

WDS Board of Education Monthly Meeting Minutes

DATE: July 19, 2021

PLACE: VAC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Ogden, Paula Martin, Greg Means, Rachel Mitteer, Shannon McGoran, Chris Mahoney

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim TenBrink

OTHERS PRESENT: Jerry McDowell, Steve Aardema, Michelle Pulver, other staff and community members

President Ogden called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Ogden shared clarification on public comment during board meetings.

Approval of Agenda

Motion Mahoney/Mitteer to approve the agenda as presented.
Ayes (6) Mahoney, Mitteer, Means, McGoran, Martin, Ogden
Motion Carried

Communication From the Audience - none

Consent Action Agenda

Motion Martin/McGoran to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Ayes (6) Martin, McGoran, Mahoney, Means, Mitteer, Ogden
Nays (0)
Motion Carried

Items Approved: Designation of Depositories of School Funds, Designation of Authorized Signatories for Various Accounts, Designation of Electronic Transfer Officer (ETO), Designation of Negotiator Authority, Designation of Professional Service Providers, Designation for Posting of Public Notice of Meetings, Designation of an Administrator to Assume Specified Responsibilities of the Secretary, minutes of meetings dated June 21, disbursements for the month of June 2021: general fund \$858,634.70, community education \$48,826.11, food service \$91,579.14, technology MAISD \$125.24, common debt \$0, capital projects–bond \$0, activity account \$75,386.03, athletic director hire

Committee Reports - none

Appointment of DILT Team

Motion Mahoney/Martin to approve the DILT team as the district pd committee for the purpose of scheduling staff professional development on non-student PD days.
Ayes (6) Mahoney, Martin, McGoran, Mitteer, Means, Ogden
Nays (0)
Motion Carried

Unfinished Business - None

State Aid Note Resolution

Motion Mitteer/Means to adopt as presented the resolution accepting the proposal of Shelby State Bank for state Aid Notes – Series 2021 in the amount of \$900,000 for a term of 8 months for cash flow purposes.

Roll Call: Ayes (6) Mitteer, Means, McGoran, Mahoney, Martin, Ogden

Nays (0)

Resolution Adopted

Monthly Financial Reports

Finance Director Aardema shared the monthly financials with the Board.

Superintendent Report

Dr. McDowell shared the process that went into hiring new athletic director, Brian Beebe. Mr. Beebe will be introduced at a future board meeting.

Means – Asked Dr. McDowell to give an update on the GSA email situation. Dr. McDowell shared a summary of the GSA email, the processes that will be put into place moving forward including advising student led clubs, appropriate distribution of their information and times allowed for these clubs to meet on school premises.

Regarding questions on masks. Dr. McDowell replied that currently it is optional for vaccinated individuals and recommended for non-vaccinated individuals to wear masks in school. Have not been informed of anything further at this time.

Means – Thanked Dr. McDowell and stated he supports the administrations' plan.

Martin – added that she and the Board take this situation very seriously, and are cognizant of the community concerns. Feels it is important to set a good example to our youth and handle the situation with kindness and understanding.

Ogden – read the initial email he received from the student GSA leader and his response.

Audience Comments –

1. Jeff Cook – Topic: Actions on parents requests from the May/June board meetings. Cook believes the board has a flippant attitude toward the GSA email. He does not have any ill will toward LGBTQIA+.
2. Julie Burger – Topic: email distributed to students. Handed out her statement to the Board. It is attached.
3. Molly Morin – Topic: email sent by principal. Unhappy with the GSA email sent out to students. Feels administration didn't take responsibility, having GSA club shoulder responsibility.
4. Christopher Vanoosterhout – Topic: operation of school district. Feels hard to believe only one student completed the survey. Wants district to do better with discussions and policy.
5. Tim Cross – Topic: Board issue an apology. Wants written apology sent out to parents, or his group may consider sending their own letter out to parents with their view of events.
6. Steven Evans – Topic: LGBTQ and his children. Wants an apology from the district.
7. Karen Burek – Topic: email from principal. Feels links on email were very inappropriate and students should not have received.

