170 - 10th grade students participated in the PSAT administration on Wednesday, February 24th.
- Congratulations to the following Film Design students for having their films selected to screen at the Horror Lust Film Festival. This is an international film festival specifically designed for horror films.  
Zach Neves - "The Mask"  
Brooks Reehl & Will Colavito - "In Time"
- Statistics on current Remote, in-person Hybrid  
MS     41% Remote  
         59% In-person Hybrid  
         Combining Cohorts - 136 courses over capacity - 41%  
  
HS     42.5% Remote  
         57.5% In-person Hybrid  
         Combining Cohorts - 366 courses over capacity

We have followed the safety protocols and recommendations from the beginning of this pandemic. Following these recommendations has allowed us to stay open for more days than any other MS & HS district in our county.

With each new release of guidance, whether from the local state or federal agency, we implement them within the schools. New guidance from the NJDOH is expected this week. If changes are made within the guidance we will adjust to those changes.

- Trying to return as much as we can to bring back normalcy. We did this with athletics, clubs and activities, safely and responsibly, virtually at this point with a hope to in-person when we are able to do so.

Frequent meetings are held with our administrative team to review plans and options for returning students to in-person learning in a safe and responsible manner. As much as we want full time in-person it is not feasible at this time, but we are prepared to return to that environment when permitted under the guidelines. We met this afternoon reviewing multiple models to increase participation, both in-person and remotely, discussing options for the remainder of this school year. With each option there are logistical issues such as connectivity, transportation, lunches, and more that must be considered when reviewing the plan. For example, in an attempt to address some of the connectivity issues, the district has provided, at no cost to families, 31 mobile hotspots to increase connectivity for students. We are working with local Internet Service Providers when the mobile hotspot is not sufficient in remediating connectivity issues.

We are hopeful that the number of COVID cases continues to decline and we are able to adjust our plans accordingly and within the parameters of changing guidelines.

- NJQSAC Interim report results - score of 78 out of 80 under Instruction & Program  
Next Interim Review will be in August of 2021

**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. 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.

Mr. Clymer has written a new Goal that he will forward to the board for review.

**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**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
Finance, Facilities & Transportation	No meeting held	By Chair: Mr. Hamler
Education, Policy & Technology	February 22, 2021	By Chair: Mr. Bodenschatz
Personnel & Student Activities	No meeting held	By Chair: Mr. Walls
Negotiations	February 10 & 24, 2021	By Chair: Mr. Cannavo

Mr. Piasecki reported that the Ed & Policy committee met on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and had a lengthy discussion regarding the reopening of school options. There are also several policy adjustments on the agenda including the reduction of minimum credits to graduate from 135 to 120. This is a temporary change for this school year.

Mr. Cannavo gave a negotiations update to the board in Executive Session. He shared that the committee looks forward to another positive and progressive meeting scheduled on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**J. Old Business**

Mr. Cannavo and Mr. Piasecki met with members of the Oxford Board on February 18<sup>th</sup> and look forward to meeting with them again.

**K. New Business**

None

**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.

Per bylaw 0167

5. The presiding officer may:
  - a. Interrupt, warn, and/or terminate a participant's statement, question, or inquiry when it is too lengthy;
  - b. Interrupt and/or warn a participant when the statement, question, or inquiry is abusive, obscene, or may be defamatory;
  - c. Request any person to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
  - d. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person prevents or disrupts a meeting with an act that obstructs or interferes with a meeting;

No public comment concerning action items

**M. ACTION ITEMS**

**I. PERSONNEL**

Motion by Mrs. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Cannavo to add Code #25 and Code #26 under \*2 as follows:

Code No.	Name	Nature of Action	Position	Salary	Location	Date Effective	Date Terminated	Discussion
25	Robert Carroll	Approve	Assistant Track Coach	\$6,883	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
26	Zachary Fisher	Approve	Assistant Track Coach	\$5,432	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 3

