

**REGULAR MEETING
WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #323
APRIL 18, 2017**

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 18, 2017 in the Boardroom at McNair Elementary School. Members answering roll call were Dennis Daly, Todd France, Elizabeth Johnson-Lovett, Duane Lovett, Michael Rossol, Christopher Schoeneweiss, and Nichole Smith.

At 5:00 p.m., Mr. Daly made a motion for the meeting to go to Executive Session for the following purpose: Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2); seconded by Mr. Lovett. All voted aye, the meeting moved to Executive Session.

At 6:07 p.m., the school board returned from Executive Session in the Boardroom at McNair Elementary School. Members answering roll call were Dennis Daly, Todd France, Elizabeth Johnson-Lovett, Duane Lovett, Michael Rossol, Christopher Schoeneweiss, and Nichole Smith. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; seconded by Mr. France. All voted aye, motion was approved.

For the Public Comment portion of the meeting, Mr. Schoeneweiss explained that speakers are called on and allowed to speak for a maximum of two minutes. The Board of Education listens to input from the public and does not conduct open discussion on issues. Discussion on personnel matters is not allowed. No one had signed up to speak.

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda; seconded by Mr. Rossoll. Items on consent agenda:

- 6.1. Approval of Minutes
 1. Regular Meeting – March 20, 2017
 2. Approve Accounts Payable
 3. Approve Personnel Report –NEW HIRES: Levi Biedermann – WMS – Art Teacher – effective 2017-18 school year, Deanne Gustafson – WMS – Science Teacher – effective 2017-18 school year, Marcia Korst – WHS – part-time Cashier – effective April 3, 2017, Megan Montalvo – WHS – part-time Cook – long term sub from April 3, 2017 through remainder of 2016-17 school year, Megan Montalvo – WMS – part-time Cook – effective 2017-18 school year, Summer 2017 Custodial Workers – Cameron Baldwin, Jared Benson, Grace Caltagerone, Allison Franklin, Ryan Garst, Tanner Inglima, Luke Langholf, Spencer Lindgren, Dalton Menke, Andrea Whitehouse; RESIGNATIONS: Tammie Nessmith – effective March 22, 2017
 4. Report on Monthly FOIA Requests
 5. Approve District Student Handbook

Roll call vote:

Aye: Mr. Rossol, Mrs. Johnson-Lovett, Mr. France, Mr. Daly, Mr. Lovett, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Schoeneweiss

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Allison Pierson, Director of Student Services, recognized Ashley Spickler, Elementary School Counselor, for volunteering to start and lead a 3rd – 5th grade girls empowerment group, which met weekly from October through March. During meetings, various topics pertinent to the attendees were addressed. It was noted how many girls were involved and enjoyed their time and activities with the group.

MONTHLY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Mr. Gruber, WHS Principal, asked four seniors, who were freshmen when Mr. Lemke and he started at WHS – Sarah Draves, Madisyn Gearhart, Caitlin Hamilton, Ethan McDougall – to tell about the school year from their point of view. The students chose to sum up the year using pictures and spoke about Homecoming Week festivities, the support given to Rockford Lutheran High School and the family of a student who had passed away early in the school year, the recognition of disabilities impacting WHS students, the setting of themes for football and basketball games, the Mr. WHS pageant, the tutoring done by NHS and Student Council members during intervention periods, and their Chicago Senior trip. Comments were made about their class considering themselves more family than just a class. Much credit was given to the WHS staff for doing their part to make sure students are set up to be successful and for helping make them into the people that they are today.

Kara Boyer, Kari Schmidt, and Zach Hill – District Life Skills Teachers – gave a presentation on their program. They explained how focus is given to academic, foundational, sensory, social, and life skills, which are worked on daily with their students. It was noted how students continue to be active in the community and how recognition is given to the disabilities impacting their students. A short video was shown highlighting the program.

