

**REGULAR MEETING
WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #323
MARCH 20, 2017**

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Public Hearing of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 20, 2017 in the Library 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.

The following was read aloud:

WHEREAS, Section 17-1.5 of the School Code states: "School districts with administrative expenditures per pupil in the 25th percentile and below for all districts of the same type, as defined by the State Board of Education, may waive the limitation imposed under this section for any year with the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the school board of the district," and WHEREAS, the administrative expenditures per pupil of this district are in or below the 25th percentile for districts of the same type for school year 2014-15, the most recent year for which such data is available. WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on this resolution on March 20, 2017 at Winnebago CUSD 323, 304 E McNair Road, Winnebago, IL 61088, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education waives the limitation on administrative costs for school year 2016-17 as authorized by Section 17-1.5 of the School Code and the Superintendent is directed to notify the State Board of Education within 45 days of the date of this action.

No public comment was made.

At 6:03 p.m., Mrs. Johnson-Lovett made a motion for the public hearing to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Rossol. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:03 p.m. on Monday, March 20, 2017 in the Library 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. Lovett.

Items on consent agenda:

- 6.1. Approval of Minutes
 1. Regular Meeting – February 20, 2017
 2. Special Meeting – February 23, 2017
 3. Committee of the Whole – March 13, 2017

2. Approve Accounts Payable
3. Approve Personnel Report –NEW HIRES: Genevieve Maltby – WMS – Special Education Teacher – effective 2017-18 school year, Andrea Schrock – Psychologist Intern – effective 2017-18 school year, Lisa Pozzi – McNair – part-time Custodian – starting March 13, 2017; FMLA LEAVE: Julie Murray – Simon – Teacher – from April 12 – May 10, 2017; LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Abby Jergens – Simon – Kids Club – April 30 – June 1, 2017; RETIREMENT: Linda Bolthouse – WMS – part-time Cook – effective end of 2016-17 school year; RESIGNATIONS: Danielle Hall – McNair – part-time Custodian – effective March 10, 2017, Jacqueline Larsen – WHS – part-time Cashier – effective March 23, 2017, Jillian Eilers, Phillip Rigsby – Simon – Kids Club – effective end of 2016-17 school year
4. Report on Monthly FOIA Requests
5. Approve Field Trip Request
6. Approve IHSA Annual Membership
7. Approve Ombudsman Contract

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Allison Pierson, Director of Student Services, spoke about the progress being made with the WHS Life Skills Program. Teacher Kara Boyer and Paraprofessional Julie Gasior were commended for building the vocational program for all their students. Initially, students helped with jobs within the school building, and then expanded to take on jobs in the community. Stable working relationships have been made between the staff, students, and community businesses, which assures student success. A video was shown, and Mrs. Pierson thanked all school district staff involved and reps from community businesses for their continued assistance.

MONTHLY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Mrs. Finley, WMS Principal, asked Julie Anderson, WMS – Academic Advisor – to report about their career education efforts. Her report included information about Career Cruising, assistance given by CEANCI, education made available about jobs, colleges, post high school career opportunities, and school financial aid. It was made known that career fairs are offered for all grade levels, as well as reinforcement activities that link to standards. Mr. Bloomquist told that WMS has established itself as a model that other area schools are working towards.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Bloomquist reported that last school year approval was given for the Eureka Math curriculum, this year the English Language Arts curriculum is being addressed, and next year Social Studies will be considered. Administrators have been reviewing and working on a plan. Sean Monahan, McNair Principal, noted that consistency was not strong between grade levels. Teachers used early release days to do research on varying programs, including visits from publishers and sample set reviews, to help decide what would work best in our schools. It was determined that Pearson offered strong curriculum in both reading and writing and is also the testing publisher. Teacher opinion was that they like the leveled books for students, books blended with technology, science, and social studies, and the embedded writing education. Foundations will continue to be used through grade 3, which was still considered fine. It was acknowledged that the switch over could be

challenging, but it is in the best interest of students to have all the grade levels working together. Part of the cost of the English Language Arts curriculum will be offset by the extra budget money given to McNair and WMS this school year. Mr. Bloomquist explained that WHS has been reviewing resources for Math Curriculum because Eureka Math is only used through 8th grade. Teachers were asked to review resources this year and have made recommendations. Consideration is being given to a multi-year roll out. A final recommendation will be brought to the school board in April or May. Mr. Bloomquist reported that Rock Valley College has a new president, who is wanting to make changes in courses offered. More focus will be given to career tech classes, instead of college prep classes. Consideration is being given to offering dual credit and career tech courses at WHS instead of having students travel to RVC. WHS teachers could teach these courses if properly certified and would use the RVC curriculum. Cathy Finley, WMS Principal, told that CEANCI has been helpful with PLTW – Project Lead the Way by assisting with the replacement the WMS lab and the training of teachers who will be taking over the PLTW program next school year. Mr. Bloomquist gave a referendum update, stating that the informational meetings have not been well attended. In addition to these meetings, mailers have been sent out to community members, phone calls have been made, and other efforts have been made with the intention to get correct information to voters about the upcoming referendum. While the school district cannot tell voters how to vote, they can pay for informational initiatives to inform the public of facts. Mr. Bloomquist informed the board that the RFP for a performance contractor is being made public on April 5, 2017 with proposals needing to be submitted within 30 days. Board approval will be sought at the May meeting. Mr. Bloomquist shared information on tax rates and operating expenses per pupil. When making comparisons with eight other K12 school districts in the area, Winnebago is ranked 5th lowest in tax rates, which includes the bond rate, and lowest in per pupil spending. He noted that the only way for tax funding to go up is for more homes and businesses to come to the community.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the limitation of Administrative Cost Resolution; seconded by Mr. France.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the ELA Curriculum from Pearson as presented for a cost not to exceed \$105,000; seconded by Mr. Rossol.

A comment was made about if a six year commitment is necessary, and it was explained that a price break is given if signing on for six years.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Mr. Monahan chaired the calendar committee of teachers, one rep per building. He distributed copies of their recommended 2017-18 school calendar. Options were offered to certified staff to see if they would prefer the beginning teacher institute days to fall on Monday and Tuesday, August 21 and 22, 2017 or Thursday and Friday, August 17 and 18, 2017, which would have

resulted in the end of the school year falling closer to Memorial Day. With 80 staff voting, 65% voted for the original dates of August 21 and 22, 2017. It was also decided to hold fall conferences near the end of October because it suits all of the grade levels best.

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the recommended 2017-18 school calendar as presented; seconded by Mr. France. All voted aye, motion was approved.

Mr. Schoeneweiss told that a Special Board Meeting would be needed in May to seat the new School Board, and at this time, no negotiation meeting with the WEA had been set.

At 7:07 p.m., Mr. Daly made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Johnson-Lovett. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Approved: April 18, 2017

Respectfully submitted:

Christopher Schoeneweiss, President

Jennifer Lindgren, Secretary