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

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.4 as 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	Kimberly Salter	Approve	Secretary	\$50,954	Middle School	7/1/21	7/1/21	Retirement
2	Elizabeth Bracey	Approve	Leave Replacement Guidance Counselor	\$61,545, prorated	High School	3/22/21	6/30/21	Replace #82724428 Step 1, MA
3	Jennifer McCarthy	Approve	Part-time Paraprofessional	\$27.25/hour	Middle School	2/16/21	6/30/21	4 hours per day/5days per week
4	Kelly Jankoski	Approve	Part-time Paraprofessional	\$23.25/hour	Middle School	2/22/21	6/30/21	4 hours per day/5days per week

\*2. Resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education appoints the following coaches for the Spring, 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	Megan Bublitz	Approve	Head Girls Lacrosse Coach	\$8,720	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
2	Jennifer Cavo	Approve	Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach	\$6,883	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
3	Erica Chesniak	Approve	Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach	\$5,444	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 3
4	Patrick Kablis	Approve	Head Boys Lacrosse Coach	\$8,720	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
5	Robert Miller	Approve	Assistant Boys Lacrosse Coach	\$6,883	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
6	Marcus Gurdineer	Approve	Co-Assistant Boys Lacrosse Coach	\$3,441.50	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
7	Nicholas Sarlo	Approve	Co-Assistant Boys Lacrosse Coach	\$3,441.50	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
8	Jodi Longo	Approve	Head Softball Coach	\$8,720	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
9	Renee Smola	Approve	Assistant Softball Coach	\$6,883	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
10	Sarah Kaufman	Approve	Assistant Softball Coach	\$6,883	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
11	Craig Green	Approve	Head Softball Coach	\$5,432	Middle School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
12	Daniel Diveny	Approve	Head Boys Track Coach	\$5,432	Middle School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
13	Michael Howey	Approve	Head Girls Track Coach	\$8,720	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
14	Kimberly Kavcak	Approve	Head Girls Track Coach	\$5,432	Middle School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
15	Paul Irzinski	Approve	Assistant Boys & Girls Track Coach	\$4,200	Middle School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
16	Todd Solecitto	Approve	Head Golf Coach	\$7,217	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 4, Step 4
17	Daniel Montgomery	Approve	Head Boys Tennis Coach	\$5,419	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 4, Step 3
18	Elise Tooker	Approve	Assistant Boys Tennis Coach	\$4,510	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 4, Step 3

Code No.	Name	Nature of Action	Position	Salary	Location	Date Effective	Date Terminated	Discussion
19	Robert Davish	Approve	Head Baseball Coach	\$7,404	High School	As soon as practical	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 3, Pending receipt of all required paperwork
20	Jeffrey Balas	Approve	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$6,883	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
21	Eric Herner	Approve	Assistant Baseball Coach	\$4,874	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 2
22	Michael Bloom	Approve	MS Head Baseball Coach	\$5,432	Middle School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
23	Bonita Duryea	Approve	Winter Sports Physicals	\$800	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	N/A
24	Michelle Gaffney	Approve	Winter Sports Physicals	\$300	Middle School	3/3/21	End of Season	N/A
*25	Robert Carroll	Approve	Assistant Track Coach	\$6,883	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 4
*26	Zachary Fisher	Approve	Assistant Track Coach	\$5,432	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Tier 3, Step 3

\*25 & \*26 added per resolution above

\*3. Motion to approve the following revised job descriptions for the 2020-2021 school year:

Custodian  
~~Lead~~ Head Custodian  
 Grounds Maintenance  
 Maintenance Mechanic

\*4. Motion to approve the following observations/internships/volunteers:

Code No.	Name	Position	Degree/Step No. of Hrs.	Salary/ Stipend	Location	Date Effective	Date Terminated	Discussion
1	Marcus Gurdineer	Volunteer	N/A	N/A	High School	3/3/21	End of Season	Wrestling Program
2	Kari Jelliffe	Volunteer	N/A	N/A	High School	3/3/21	End of Program	FFA Program

### Approval of Personnel Motions

MOTION: Scott Bodenschatz		SECOND: Chris Cannavo		
Name	Ayes	Nayes	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Hamler	X			
Eric Horton				X
Sam Knutson	X			



Lisa Marshall	X			
Christine Pi	X			
Eric Walls	X			
Christopher Cannavo	X			
Corey Piasecki	X			

## II. EDUCATION AND POLICY

Motion by Mrs. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Cannavo to approve and adopt motions II. 1 through II.4 as described below:

\*1. Motion to approve the 2021-2022 school year calendar as recommended by the Education and Policy Committee and the Superintendent.

