

WESTERN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOL DISTRICT #12 BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD OCTOBER 21, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M.

WHS CAFETERIA, 401 McDONOUGH STREET, BARRY, ILLINOIS

The Western Community Unit School District #12 Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2015, in the WHS Library, 401 McDonough Street, in Barry, Illinois. President Lorc Weir called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other Board Members present included: Vice-President Inky Shover; Secretary James Broeckling; Member Chris Borrowman; Member Shane Fee; and Member Ayca Raif. Member Tyler Patterson arrived at 6:01 p.m. Administrators present included: Terry A. Robertson, Interim Superintendent; WHS/WES Principal Connie Thomas; and Junior High Principal & Athletic Director Jerud VanDyke. Also present was Administrative Assistant Teresa Schulz. Teachers present included: JoLynn Tappe and Liz Klauzer. Students present included: Madaline Thompson; Arianna Smith; Morgan Stroemer; and Paige Borrowman. Media Representatives present included: Adam Kirgan and Justin Cobb. Also present was invited presenter Wayne Garkie, Auditor, of Gray, Hunter, Stenn.

Under Requests to Address the Board: Student Madaline Thompson provided a presentation requesting permission for a student led musical for spring, which the Board approved, with a unanimous yes vote with Patterson absent for this vote only.

Under Requests to Address, invited guest Auditor Wayne Garkie of Gray, Hunter, Stenn, provided the Board with copies of the Audit and his findings relative to the Audit and General Fiscal Operations. Mr. Garkie indicated the District has made strides in improving the fiscal health of the District, despite continued shortfalls of payments from State sources. Improvements included Financial Profile Indicators improving from Financial Early Warning to Financial Review with a score of 3.35, needing only to get to 3.54 for the top score. The highest possible score is 4.0 and the lowest is 1.0. Interestingly, the State Board of Education developed this reporting profile when the State began less than full funding several years ago. More interesting is the fact that the level of funding provided by Working Cash Bonds is almost identical to the annual amount of shortfall provided by the State. Western taxpayers should receive the credit for keeping the District in solid financial shape.

The Board approved the Audit report. Motion by Weir; seconded by Borrowman. Roll call vote: Weir, yes; Borrowman, yes; Raif, yes; Shover, yes; Patterson, yes; Fee, yes; and Broeckling, yes. 7 yes; 0 no. Motion carried.

The Board opened the Hearing on the Holiday Waiver (modification of mandates within the School Code and Administrative Rules and Regulations) at 6:31 p.m. Motion by Weir; seconded by Patterson. Roll call vote: Patterson, yes; Weir, yes; Broeckling, yes; Fee, yes; Borrowman, yes; Shover, yes; and Raif, yes. 7 yes; 0 no. Motion carried.

The Board approved the Consent Agenda. Motion by Shover; seconded by Weir. Roll call vote: Broeckling, yes; Weir, yes; Shover, yes; Patterson, yes; Fee, yes; Borrowman, yes; and Raif, yes. 7 yes; 0 no. Motion carried.

Under Superintendent Reports: Superintendent Robertson reported on the revenue projections from the State, TIF and Tax Abatement effects on revenues to schools, delayed start to school, which included a poll to parents on the possibility, and a communication to the constituents and press regarding various revenue streams and the impact to schools.

Under Principal Reports, WES/WHS Principal Connie Thomas reported on: (Elementary) Parent-Teacher Conferences; Book Fair; Family Fun Night; and RTI. (High School) Unity Week; Dress Up Week; MAP Testing; and The Center for School Improvement Team.

Under Principal Reports, WJHS Principal Jerud VanDyke reported on: Unity Week; Tardy Policy: PBIS for Homework Heroes; Class of the Year; and Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Under Reports of Standing Committees:

Building – discussed several proposals for bid specifications for air quality in the High School gym, opting for a stand alone proposal. Also studied sound system equipment noting both the sound system and acoustical needs would both need to be addressed in bid specifications.

Transportation – discussed proceeding with cutting 2 bus routes, consolidating pick up points, and decreasing non-reimbursable miles for transportation expenditures for the 2016-2017 school year. Parent communication will be forthcoming in early spring regarding changes in the transportation program.