8. Sondra Cross – Topic: Transparency. Believes there was a concerted effort to affect the culture at the high school by handing out training/teaching materials to teachers regarding gender, pronouns, etc.
9. Selah Normandin – Topic: none listed. Wants to be allowed in school without a mask.
10. Chris Cross – Topic: concerned parents/student led group. Believes multiple events during pride week were not student led, but school led. If there is a mask mandate in the fall, he will not send his kids.
11. Loretta Meersma – Topic: pride week. Felt pride week activities made students feel uncomfortable and were done during the school day. Wants further investigation.
12. Autumn Thomas – Topic: none listed. Disappointed in administrations' handling of the GSA week activities. Feels community deserves a written apology.
13. Gary Ritter – Topic: Marxism in the school. Believes all materials in school are infused with CRT and that Marxism/Communism are taking over schools.
14. Cathy Cook – Topic: 3rd hour survey. Wanted to make clear that she was wrong in addressing the school board regarding a survey that went out to students in a 3rd hour class. Says the high school is hostile environment. Board isn't doing their job to make the environment neutral for all kids.
15. Michelle Burley – Topic: support for GSA and DEI, teaching, true history. Support GSA groups in their efforts to help kids feel accepted and navigate through critical periods in their lives.
16. Andrew Fink – Topic: GSA. Feels the excessive amount of time talking about this subject is silly. Need to move on from this. Everyone makes mistakes. Learn from them.
17. Phylis Loudermilk – Topic: NAACP. President of NAACP. Wants to work with the community thru this disagreement to achieve positive change. Said, if parents need that tangible thing in their hands, then give them a written apology. Pastor Cross says that's all they want. Once they get it, it is up to Pastor Cross and the rest of the individuals to leave it alone and move forward.
18. Rachel James – Topic: homeschool co-op. Believes there is a serious problem in our community and political agendas in school system.
19. Steven Ogden – Topic: none listed. Wants to recognize President Ogden for all his efforts and taking community comments with grace. A substitute showed his 7th grade class a movie "City of Bees" produced by Moody Bible School. Was indoctrinating kids in religion thru this movie. That substitute was Sondra Cross.
20. Brad Johnson – Topic: none listed. Why Whitehall – having hard time answering that question. Believes there is a culture problem and corrections need to be made in order for all students to feel included. Wants community unity and hopes it can be achieved.
21. Keith Stratton - Topic – none listed. Whitehall staff loves all students unconditionally. No reservations entrusting Whitehall staff to teach his Christian kids. Thanked the staff and Board for all they do.
22. Craig Christensen – Topic – none listed. Answering to previous question "why Whitehall?" School of choiced kids for 15 years. Whitehall has talented teaching staff who loves every kid (no matter their color or background), a school board who cares about the kids and a superintendent who lives in community and sends his kids here.

Ogden stated that he appreciates the community comments and is pleased that statements have been made to ensure that, moving forward, the likelihood of this type of situation happening again will be greatly reduced.

Adjournment


Motion Mitteer/McGoran to adjourn.

Ayes (6) McGoran, Mitteer, Martin, Means, Mahoney, Ogden

Nays (0)

Motion Carried

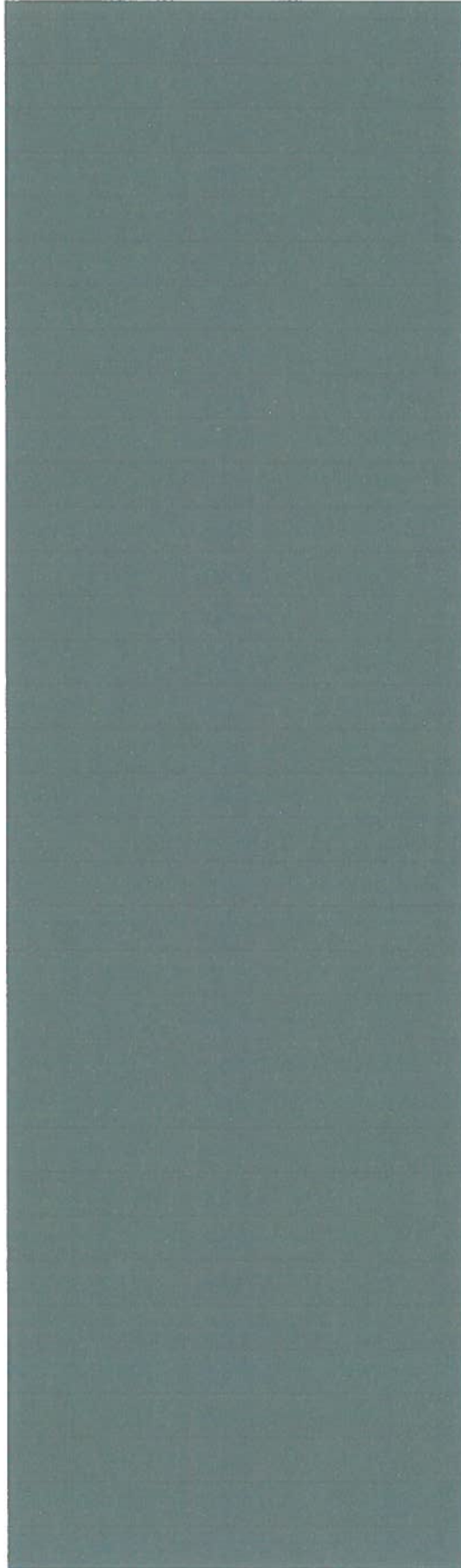
Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Board Secretary or Designee

