

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #235 IN THE ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA ON DECEMBER 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Schaley at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary cafeteria. The following board members answered roll call: Bigger, Chockley, Clark, Higgins, Schaley, and Vancil. Gullberg entered at 6:10 p.m. President Schaley declared a quorum present. Also present were Superintendent Day, J. Shultz, K. Lafary, J. Peters, J. Kirby, S. Ryner, and J. Hennings. Additional community members present were Shelby Bowman and parents, Breanna Gehrig, Jeff Gehrig and Mike Ruebush.

President Schaley then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

GOOD NEWS ITEMS

- WC hosted their annual music concerts, which were amazing!
- WCHS has one Illinois State Scholar this year. Congratulations to Shelby Bowman!
- Shelby Bowman scored her 2000th point (and counting!) in her high school career at West Central. Congratulations!
- The elementary basketball program that's been happening on Saturday morning has been a huge success. A special thanks to our high school girls' and boys' basketball programs for helping each weekend.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Bigger, seconded by Vancil to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of 12-C Student Matters - Placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

A presentation was held during public comment to present Coach Kirby a \$2200 check from Brevant Seed and Gherig Nutrien Ag for the HS Football program. The donation came from \$100 for each touchdown scored throughout the season. The West Central Football team scored the most touchdowns of all the schools who participated in the promotion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Clark, seconded by Chockley to approve the consent agenda including the following items:

- The minutes of the regular meeting of November 14, 2023;
- Building and Grounds minutes of November 30, 2023;
- The payment of all bills;
- All activity accounts;
- The treasurer's report for November 2023;
- PRESS Issue 113 on second reading.

On roll call the following members voted aye: Chockley, Clark, Higgins, Schaley, Vancil and Bigger. 6-0 Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

We received three FOIA requests during the last month: Science of Reading Illinois looking for elementary ELA Curriculum information, Smart Procure requesting vendor, materials and cost information for items purchased over the last three months and Illinois Volunteer for Change the Air Foundation requesting mold testing information from all schools in the State of Illinois. All requests were responded to within the appropriate timeline.

A discussion was held on the 10-Year Health Life Safety Survey. The Building and Grounds Committee met with the architects and have their initial list of projects to consider. The committee discussed improvements to the heating system for part of the middle school (replacing the original steam boiler), the high school roof and consideration of security vestibules for each building. The building and grounds committee will meet in early January to narrow down the list of possible projects and then will meet with the architects again. After that the architects will present a final list to the entire Board for approval. Once the Board approves the projects, the architects will submit the application to the ROE and ISBE for final approval. Superintendent Day also presented possible Bond Rate information for consideration, additional Bond Rate information will be provided as we move through the process and narrow down the list of projects.

Mr. Kirby expressed to the Board that there are currently about 8-10 students at the high school who are interested in participating in a Speech Team in the future and there are 1-2 staff members interested in being sponsors. This activity will be presented for final approval at a later meeting in the spring and the stipend for the sponsor will be considered during upcoming WCATS Contract negotiations.

A discussion was held on finding alternative storage space for our baseball and softball programs. We will look into purchasing storage containers and having them delivered to the softball and baseball fields. The discussion also included ideas to tear down the two small sheds next to the baseball field which are run down and block the views of the fields. Superintendent Day will continue working on the logistics of this project and will present the containers for purchase at a later board meeting.

A discussion was held about creating a hitting facility inside the west storage building at the Middle School. The building and grounds committee discussed this idea with the architects and was told it would be possible, with some considerations for snow/wind loads and possible shoring up of the structure. The idea is to empty out a section of the building and install the batting cage in that building, instead of in the middle school gym. This could allow for additional usage of the batting cage both during softball/baseball seasons and during their off seasons.

Board Members Clark and Bigger and Superintendent Day provided a follow-up to the Triple I Conference they attended in November. Board Member Clark discussed attending the IHSA Update and a session on Health-Life-Safety Requirements. Board Member Bigger attended sessions on CTE programs, Board of Education Oath, IHSA Update and Decisions, Decisions (a session talking about who is responsible for making what decisions). Superintendent Day

attended sessions on the Science of Reading, Collective Bargaining, the new Principals Evaluation Tool and a session for Women in Leadership. All three recommended other board members to attend the conference if able in the future as there are a lot of great sessions and an opportunity to learn from other districts around the state.