Policy – the Administration discussed Evaluation Instruments for all employees and extracurricular sponsors. Samples were provided for Custodial and Maintenance and Coaches. Teacher evaluation instruments are already in place as are other employee groups.

Finance – Supt. Robertson asked Board Members to study tax cap legislation which will have an adverse effect on schools and other taxing bodies. In addition, the history of tax caps indicates it actually costs more when implemented and is a buzz word used for politicians wanting votes more than answering the needs of the taxpayers.

Discipline – The Board and Administration continues to study the Discipline Policy issue the State is presently studying for implementation for 2016-2017 which hamper local control of schools in providing a safe environment for learning.

Safety – The Principals indicated school zone signs will be installed soon. The District thanks local governments in Barry and Kinderhook for their support in getting signage for school zone areas.

Under Old Business:

The Superintendent indicated he will be visiting with Vocational Officials regarding ag equipment supplied by grant sources.

The WEA approved the proposal regarding optional health insurance per IRS Mandates and the Affordable Care Act. The Board took action following Closed Session.

Under New Business:

The Board closed the Public Hearing at 7:18 p.m. to “Consider/Approve modifications of mandates to allow the district to recognize Casimir Pulaski’s birthday (the first Monday in March) and Veteran’s Day (November 11) as school attendance days.” Motion by Weir; seconded by Patterson. Roll call vote: Patterson, yes; Weir, yes; Broeckling, yes; Fee, yes; Borrowman, yes; Shover, yes; and Raif, yes. 7 yes; 0 no. Motion carried.

The Board approved the Holiday Waiver. Motion by Weir; seconded by Patterson. Roll call vote: Broeckling, yes; Weir, yes; Shover, yes; Patterson, yes; Fee, yes; Borrowman, yes; and Raif, yes. 7 yes; 0 no. Motion carried.

The Board entered Closed Session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss the following matters according to the exceptions provided in the Open Meetings Act and specified as follows: a) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the School District; b) collective negotiations matters between the School District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; g) student disciplinary cases; h) the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters related to individual students; i) pending, probable, or imminent litigation; and j) evaluation of attorney. Motion by Patterson; seconded by Raif. Roll call vote: Shover, yes; Fee, yes; Raif, yes; Borrowman, yes; Weir, yes; Broeckling, yes; and Patterson, yes. 7 yes; 0 no. Motion carried. The Board returned to Open Session at 7:55 p.m. Member Fee left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Action taken following Closed Session:

The Board approved Coaches as per Athletic Director Jerud VanDyke’s Recommendation to include: Junior High Volleyball Head Coach – Jill Ebers; Assistant Coach – Megan Rose. Junior High Boys Basketball Assistant Coach – Dan Stout; Volunteer Coach – Pat Rafferty. Motion by Raif; seconded by Patterson. Roll call vote: Fee, absent; Raif, yes; Borrowman, yes; Patterson, yes; Weir, yes; Shover, yes; and Broeckling, yes. 6 yes; 0 no; 1 absent. Motion carried.


The Board approved the Collective Negotiations Agreement with the WEA regarding Ancillary Insurance Coverage, which had been previously approved by the WEA. Motion by Raif; seconded by Patterson. Roll call vote: Raif, yes; Borrowman, yes; Patterson, yes; Weir, yes; Shover, yes; Broeckling, yes; and Fee, absent. 6 yes; 0 no; 1 absent. Motion carried.

The Board approved a maternity leave request from Tahni Kenady, Junior High Administrative Assistant, for 6 weeks. Motion by Raif; seconded by Patterson. Roll call vote: Borrowman, yes;

Patterson, yes; Weir, yes; Shover, yes; Broeckling, yes; Fee, absent; and Raif, yes. 6 yes; 0 no; 1 absent. Motion carried.

The Board approved a paternity leave request from Travis Ruppel, Elementary Teacher, for 2 weeks. Motion by Raif; seconded by Patterson. Roll call vote: Patterson, yes; Weir, yes; Shover, yes; Broeckling, yes; Fee, absent; Raif, yes; and Borrowman, yes. 6 yes; 0 no; 1 absent. Motion carried.

Having completed all Agenda items, President Weir declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Voice vote: All yes.


President


Secretary