WHITEHALL DISTRICT SCHOOLS
JULY 19, 2021 BOARD MEETING

COMMENTS BY JULIE BURGER, FNP-C



INTRODUCTION

Personal

- Mom
William (13yo/8th grade) and Wyatt (10yo/5th grade)
- Volunteer and supporter of WDS since 2013

Professional

- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP-C)
- Clinician
Child and Adolescent Health Center (CAHC)
- Serves adolescents ages 10-21yo
- Stated funded grant
- School-based



CONCERNS

- Information was distributed to minors that arguably could be considered obscene in nature: Anonymous Screener, etc.
- Non evidence-based , non peer-reviewed, non research-driven material/ screening tools were released to students
- Parents were not informed, nor given the opportunity to Opt-out



GSA

- Not the Issue!!!
- Schools with a GSA in place:
 - Less bullying
 - Students feel safer
 - Greater sense of community

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/safe-supportive-environments/sexuality-alliances.htm>

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT AND GUIDANCE ON SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR LGBTQ STUDENTS

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SBEStatementonLGBTQYouth_534576_7.pdf

1. Policies in place to protect all students from harassment/violence...
2. Professional development for staff
3. Support formation of student led groups, like GSA
4. Meaningful support for families of LGBTQ students
5. Encourage respect for human and civil rights
6. **PROVIDE DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE** information in school library/faculty resource center
7. Collect and review data to identify disparities: attendance, suspensions, bullying, student risks, school climate
8. Designate building staff trained in LGBTQ issues as a resource for students, faculty, families

CDC'S SUMMARY REPORT: MICHIGAN'S STATE HEALTH EDUCATION LAWS

■ https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/policy/pdf/summary_report_factsheets/Michigan.pdf

“Parents and guardian’s must be provided the opportunity to Opt-out from sexual health education and STD Prevention instruction”

“Curriculum is delivered by trained instructors”

“Curriculum follows Federal or National standards, guidelines”

“Curriculum is appropriate for age or developmental stage”

DEFINITION OF ADOLESCENT

- “a young person who is developing into an adult : one who is in the state of adolescence”
- “emotionally or intellectually immature” <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/adolescent>
- “Adolescence is the period of transition between childhood and adulthood”
 - Early Adolescence: 10-13 years old
 - Middle Adolescence: 14-17 years old
 - Late Adolescence: 18-21 years old

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/teen/Pages/Stages-of-Adolescence.aspx>

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT DURING ADOLESCENCE

- American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
 - Amygdala: RISKY BEHAVIORS
 - *develops early
 - *responsible for immediate reactions like fear and aggressive behaviors
 - Frontal Cortex:
 - *controls reasoning
 - *still developing into adulthood....even up to 25 years old
- https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/The-Teen-Brain-Behavior-Problem-Solving-and-Decision-Making-095.aspx

RISK BASED SCREENING TOOLS

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Study (YRBSS)

- Monitors behaviors related to health and risk that result in causes of death and disability in adolescents
- Stated Board of Education used the 2015 Michigan YRBSS to develop recommendations for supporting LGBTQ youth in school

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>

Rapid Adolescent Prevention Screening (RAAPS)

- Standardized
- Validated and reliable
- Evidence-based
- Supported by MDHHS and the CAHC

<https://possibilitiesforchange.org/>



Best practices for working with LGBTQ youth

Initial Question & Responses to Disclosure:

- Thank you for trusting me enough to share this information with me.
- I care about your health. Is it okay if we talk more?
- There are many ways to be intimate with someone (kissing, touching, sex). What experiences have you had?
- Have you felt unsafe at any time?
- What can I do to support or help you?

Screening Questions Sexual Orientation & Disclosure:

- What gender or genders are you attracted to?
- How do you identify when it comes to your sexual orientation?
- Have you talked with any other adult or any of your friends about being (*their word to describe sexual orientation*)? What was their response?
- Where do you feel you can be yourself?

Screening Questions Gender Identity & Disclosure:

- How do you identify when it comes to your gender?
- What name and pronouns would you like me to use?
- Have you talked with any other adult or any of your friends about being (*their word to describe gender identity*)? What was their response?
- How do you feel about your body?
- Where do you feel you can be yourself?