A quick update was given on the School District Farm, as we are halfway through the school year. The last two years have been the best farm crops we have seen in the history of the farm. We still have cattle to sell for this year as well. Overall the farm is doing well.

REPORTS

The Board reviewed and heard reports from the Building Principals K. Lafary, S. Ryner and J. Kirby. District Technology Coordinator Jeremy Hennings.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Bigger, seconded by Chockley to approve the 2023 Tax Levy for a total levy amount of \$7,289,779.00 (not including the bond amounts). The District's unaudited balances on June 30, 2023, Fund 10 - \$7,747,454. Fund 20 - \$2,788,381, Fund 30 - \$284,496, Fund 40 - \$987,677, Fund 50 - \$403,355, Fund 60 - \$33,679, Fund 70 - \$1,050,856, Fund 80 - \$511,145, and Fund 90 - \$471,762. On roll call the following board members voted aye: Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Schaley, Vancil, Bigger, and Chockley. 7-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Clark seconded by Vancil to approve the Middle School Boiler Work as presented. On roll call the following board members voted aye: Gulberg, Higgins, Schaley, Vancil, Bigger, Chockley, and Clark. 7-0 Motion carried.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Athletic Training Program (by Board Member Higgins), Building Generators (by Board Member Bigger) and an update from the Middle School on their School Improvement Process with ISBE (by Board Member Chockley).

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Bigger, seconded by Clark to adjourn to closed meeting pursuant of the Illinois Open Meetings Act - 5ILCS 120/2 (2) (16) at 7:27 p.m. to discuss the following subjects:

- A. Personnel - The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity;
- B. Negotiations - Collective negotiating matters between the school board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees;
- C. Individual Student Matters - Matters relating to individual students and/or placement in special education programs.

Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

The Board took a short break and reconvened in the District Office Conference Room at 7:31 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Bigger, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Schaley, and Vancil. Also present was S. Day.

Motion by Bigger, seconded by Chockley to return to open session at 8:22 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Bigger, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Schaley and Vancil. 7-0 Motion carried.

The Board took a short break and reconvened in the elementary cafeteria at 8:23 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Bigger, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Schaley and Vancil.

The Board tabled action on fall coaches rehire to a future meeting.

West Central School District School Board Meeting Personnel Items for Board Approval Tuesday, December 19, 2023		
<i>Please note: the following new appointments are pending completion of all certifications, requirements, and clearance on the state required background investigation.</i>		
Personnel Changes		
Name	Title	Salary
New Appointments:		
Nicole Ebert	WCMS 6th Grade Volleyball Coach	WCATS Contract
Matthew Mullen Jr.	WCHS English Teacher	WCATS Contract
Bradley Underwood	Bus Driver	Exempt Listing
Amy Chandler	WCMS SIP Team Member	WCATS Contract
Change of Assignment:		
Tiffany Ouellette	No English Overload for 2nd Semester 2023-2024	N/A
Board acknowledges the following resignations/retirements:		
Charlie Huss	District Custodian - effective 11/16/23	
Tammy Slater	WCMS SIP Team Member	
Kim Allaman	Retirement - Paraprofessional - effective 8/12/24	

Motion by Clark, seconded by Chockley to approve the personnel items as presented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Schaley, Vancil, Bigger, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, and Higgins. 7-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Vancil to approve the resolution to release closed session minutes per exhibits A and B and destroy the verbatim recordings per exhibit C, as presented. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

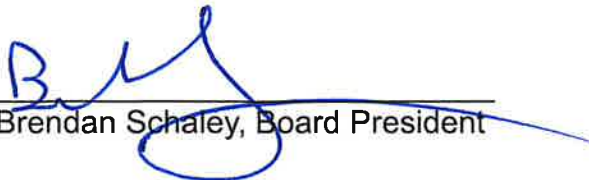
FUTURE MEETING DATE


The Board was reminded that the next regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday January 17, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bigger, seconded by Chockley to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED AS WRITTEN THIS 17th DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.


Brendan Schaley, Board President


Malinda Clark, Board Secretary