

**REGULAR MEETING
WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #323
MAY 15, 2017**

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 15, 2017 in the Library at McNair Elementary School. Members answering roll call were Dennis Daly, Todd France, Elizabeth Johnson-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.

It was asked to remove the closed session agenda item 12.1. and replace it with 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).

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

- 6.1. Approval of Minutes
 1. Executive Session – April 18, 2017
 2. Special Meeting – April 24, 2017
 3. Executive Session – April 24, 2017
 4. Special Meeting – May 8, 2017
 5. Executive Session – May 8, 2017
2. Approve Accounts Payable
3. Approve Personnel Report –NEW HIRES: Cynthia Benson – District Secretary – effective May 30, 2017, The following new hires are effective for 2017-18 school year: Hannah Feldhaus – Social Worker Intern, Brooke Imbach – WMS – English Language Arts Teacher & Student Council Advisor, Katie Lange – WMS – Yearbook Advisor, Kelly Szymanski – WMS – English Language Arts Teacher, Tracy Berger – WMS – part-time Cook, Carl Trank – WHS – Paraprofessional & Math Team Coach, Megan Montalvo – WHS – part-time Cook, Lindsey Spickler – WHS – Cheerleading Coach, Megan Tuite & Abigail Workman – Simon – Kids Club Staff; SUMMER 2017 CUSTODIAL WORKERS: Aaron Detert, Jillian Eilers, Nevaria Rumery - C Baldwin & G Caltagerone turned down the positions; SUMMER 2017 TECHNOLOGY WORKER: Zach Stahl; RESIGNATIONS: Zachary Hill – Simon – Special Education Teacher – effective end of 2016-17 school year, Marcia Korst – WHS – part-time Cashier – effective May 9, 2017, Tammy Walthers – McNair – part-time Cook – effective April 28, 2017

4. Report on Monthly FOIA Requests

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 6-0

It was reported that several applications were received to fill the school board vacancy. Most applications could not be considered because the school board currently has the maximum of three board members from Winnebago Township serving. Interviews took place on May 8, 2017.

Mr. Daly made a motion to appoint Duane Lovett as Board Member to fill the 2 year Unexpired Term School Board Vacancy; seconded by Mr. France.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 6-0

The Oath of Office was administered to Duane Lovett.

Frank Mandera, Simon Principal, commented about it being his last school board meeting and wanted to acknowledge fellow employees who have worked alongside him during his years at Simon Elementary School. He noted that their time and efforts were greatly appreciated.

Certificates of recognition were given to: H Brule, A Pierson, L Rummel, C Reinke, W Mathieu, B Swigart, S Edler, R Waggoner, R Bolhous, C Volkert, M Reinders, S Monahan, R Ferguson, L Burkhart, N Booker, S Wurster, J Davis, S Hagemann-Martin, T Lightfoot, J Lindgren, R Jensen, and M Myers. A video was shown of children speaking about Mr. Mandera.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Staci Thompson, District Library Specialist, gave her annual library report, which is a requirement of the library capita grant. She showed a video presentation and distributed information to school board members. Mrs. Thompson gave highlights of things being done at each school library, as well as district wide and explained how work is done with other staff members and departments. In an effort to promote a culture of reading among staff, a lunch-n-learn book club was implemented at WHS with gatherings held twice a month. The initiative has been well received and will continue next school year. It is the desire to have students see the benefits of becoming lifelong readers.

Matt Adams, Technology Director, spoke about the need to replace classroom computers at Simon Elementary School. This was recently done at McNair Elementary School. Discussion has been ongoing about what should be done and costs involved. Consideration is being given to using more Chromebooks instead of desktops. Rationale was that students are more accustomed to touch screens than ever before, and these devices are kept in carts making them mobile. Teachers were surveyed for their opinions with the understanding that some desktops will still be needed. Mr. Adams confirmed the current system can handle additional devices. He noted that with Erate a discount is realized for additional bandwidth. More cost information will be brought to a future board meeting.