Pronouns:

Female	She	Her	Hers
Male	He	Him	His
Neutral	They	Them	Theirs
Neutral <i>Sounds like</i>	Ze <i>zee</i>	Hir <i>here</i>	Hirs <i>here's</i>

At least annually, screen based on risk behaviors:

MSM: Syphilis, Hep B and C, Anal and Urethral GC and Chlamydia, Pharyngeal GC, HIV
Immunize: Hep A & B; HPV
WSW: GC, Chlamydia, HIV, HPV, pregnancy, trichomonas, bacterial vaginosis
Immunize: Hep A & B; HPV

Highest Risks for LGBTQ Youth:

Abuse & Victimization
 Access to Care
 Depression/Suicide
 Eating Disorders

HIV/AIDS
 Homelessness
 Human Trafficking
 Obesity

STIs
 Substance Abuse
 Survival Sex
 Tobacco Use

Resources:

Support for LGBT Youth

1 (866) 488-7386
 Trevor Crisis & Helpline, 24 hrs/day, 7 days/week
 1-800-246-PRIDE (7743)
 GLBT National Youth Talkline Mon-Fri 4pm-12am EST and Sat noon to 5 pm EST

GLBT National Help Center

1 (888) 843-4564 (The Gay & Lesbian National Hotline)
 Mon-Fri 4pm to 12am and Sat noon to 4pm EST
 🌐 <http://www.glbthotline.org/>



CONFIDENTIAL - ADOLESCENT HEALTH RAAPS



Name: _____ Sex: _____ Insurance: _____

Birthdate: _____ Ethnicity/Race: _____ Reg #: _____

Health Risk Profile: Confidential	Your answers will only be seen by the center staff		Office Use Only
1. In the past 12 months, have you taken diet pills or laxatives, made yourself vomit (throw up) after eating, or starving yourself to lose weight?	No	Yes	
2. Do you eat some fruits and vegetables every day?	Yes	No	
3. Are you active after school or on weekends (walking, running, dancing, swimming, biking, playing sports) for at least 1 hour, on at least 3 or more days each week?	Yes	No	
4. When you are driving or riding in a car, truck or van do you always wear a lap/seat belt?	Yes	No	
5. Do you always wear a helmet when you do any of these activities: ride a bike, rollerblade, or skateboard; ride a motorcycle, snowmobile or ATV; ski or snowboard? <input type="checkbox"/> I don't do any of these	Yes	No	
6. During the past month, have you been threatened, teased, or hurt by someone (on the internet, by text, or in person) causing you to feel sad, unsafe, or afraid?	No	Yes	
7. Has anyone ever physically injured you (by hitting, slapping, kicking) or forced you to have sex or be involved in sexual activities when you didn't want to?	No	Yes	
8. Have you ever carried a weapon (gun, knife, club, other) to protect yourself from another person?	No	Yes	
9. In the past 3 months, have you smoked any form of tobacco (regular or e-cigarettes, Juul, cigars, black and mild, hookah, vape pens) or used smokeless tobacco (dip, chew, snus)?	No	Yes	
10. In the past 12 months, have you driven a car while texting, drunk or high, or ridden in a car with a driver who was?	No	Yes	
11. In the past 3 months, have you drunk more than a few sips of alcohol (beer, wine coolers, liquor, other)?	No	Yes	
12. In the past 3 months, have you used marijuana, other street drugs, steroids, or sniffed/huffed household products?	No	Yes	
13. In the past 3 months, have you taken a prescription medication (codeine, OxyContin, Norco, Vicodin, Adderall, Ritalin, Xanax, other) without a prescription, taken more than the prescribed amount or continued to take it after you no longer needed it?	No	Yes	
14. Have you ever had any type of sex (vaginal, anal or oral sex)?	No	Yes	
15. Have you ever been attracted to someone who is the same gender as you (girl if you are a girl/guy if you are a guy) or do you feel that you are gay, lesbian or bisexual?	No	Yes	
16. If you have had sex, do you always use a condom and/or another method of birth control to prevent sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy? <input type="checkbox"/> I have never had sex.	Yes	No	
17. During the past month, did you often feel sad or down as though you had nothing to look forward to?	No	Yes	
18. Do you have any serious problems or worries at home or at school?	No	Yes	
19. In the past 12 months, have you seriously thought about killing yourself, tried to kill yourself, or have you purposely cut, burned or otherwise hurt yourself?	No	Yes	
20. Do you have at least one adult in your life that you can talk to about any problems or worries?	Yes	No	
21. Have you ever destroyed things, hurt yourself, or hurt someone else when you were angry ?	No	Yes	

For Office Use Only

Evaluation: _____ At Risk _____ At Risk _____ No Current _____ Referred to: _____
 _____ Counseled _____ Needs f/u _____ Risk

Provider Signature: _____ Date: _____



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- There must be consequences! Laws and guidelines have not been followed! Trust has been broken!
- Recommendations:
 1. Immediate Resignation of the School Board President
 2. Immediate Resignation of Brett Westerlund, High School Principal

“The best predictor of future behavior is past behavior” –Dr. Phil