\*2. Motion to approve the **first reading** of the following new and revised policies and regulations for inclusion in the district's policy manual, as recommended by the Education and Policy Committee and the Superintendent:

<b>0145 P</b>	Board Member Resignation and Removal
<b>1642 R</b>	Earned Sick Leave Law
<b>1643 P</b>	Family Leave
<b>2415 P</b>	Every Student Succeeds Act
<b>2415.02 P</b>	Title I – Fiscal Responsibilities
<b>2415.05 P</b>	Student Surveys, Analysis and/or Evaluations
<b>2415.20 P&amp;R</b>	Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints
<b>4125 P</b>	Employment of Support Staff Members
<b>5330.01 P&amp;R</b>	Administration of Medical Cannabis
<b>6360 P</b>	Political Contributions
<b>7425 P&amp;R</b>	Lead Testing of Water in Schools
<b>8330 P</b>	Student Records
<b>9713 P</b>	Recruitment by Special Interest Groups

\*3. Motion to waive Policy #5460, item # 11, requirement of 135 graduation credits and add state mandated minimum requirement of 120 graduation credits, for the 2020-2021 school year.

\*4. Motion to approve the following conference requests:

Code No.	Name	Title	Location	Cost/Mileage	Date and Discussion
1	Elizabeth McKeown	What's New In Young Adult Literature	Virtual	\$279.00	March 24, 2021

Approval of Education & Policy Motions

MOTION: Lisa Marshall		SECOND: Chris Cannavo		
Name	Ayes	Nayes	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Hamler	X			
Eric Horton				X
Sam Knutson	X			
Lisa Marshall	X			
Christine Pi	X		#2	
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. 8, as described below:

\*1. The Warren Hills Regional Board of Education approves the January, 2021 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 January, 2021; 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 February 11, 2021 through March 3, 2021, in the amount of \$2,932,915.16.

\*3. Motion to approve Athletic bill list for the period January 1, 2021 – January 31, 2021 in the amount of \$1,386.00.

\*4. Motion to approve transfers for the month of January, 2021 in the amount of \$401,573.00.

\*5. Motion to approve Home/Bedside Instruction Agreement with LearnWell for Student #1274743973, commencing January 27, 2021 until February 16, 2021, in the amount of \$49.50 per hour for a total of 10 hours per week and an additional 33% for administrative and preparation costs.

\*6. Motion to accept, with gratitude, the donation of \$425.00 less fees from donors through Benevity.org to be split between the following Student Activity Accounts pursuant to Policy 7230, GIFTS, GRANTS AND DONATIONS:

Best Buddies	\$ 25.00
Computer Science Club	\$394.90

\*7. Motion to accept, with gratitude, the donation of \$50.00 from donors through The Blackbaud Giving Fund in connection with Nonprofit Your Cause to the Principal Scholarship maintained in the Student Activity Account pursuant to Policy 7230, GIFTS, GRANTS AND DONATIONS.

\*8. Motion to accept the FFA 2021 Case Grants for Growing Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Approval of Budget & Finance Motions

MOTION: Chris Hamler		SECOND: Sam Knutson		
Name	Ayes	Nayes	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Hamler	X			
Eric Horton				X
Sam Knutson	X			
Lisa Marshall	X		054169 Prime Healthcare	
Christine Pi	X			
Eric Walls	X			
Christopher Cannavo	X			
Corey Piasecki	X			

**N. Public Comment**

- M. Garrett questioned why children with 504’s and IEP’s can’t return to school for 4 days. She stated that the current model is not working for her child and there is not enough direct instruction.
- Michele asked if an NJEA representative could be included in the next community forum to let them know what they are doing to put the kids’ education first.
- BMS asked why Mt. Olive and Roxbury have formulated some sort of plan for four – five day instruction.
- Kristen Maclean thanked the board for continuing to work with the Oxford Board.

**P. Adjournment 7:55 p.m.**

Approval to Adjourn

Motion by Mrs. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Knutson to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. with full board consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Donnamarie Palmiere  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary