

PROPOSED
WARRICK COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
February 8, 2021

The Warrick County Board of School Trustees met in regular session on February 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Services Building with all members present, except Tim Mosbey, Stephanie Gerhardt, and Brenda Metzger who joined virtually. Vice President Jane Wilhelmus called the meeting to order. A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Schneider asked that everyone keep Board member Brenda Metzger and her family in their thoughts and prayers.

Because a Board member joined this meeting electronically due to the covid-virus pandemic, as customary for such meetings, all Board members' votes were made by roll-call vote.

Consideration of Routine Items

A motion was made by Jeff Baker and seconded by Jordan Aigner to approve the following Routine Items, as listed:

- A. Approve the minutes of the School Board meeting held on January 25, 2021
- B. Approve Claims 1-25 dated January 31, 2021 and sign the docket
- C. Approve Claims 1-119 dated February 8, 2021 and sign the docket
- D. Approve the Requests for Professional Leave

Motion carried.

Consideration of Items for Board Action

- A. A motion was made by Lynda Glover and seconded by Jeff Baker to approve naming Mr. Tim Long to the position of Principal at Tecumseh Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year, as presented. Motion carried.
- B. A motion was made by Stephanie Gerhardt and seconded by Lynda Glover to approve the addition of Dramatic Literature to the high school offerings for the 2021-2022, as presented. Motion carried.
- C. A motion was made by Jordan Aigner and seconded by Stephanie Gerhardt to approve a temporary reduction to employee withholdings for health insurance from March through November resulting in a \$540.00 reduction in health insurance withholdings over that period of time for all employees with health insurance, as presented.

Mr. Tim Mosbey thanked Mr. Armstrong for the ability to do this for our employees.

Mrs. Jane Wilhelmus thanked our employees for their due diligence in staying healthy.

Mr. Schneider reminded everyone that this money is not from the government, that it is savings from our own health care plan. He thanked Mr. Armstrong for how he manages our health care plan, and thanked our employees for living healthier, and doing what it takes to keep our claims down.

Motion carried.

- D. A motion was made by Jordan Aigner and seconded by Lynda Glover to approve the easement for Vectren at Castle High School is to move a pole for the continued construction of the trails connecting the schools and parks, as presented. Motion carried.
- E. A motion was made by Stephanie Gerhardt and seconded by Lynda Glover to accept a donation of a Buddy Bench to Yankeetown Elementary School in memory of Bonnie McLeod. The bench is valued at \$2,300.00, as presented. Motion carried.
- F. A motion was made by Jordan Aigner and seconded by Brenda Metzger to accept a cash donation of \$3,257.00 to John H Castle Elementary School from the JHC Elementary PTO to be used to purchase two classroom sound systems and art supplies, as presented. Motion carried.

Consideration of Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Doug Gresham presented recommendations for employment and requests for leave of absence. Upon his recommendation:

- A. Consideration of Employment.
 1. A motion was made by Lynda Glover and seconded by Jordan Aigner to employ the following:
 - Kelly Paige, Temporary Program Assistant at Tecumseh High School
- B. Leave Requests:
 1. A motion was made by Jordan Aigner and seconded by Jeff Baker to approve the following leave requests:
 - Leann Merta, 4th Grade Teacher at Chandler Elementary.
 - Sara Cobb, Program Assistant at Castle High School.
 - Trisha Peerman, Language Arts Teacher at Boonville Middle School.
 - Stacie Devine, English Teacher at Castle High School
 - Retha Hollman, Program Assistant at Tennyson Elementary School.
 - Leslie Parker, Family & Consumer Science Teacher at Castle High School.
 - Carolyn Teddleton, Algebra/German Teacher at Tecumseh High School.
 - Michelle Perry, 2nd Grade Teacher at Lynnville Elementary School.
 - Kelly Vincent, Program Assistant at Loge Elementary School.
 - Trisha Manis, Program Assistant at John H Castle Elementary School.
- C. Mr. Gresham reported on the following Cafeteria Transfers

- Christina Horn, 3.5-hour employee at Yankeetown Elementary School to 5.5-hour employee at Yankeetown Elementary School.
- D. Mr. Gresham reported on the following reassignment:
- Dan Forston, Maintenance at Boonville High School, is being reassigned to the Class E Maintenance position.
- E. Mr. Gresham reported on the following resignations:
- Kween Young Cotton, 6 hour Cafeteria Employee at Castle South Middle School, effective February 12, 2021.
 - Nicholas Kirsch, Program Assistant at Castle High School, effective February 1, 2021.
 - Marc Grimes, Program Assistant at Lynnville Elementary School,- effective February 19, 2021.
 - Robin Arnold, Temporary Program Assistant at Newburgh Elementary School - effective February 17, 2021.
 - Stephanie Brown, Library Aide at Newburgh Elementary School - effective February 19, 2021.
- F. Mr. Gresham reported on the following retirement:
- Kristy Gehlhausen, School Psychologist - retirement effective June 4, 2021

