

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #323
NOVEMBER 20, 2017**

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 5:38 p.m. on Monday, November 20, 2017 in the Boardroom at McNair Elementary School. Members answering roll call were Elizabeth Johnson-Lovett, Duane Lovett, Michael Rossol, Christopher Schoeneweiss, and Nichole Smith. Dennis Daly and Todd France were absent.

Sharon Uslan of OpTerra was present at the meeting and distributed information about Health/Life Safety projects needing to be addressed. In the past, projects with A priority had gained approval to move forward. The B and C projects have been approved by the Illinois State Board of Education as Health/Life Safety with D projects still needing approval. There was discussion about the paving of the gravel bus parking lot as a safety measure for transportation staff. Ms. Uslan commented that having a project list like this is powerful when seeking a referendum because all items need to be addressed for the benefit of everyone using the school buildings. Tim King of King Financial attended the meeting via conference phone. He explained the impact a referendum would have on taxpayers and how they could figure the assessed value of their homes. Discussion was held about the fact that one bond is being paid off soon, which will constitute a tax decrease on the 2018 tax bill. If a referendum passes, the impact would not be seen until 2019 and would still show a tax rate decrease from current ones. While the past two referendums have failed, it is hoped that by focusing solely on Health/Life Safety projects, taxpayers will see the need to make improvements to all facilities for the good of everyone. It was noted that if a referendum was going to be sought, it would need to be decided and submitted to the County Clerk Offices by then end of December. It was decided to continue this discussion at a Special Board Meeting being held on November 30, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. A vote will be taken then on how to move forward.

At 6:05 p.m., Mr. Rossol made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Smith. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:09 p.m. on Monday, November 20, 2017 in the Library at McNair Elementary School. Members answering roll call were Elizabeth Johnson-Lovett, Duane Lovett, Christopher Schoeneweiss, Michael Rossol, and Nichole Smith. Dennis Daly and Todd France were absent. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was asked to add 9.2 New Business to the agenda. Mrs. Johnson-Lovett made a motion to approve the revised meeting agenda; seconded by Mr. Rossol. 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 three 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.

Mrs. Johnson-Lovett made a motion to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Mrs. Smith.

Items on consent agenda:

- 6.1. Approval of Minutes
 1. Regular Meeting – October 16, 2017
 2. Executive Session – October 16, 2017
 3. Special Meeting – October 19, 2017
 4. Special Meeting – October 20, 2017
 5. Executive Session – October 20, 2017
- 6.2. Approve Accounts Payable
 3. Approve Personnel Report –NEW HIRES: Amanda Bauer – WHS – part-time Cook/Cashier, Autumn Hofer – McNair – part-time Special Education Paraprofessional, Alana Palmer – WHS – part-time Cook/Cashier, Samantha White – McNair – part-time Special Education Paraprofessional, Ryan Bomgarden – WMS – Volunteer Science Olympiad Coach, Tyler Vaughan – WHS – Academic Team Assistant Coach; TRANSFER: Laura West – McNair part-time Special Education Paraprofessional to full-time Special Education Paraprofessional; RESIGNATION: Amy Frost – WHS – part-time Special Education Paraprofessional – effective October 20, 2017
 4. Report on monthly FOIA Requests
 5. Approve the WCSEC Intergovernmental Lease Agreement
 6. Approve Fundraisers
 7. Approve Disposal of Tech Surplus Items

Explanation was given that the Special Education Cooperative Agreement did not include an amount. This Agreement is about the services being provided and the space being used for their programming. When an amount is figured, the number of students involved and services needed are taken into consideration.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 5-0

Marcus Smith, a WHS sophomore, was recognized for placing 3rd at the IHSA Boys Golf Meet. At the IHSA Girls Cross Country Meet, Natalia Martino placed 10th and Aurora Insko placed 84th. Both girls are freshmen, so it is hoped that they will continue to do well in the next several years. None of the athletes were in attendance at the meeting, but will be given Certificates of Recognition for the great accomplishments.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Ron Gruber, WHS Principal, asked reps from PACK – Performing Arts student group – to give a report. Students and Advisor Strandin spoke of how their group was formed and various aspects involved with their performance of Legally Blonde last school year – including, auditions, parental involvement, tutoring sessions, tech time, donated meals, set building, costuming, etc. They also had the opportunity to visit other area theaters to see how they operate and get pointers. Several students intend to attend the upcoming Illinois Theater Fest. They also promoted the Candy Cane Cabaret taking place in December, which will be used as a fundraiser.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Schwuchow shared information about the Preliminary FY19 Levy. He explained that a decision needs to be made on how much funding to request without going over 5%, which is level a school district must stay under without having to go through the truth in taxation process. With the new mandate, school districts levy for each fund, for example the Education Fund, instead of levying for extra in, for example the Transportation Fund, and then transferring money from one fund to another later in the school year. This promotes more accurate levying in each applicable fund. Several years of expenditures have been reviewed and potential financial needs considered when deciding on levy amounts. It was explained that the Special Education Fund is difficult to predict because the school district has been taking on more programs the last few years and not as reliant on the Special Education Cooperative. Also, a shift is being made where the State of Illinois will not be funding Cooperatives with this responsibility then falling on school districts. It was noted that the CPI – Consumer Price Index – has increased since last year. Adjustments can still be made, and the final levy will come to the school board for approval in December, so it then can be submitted to the County Clerk’s Offices.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Schwuchow spoke of looking at SAT and PARCC performance results. He explained that the administrative team discussed social studies and english language arts standards. In hopes to increase test scores, further professional development is being sought and early release days will be utilized for teachers to work more together. Consideration is being given to feedback provided, so areas needing attention can be identified. Cathy Finley, WMS Principal, reported about a brainstorming meeting held recently with teachers and some parents, which all thought productive.

At 6:50 p.m., Mrs. Johnson-Lovett made a motion for the board to enter Executive Session for the following reason: Collective negotiating matters between the District 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 Mrs. Smith.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none Approved: 5-0

The school board returned to Open Session at 7:16 p.m.

At 7:17 p.m., Mr. Rossol made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Lovett. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Approved: December 18, 2017

Respectfully submitted:

Christopher Schoeneweiss, President

Jennifer Lindgren, Secretary