

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

The Warrick County Board of School Trustees met in regular session on March 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Services Building with all members present. President Tim Mosbey called the meeting to order. A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Schneider asked that everyone keep Mr. Wayne Geurin and his family in their thoughts and prayers. Mr. Geurin was a long time administrator in the Warrick County School Corporation that recently passed away.

Patron Concerns

Robert Howard, WCSC parent. Mr. Howard came before the Board with concerns regarding the Covid protocols and the effects the mitigation plan has on students. Mr. Howard described a situation in regards to his daughter vomiting in which the school staff informed Mr. Howard to keep her home for 10 days, or she could return to school with a negative covid test, or a note from her doctor. Mr. Howard stated that he feels that common sense be used when quarantining students rather than using a blanket statement and “kicking them out of school”. He also stated that the rigidity of this policy is forcing families into undo financial situations.

Mr. Gresham explained that our information comes from the Indiana State Department of Health. He also stated that our protocols and plans have changed multiple times during the year to ensure we are keeping up with the updates that the ISDH puts forth.

Mr. Schneider stated that WCSC has provided three options for students and families to follow to allow them to come back to school, and that no one is being kept out of school as punishment. He further stated that it is our responsibility to take care of all the students in the corporation, and if we are going to make an error then we are going to err on the side of caution. Mr. Schneider went on to explain that we have made every effort to put the safety of our kids and staff first this year, and if we have done too much then so be it.

Consideration of Routine Items

A motion was made by Jane Wilhelmus. and seconded by Jordan Aigner. to approve the following Routine Items, as listed:

- A. Approve the minutes of the School Board meeting held on February 22, 2021
- B. Approve Claims 1-142 dated February 26, 2021 and sign the docket
- C. Approve Claims 1-25 dated March 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 Brenda Metzger to approve Resolution 2021-1 approving temporary fringe benefits to employees that may have missed work during our recent closures due to weather. The corporation will use ESSER II funds to cover the costs of the benefit to ensure our employees are paid and will not face financial hardship, as presented. Motion carried.
- B. A motion was made by Stephanie Gerhardt and seconded by Jane Wilhelmus to approve Resolution 2021-2, opposing HB 1005 and SB 412 and all other legislation that reduces funding for public schools. HB 1005 harms public school funding by expanding vouchers and establishing Educational Savings Accounts. Approval of this resolution will add the Warrick County School Board to a growing list of School Boards standing up for over 1 million students that attend our public schools, as presented. Motion carried.
- C. A motion was made by Jane Wilhelmus and seconded by Stephanie Gerhardt to name Mrs. Talisha Keith to the position of Assistant Principal at John H. Castle and Chandler Elementary for the 2021-2022 school year, as presented. Motion carried.
- D. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Brenda Metzger to approve the 2021-2022 Elementary Agenda Books, as presented. Motion carried.
- E. A motion was made by Jeff Baker and seconded by Stephanie Gerhardt to approve the updates to Policy 3920 – Sexual Harassment. The updates include new language from the federal government as it pertains to Title IX, and will bring our policy in compliance with said language, as presented. Motion carried.
- F. Mr. Schneider conducted a first reading of Policy 1350 - Procedure to Address the Board of School Trustees. After some discussion, the policy will be brought to the next meeting for the second reading.
- G. A motion was made by Stephanie Gerhardt Brenda Metzger to approve the addition of outstanding check balances to the fund from which they were originally written, as presented. Motion carried.
- H. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Jeff Baker to approve the addition of the novel Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson (2014) for the USI dual credit Genres of Literature course, as presented. Motion carried.
- I. A motion was made by Jane Wilhelmus and seconded by Stephanie Gerhardt to award the Elementary Chromebook RFP bid to Technology Integration Group, as presented. Motion carried.
- J. A motion was made by Jane Wilhelmus and seconded by Stephanie Gerhardt to award the E-rate Project Bids. Contract 1 includes network electronic equipment and installation of said equipment be awarded to Keller Schroeder Associates for a total bid price of \$803,322.04. Contract 2 provides cabling infrastructure, material, and labor be awarded to Sitewise for a total bid price of \$144,000.23. The total cost of these projects is \$947,322.27. Since this is an E-rate program we qualify for a 60% discount, which brings the total cost

to the WCSC to \$378,928.27. I recommend the Board award Contract 1 to Keller Schroeder Associates and Contract 2 to Sitewise, as presented. Motion carried.