Reports

Dr. Walter Lambert reported on the Policy and Curriculum committee. He discussed several policies that are currently being reviewed and shared the biggest discussions revolved around state assessments. Dr. Lambert shared that we are required to do everything onsite for testing, and as of yet, very few people have said that they will not participate. ILEARN participation rate has to be 95%, and it seems likely that we will have those who will turn that down. Dr. Lambert also shared that our graduation rate is expected to see a decline this year. He shared that all high schools are seeing students that were on track to graduate before Covid, and have now dropped. He also explained that the schools are doing everything they can to talk to the parents, talk to the students, and maybe even see if they can get the kids in for online courses through WEC. He also explained that schools around the state are facing the same problem. Dr. Lambert added that our schools and staff are conducting home visits, phone calls, and anything we can; to help these children.

Mr. Doug Gresham reported on the Personnel & Contracts, Food & Nutrition, Custodial, and Safety committee. Mr. Gresham shared that the current Covid trend data for WCSC staff and students is trending in the right direction. He also shared that while our sub situation is not ideal, we have been able to hire 36 additional Program Assistants for the year to help out. Mr. Gresham also shared that the new Covid guidelines were discussed and explained that the new guidelines changes should result in fewer students quarantined.

Mr. Jeff Baker stated that he has had a lot of positive feedback regarding the changes we have made keeping our health aides at specific schools, and he would like for us to look into keeping the change.

Mr. Schneider congratulated the Castle Lady Knights and Tecumseh Lady Braves on their Sectional Basketball titles, and wished them the best of luck this weekend as they play for a regional title. Mr. Schneider also congratulated the Boonville High School Wrestling team, and the Castle High School Girls Swim team on their Section titles as well. Furthermore, he congratulated those individual BHS and CHS wrestlers who have advanced and will continue to wrestle in the tournament.

Mr. Schneider stated that as of today, WCSC will move from a 14 day quarantine period to a 10 day quarantine. He stated that we will closely monitor the numbers for the next three to four weeks to ensure that we are not seeing spread, if we do we will go back to the 14 day quarantine. He also shared that we are going to the three foot rule for close contact purposes and added that this should greatly reduce the number of students quarantined. Mr. Schneider did clarify that this does not mean we will be throwing caution to the wind. We will maintain the current classroom separation we have, continue to require masks, and social distance; three feet will be distance for determining close contacts only. Mr. Schneider reiterated that we are not going backwards in regards to our safety guidelines, the only thing that has changed is how we go about determining classroom close contacts.

Other Board Business

Mrs. Stephanie Gerhardt updated the Board regarding the Legislative update. She shared that the website has been updated with the most current information for the ISBA and the ISTA. Mrs. Gerhardt asked that everyone continue to contact legislators regarding HB 1005 and Senate Bill 410. She also informed the Board that she will be attending the virtual ISBA state house day on February 9, 2021.

Mr. Jordan Aigner spoke regarding the leave policy that was discussed at the Work Session. He stated that the discussion of this issue appears to have been passed around through committees before, and asked if the Board should instead give Mr. Gresham instructions on how to proceed.

Mr. Jeff Baker stated that the numbers given in regards to the policy in question were low, and therefore it would seem to be within reason to continue on as before but with more information as requested.

Mr. Aigner inquired if it was possible when requesting a leave if the employee could disclose the intended purpose. For example; other employment, or sabbatical leave with a small explanation so the Board is more informed.

Mr. Jeff Baker asked if it was possible for Mr. Schneider to review expanding athletics.

Mr. Schneider stated that from day one this has been a fluid situation, and the conversation of when it is appropriate to allow the use of our facilities by outside groups has been spoken of often. He further explained that allowing the use of our facilities by the community is something our corporation enjoys and takes pride in. However, in the current situation our job is to keep our buildings safe so that we can keep our schools open. Mr. Schneider stated that if there is an opportunity to open up the buildings with precautions in place, he will let the Board know.

Policy and Curriculum Committee Meeting

– Monday, Feb 22, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Services Building.

Transportation & Special Education Committee Meeting

– Tuesday, Feb 9, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. at the Administration Building.

Personnel & Contracts, Food & Nutrition, Custodial, and Safety Committee Meeting

– Monday, March 8, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Services Building.

Construction, Technology, & Maintenance Committee Meeting

– Tuesday, Feb 9, 2021, at 7:30 a.m. at the Administration Building.

Career Pathways Committee Meeting

– Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at the Administration Building.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

These minutes were approved by the Warrick County Board of School Trustees on the ___ day of _____, 20__

Lynda Glover, Secretary of the Warrick County
Board of School Trustees

Attested:

Tim Mosbey, President of the Warrick County
Board of School Trustees