Mr. Bloomquist gave a legislative update. He reported that mandates continue to be passed, but no state budget has been passed. Some speculate a budget may not be approved until January, 2019. Many school districts are putting pressure on elected officials demanding to have a budget passed. A mandate currently being considered is equipping school buses with seat belts. This would be

required of buses built after July 1, 2017. Should it pass, districts will be faced with the issue that there will be only two belts per seat, which would carry over to more buses and drivers needed to provide the same service. It was noted that surveys show students may panic in an emergency causing them to not be able to exit the bus quickly even without having to deal with a seat belt. Mr. Bloomquist also explained about a potential change involving homeless students. Students would be allowed to move farther from their schools of origin, but still need to be transported. If financially wiser, a school district could provide a housing allowance to a family if transportation costs rise too high. Mr. Bloomquist told that only one of four categorical payments has been received from the State of Illinois this school year. It is uncertain if the other three payments will come, which amounts to approximately \$750,000. The balance of the Education Fund has diminished. Earlier in the school year, it was approved to build in a transfer for use if necessary, but it has not had to take place yet. It was asked about when early tax payments generally begin to come in, and it was reported that the Stephenson County schedule has already been received.

OLD BUSINESS

SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICY

The following policies were second 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. Daly made a motion to approve the board policy updates as presented; seconded by Mrs. Smith.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bloomquist explained that he reviewed the WHS Math curriculum recommendations that came to him. The first phase of resources would be implemented for the 2017-18 school year, with the second phase coming in for the 2018-19 school year. It is recommended to commit to the whole program at this time, so phase two can be brought in smoothly. It was noted that 8th graders taking Algebra I courses, will also be exposed to these resources.

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the purchase of High School Math Resources, as presented, at a cost not to exceed \$55,000; seconded by Mr. Rossol.

Roll call vote:

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

Abstain: Mr. Lovett

Nay: none

Approved: 6-0

Mr. Bloomquist reported that job descriptions had been reviewed and some new ones created. He thanked administrators for their assistance in getting the process completed. The school district attorney then reviewed them and made minor suggestions.

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the updated Job Descriptions, as presented; seconded by Mr. France.

All voted aye, with Mr. Lovett abstaining; motion passed.

Mr. Bloomquist told that a Resolution and Memorandum of Understanding is needed from school districts involved with the Winnebago County Special Education Cooperative controlling the IDEA Flow Through Grant. This process has been in place for two years, and the Coop's attorney stated that all member districts need to approve the MOU by Resolution. His recommendation is to continue as established.

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the Winnebago County Special Education Cooperative Memorandum of Understanding, as presented; seconded by Mr. Schoeneweiss.

Roll call vote:

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

Abstain: Mr. Lovett

Nay: none

Approved: 6-0

Mr. Bloomquist explained that the only bid received for a performance contractor was Opterra. Another meeting will be needed to decide on the scope of work, amount to spend on projects needing to be done, and funding. The contract needs to be approved. Potential projects include: roofing, windows including required asbestos abatement, boiler replacement, hvac automation system, cafeteria flooring including required asbestos abatement, access controlled security doors, and increased video surveillance. If it is determined for bonds to be sold, a Public Hearing will be scheduled. It was noted that the school board has the right to borrow the money needed by selling Health Life Safety Bonds.

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve Opterra as District Performance Contractor; seconded by Mr. Rossol.

Roll call vote:

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

Abstain: Mr. Lovett

Nay: none

Approved: 6-0

At 6:55 p.m., Mr. Daly made a motion to enter Executive Session for the following purposes: 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).

The sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts. 5 ILCS 120/(c)(7); seconded by Mr. France.

All voted aye, and the board went into Executive Session.

At 9:00 p.m., the board returned to Open Session. Members answering roll call were Dennis Daly, Todd France, Elizabeth Johnson-Lovett, Michael Rossol, Christopher Schoeneweiss, and Nichole Smith.

Upcoming dates were reviewed:

May 21, 2017 – WHS Graduation – school board members should arrive by 2:30 p.m.
May 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. – Special Board Meeting to conduct Bond Hearing and discuss scope of work with Opterra.
May 25, 2017 – WMS 8th grade Promotion – school board members should arrive by 6:50 p.m.
June 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. – Special Board Meeting to approve contract and bond sale.

At 9:01 p.m., Mr. Rossol made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Smith.
All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Approved: June 19, 2017

Respectfully submitted:

Christopher Schoeneweiss, President

Jennifer Lindgren, Secretary