### WINSLOW TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Board of Education Meeting – Town Hall Meeting Wednesday, October 19, 2022 Winslow Township Middle School – Cafeteria Minutes

7:00 p.m.

I. PUBLIC NOTICE of this meeting was given to all Board Members and Associates in notices dated 10/14/2022. Adequate and electronic notice of this Public Meeting has been provided specifying the time, place, and manner in which this meeting is being conducted. It was advertised in the Courier Post, posted in all schools, the Administration Office, the Municipal Building, the Library, Bud Duble Center, Edgewood Acres, Elm Town, and the Winslow Township Post Offices.

#### II. MISSION STATEMENT

The *Mission* of the Winslow Township School District, a large diverse and growing community, is to educate all students to become independent, life-long learners, critical thinkers and caring and confident members of their community. The District, in partnership with the community, and in a climate of cooperation and mutual respect, will provide an academic environment which values excellence and diversity, encourages students to strive for personal excellence, and assists them in acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to contribute positively to a rapidly changing world.

### III. ROLL CALL

Present: Lorraine Dredden Julie Peterson, Vice President

Rita Martin Cheryl Pitts, President

Kelly Thomas John Shaw, Jr.

Absent: Larry Blake

Cynthia Moore Rebecca Nieves

Also Present: H. Major Poteat, Ed.D., Superintendent

Regina Chico, Assistant Business Administrator

## IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### V. 2022-2023 DISTRICT GOALS

(Ms. Peterson)

- 1. Student Achievement Continue to implement best practices for delivering instruction to students utilizing all available and appropriate instructional models. This shall include:
  - a. Ensuring articulation at all grade levels throughout the district
  - b. Focus on innovative classroom instruction at all grade levels
  - c. Ensuring all students have equal access to equipment and resources needed to facilitate and promote student learning in any setting
  - d. Evaluation and updating all district programs, including athletics and extra-curricular activities
  - e. Accountability of all district staff
- 2. Continue to foster a safe and positive school environment that is conducive to teaching and learning:
  - a. Focus on building relationships among staff and families that will result in increased learning and more effective instruction
    - 1. Promote communication and feedback opportunities
  - b. Emphasis on collaboration with all district stakeholders
  - c. Promote an inclusive, diverse, and compassionate learning environment

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- 3. Market our strengths and achievements to all stakeholders to increase capacity for greater parent/ caregiver/ community support:
  - a. Continue with our public relations/marketing plan
  - b. Continue to work with the various advisory committees in the district
  - c. Focus on refining our communication methods to better market our school district

# VI. TOWN HALL MEETING

**Public Forum for Open Conversation** - Township of Winslow residents, parents, guardians, caregivers, school district staff, and current and former students, are invited to join the Board of Education for this open conversation.

The purpose of this forum is to provide our district stakeholders with an extended opportunity to present feedback to the Board on the district's Emergency Procedures and Parental Involvement, present and discuss opportunities for improvement, ask questions, voice concerns, and offer solutions.

The Board of Education is committed to listening to all feedback and taking action as appropriate.

# **Emergency Procedures**

Dr. Poteat explained in detail, the following district's emergency procedures:

- Shelter in Place
- Lockdown
- Reverse Lockdown
- Lockout
- Evacuation

Dr. Poteat introduced Chief Lemons from the Winslow Township Police Department. Chief Lemons explained the emergency procedures from the police department's point of view and briefly went over the topics discussed by Dr. Poteat. Chief Lemons introduced Officer Gunson, the School Resource Officer at the High School and Officer Ferren, the School Resource Officer in the Middle School.

Officer Gunson explained the different variations of a lockdown, lockout and shelter in place. Officer Gunson also commented on communication and students posting on social media from inside of the building during emergency procedures. Most of the time, their information might be inaccurate. He explained how third-party information scares parents, causes more concern than what is really going on and prompts more people to go up to the school.

Officer Ferren discussed the need for accountability and team work. He stated that if everyone is where they need to be during an emergent situation, things will run smoother.

Chief Lemons introduced Captain Pearson. Captain Pearson went over additional information about communication. It is the number one problem during emergency procedures and gave examples. He encouraged parents to follow the Winslow Township Police Department on Facebook and sign up for Nixel, a text message alert system. He will put the information on the WTPD's Facebook page so parents can sign up.

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Dr. Poteat emphasized on the following matter regarding emergency procedures:

Whenever there is an emergency situation in any of our schools, he is no longer in charge once the police department arrives. The principals are no longer in charge. Even the communication that goes out from the District, is under the direction of the police.

A question-and-answer session ensued.

### **Parental Involvement**

Dr. Poteat discussed the importance of parents getting involved with their children's education. He went over intervention strategies and programs that are in place to assist students, but he feels that a little more parental involvement will help resolve a lot of issues.

A question-and-answer session ensued.

### VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. *All Ayes*.

Respectfully Submitted,

Regina Chico Assistant Business Administrator