Matt Adams, Technology Director, gave explanation about eRate, which is federally funded and can be used to offset costs for technology initiatives in schools to help with learning. Last year, most of the aging switches were replaced, but a few main switches still need replacing. When replacing is happening, consideration is also being given to account for future growth and needs. Also, it was noted that the main part of the wireless system, which is currently still working, is no longer being sold and will not receive support much longer. At this time, \$103,000 is being requested for needed hardware, knowing 50% will be reimbursed. Parts should arrive in approximately three weeks and equipment changes would be done prior to July 1, 2017.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Bloomquist reported that the referendum being sought at the April election did not pass. The official results have not been received, but it is believed that it lost by fourteen votes. He spoke about how poor voter turnout was, with it being interesting that in some precincts very few registered voters actually went to the polls. Comments were made about how every vote matters. He explained that the school board will need to meet and decide how to move forward with the issues requiring attention. Mr. Bloomquist told that research is being done on a high school Math curriculum. A recommendation is expected to come to the school board at the May meeting. Mr. Bloomquist explained about joint bidding done with Pecatonica School District. Winnebago School

Districts handles the bread/milk bid process, with Pecatonica handling the fuel bid process. Approvals will be sought at the May meeting. A Memorandum of Understanding was distributed, and Mr. Bloomquist spoke about how the Special Education Cooperative funding was handled years ago, with the Coop collecting funds and deciding how it would be distributed and spent. Last year, a change was made to allow for more local control – school districts having more say in how their portion of the funding is spent. A resolution is needed to continue this practice. The Coop’s attorney has reviewed and given approval on the document wording. Mr. Bloomquist then addressed the fact that the State of Illinois is not expected to have a budget in place until January, 2019. It appears this will wait until after the next governor election. This is of great concern to school districts and other entities in the state. He explained about receiving reimbursement from the State of Illinois for Special Education staffing and services in and out of district and Transportation costs. Discussion was held about how some payments are approved, but then not received. There is potentially \$700,000+ in reimbursable services provided by the school district this school year for which payment may not be received.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICY

The following policies were first read:

- 2:100-School Board
- 4:15-Operational Services
- 4:130E-Operational Services
- 5:120-General Personnel
- 5:230-Professional Personnel
- 5:285-Educational Personnel
- 5:300-Educational Support Personnel
- 6:70-Instruction
- 7:100-Students

Mr. Bloomquist stated that changes in these policies were minimal. No action was needed at this meeting. These policies will be second read and approved at the next Regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Bloomquist explained that four people ran for the three four-year school board terms at the April election. No one ran for the two-year unexpired term. Before the empty seat can be advertised, the new school board must be seated. Then, the six person school board will decide how long to accept applications, when to hold interviews, and then appoint someone to the two-year unexpired term. Should the certified election results arrive in time, the seating can be done at the Special Board Meeting being held on Monday, April 24, 2017, otherwise another meeting will be scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2017 to take care of this process.

According to School Board Policy, a Board Treasurer must be appointed each year. Once the new school board is seated, a Treasurer must be selected again. Mr. Schoeneweiss asked for nominations. Mr. Rossol stated he would be willing to hold this office.

Mr. Schoeneweiss made a motion to approve Michael Rossol as School Board Treasurer; seconded by Mr. France.

Roll call vote:

Aye: Mrs. Smith, Mr. France, Mr. Rossol, Mr. Daly, Mr. Lovett, Mrs. Johnson-Lovett, Mr. Schoeneweiss

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the technology purchase with PDS not to exceed \$103,000 as presented; seconded by Mr. Rossol.

Roll call vote:

Aye: Mrs. Johnson-Lovett, Mr. France, Mr. Rossol, Mr. Lovett, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Daly, Mr. Schoeneweiss

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Upcoming dates were reviewed:

April 24, 2017 – 5:30 p.m. – Special Meeting to approve Simon Elementary School Principal and seat the School Board if the certified election results are received by then

May 1, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. – Special Meeting to seat the School Board if not done earlier

May 21, 2017 – WHS Graduation – school board members should arrive by 2:30 p.m.

May 25, 2017 – WMS 8th grade Promotion – school board members should arrive by 6:50 p.m.

At 6:54 p.m., Mr. Daly made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Mr. France. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Approved: April 24, 2017

Respectfully submitted:

Christopher Schoeneweiss, President

Jennifer Lindgren, Secretary