- K. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Jane Wilhelmus to accept a \$336.67 cash donation to Boonville High School from the Boonville Youth Center to fund the BHS Class Officers and the Christmas Dance, 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. A motion was made by Jane Wilhelmus and seconded by Brenda Metzger to approve the non-renewal of teacher contracts serving in a temporary capacity for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried.
- B. A motion was made by Jane Wilhelmus and seconded by Jordan Aigner to approve the non-renewal of temporary assignments of support staff serving in a temporary capacity for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried.
- C. Consideration of Employment.
A motion was made by Lynda Glover and seconded by Stephanie Gerhardt to employ the following certified positions:
- **Cassandra Schmidt**, School Psychologist for the 2021-2022 school year
 - **Melitta Nelson**, School Psychologist for the 2021-2022 school year
- A motion was made by Jane Wilhelmus and seconded by Stephanie Gerhardt to employ the following support staff positions:
- **Kweenie Young-Cotton**, 6.0 hour Cafeteria position at Castle South Middle School
 - **Matthew Rahm**, Class D Maintenance at Boonville High School
- D. Leave Requests:
- A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Jeff Baker to approve the following leave requests:
 - **Kelly Vincent**, Temporary Library Aide at Loge Elementary School.
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 - **Michelle Perry**, 2nd Grade Teacher at Lynnville Elementary School.
 - **Dave Tuley**, Custodian at Boonville Middle School.
 - **Sarah Rasche**, Program Assistant at Sharon Elementary School.
 - **MaKenzie Vallad**, Science Teacher at Castle High School.
 - **Stacie Devine**, English Teacher at Castle High School.
 - **Chelsey Steele**, Speech/Language Pathologist at JH Castle Elementary.
 - **Kristin Riddle**, Teacher at Tecumseh Middle School.

E. Mr. Gresham reported on the following resignations:

- **Amanda Burkins**, Program Assistant at Castle High School, effective March 12, 2021
- **James VanFleet**, 6.5 hour Cafeteria Employee at Castle South Middle School, effective February 27, 2021.

F. Mr. Gresham reported on the following retirements:

- **Rena Schleiter**, Physical Education Teacher at Tecumseh Middle and High Schools, effective May 28, 2021.
- **Ginger Schaperjohn**, Language Arts Teacher at Castle North Middle School, effective May 28, 2021.
- **Michelle Hulse**, Math Teacher at Castle North Middle School, effective May 28, 2021.
- **Robin Strange**, Home/School Advisor at Sharon Elementary, effective May 28, 2021.

Reports

Mr. Schneider gave a brief update on Covid protocols. He assured the public that every week sometimes every day, the numbers are monitored locally, within our buildings, and within southwest Indiana. Currently, we are trending in the right direction and we want to make sure that continues. Mr. Schneider stated that if we get to blue, and can maintain the blue status, then we can begin to make changes to the restrictions we currently have in place. Mr. Schneider stated that the administration and Board members all want to hold these end of year events for our students, as we understand that these events are important; but safety is always our number one priority. He went on to state that we are planning to have in person graduation ceremonies this spring provided the situation allows for us to safely do so. These events may be different from in the past and will all require protocols for social distancing and masks.

Dr. Walter Lambert reported on the Policy and Curriculum committee. He stated that testing is going well, and most virtual students are being sent in to be tested. Currently a survey is available to parents with students in grades 5 through 11 asking about the possibility of virtual learning next year. Dr. Lambert stated that 3,346 responses have been compiled and 93% state they will be present in person next year with 7% virtual. He stated that 20% of those that responded were currently virtual. Dr. Lambert stated that summer school sign ups are open with around 300 kids signed up currently. He also stated that at the moment, we are planning on continuing to offer drivers education.

Mr. Gresham reported on the Personnel and Custodial committee. He stated that things continue to trend in the right direction regarding our Covid numbers. Mr. Gresham praised our mitigation strategy and stressed not letting our guard down.

Mrs. Stephanie Gerhardt gave a Legislative update. She stated that there are three bills the ISBA are asking to oppose, and she thanked everyone for voting to approve Resolution 2021-2.

Mr. Schneider stated that he will send the Resolution to our representatives, WCTA, principals, and our local media. He further stated that throughout the state school boards are standing up and voicing their support for our public school kids.

Other Board Business

Policy and Curriculum Committee Meeting

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

Transportation & Special Education Committee Meeting

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

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

– Monday, April 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Services Building.

Construction, Technology, & Maintenance Committee Meeting

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

Career Pathways Committee Meeting

– Tuesday, March 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 22nd day of March, 2021

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

Attested:

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