

**REGULAR MEETING  
WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #323  
DECEMBER 17, 2018**

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 5:33 p.m. on Monday, December 17, 2018 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. No one was absent.

At 5:34 p.m., Mr. France made a motion to enter Executive Session for the following reasons:

1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
2. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5); seconded by Mr. Daly.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

At 6:02 p.m., the school board returned to Open Session.

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:02 p.m. on Monday, December 17, 2018 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. No one was absent. 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 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 make public comment.

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. Regular Meeting –November 19, 2018
  2. Executive Session – November 19, 2018
  3. Special Meeting – November 28, 2018
2. Approve Accounts Payable
3. Approve Personnel Report –NEW HIRES: Helen Dierks – Simon – part-time Special Education Paraprofessional, Delshamira Francis – WHS – Special Education

Paraprofessional, Tara Hilton – McNair – part-time Cook, Jessica Harweger – McNair – part-time Health Care Provider, Katie Epst – WHS – Dance Team Coach, Derek Melin – WHS – Girls & Boys Assistant Soccer Coach, Josh Britt & Tom Viel – WMS – Volunteer 6<sup>th</sup> grade Girls Basketball Coaches; RESIGNATION: Allison Pierson – Director of Student Services – effective end of 2018-19 school year, Abby (Gleason) Arellano – WHS – Dance Team Coach, Jeff Sherman – Transportation – Sub Bus Driver

4. Report on monthly FOIA Requests
5. Out of State field trip request
6. Out of Country field trip request

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Ben Hickerson, Simon Principal, spoke about consideration being given to how class lists are created each school year. He shared information about how special education students are included in classrooms. Mr. Hickerson told about how the process has been done in the past and meetings being held on what changes could be made. Explanation was given about the idea of clustering students, which places students with classmates of similar ability levels, thus presenting tougher content to higher achieving students and those needing similar support together. Assessment data would be used to place students, and then tailor the education in each room, while meeting the varying needs of all students. He reported that Eureka Math focuses on small groups with differentiated instruction. When speaking of benefits, he stated teachers would not have to always be delivering instruction to the middle students, more streamlined for teachers, and giving student academic leaders more opportunities. Teacher feedback will be sought until the end of the end of the school year. It was asked if teachers would be rotated through so they can work with all ability types, and he reported that this would be the case.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Schwuchow gave an update on the remaining referendum projects, including: baseball fencing with padding, retention pond seeding, and McNair elevator, entryway flooring, and exterior door opener for ADA compliance. Dr. Schwuchow spoke of moving forward with a District Strategic Plan and the forming of a committee of teachers, staff, school board members, and parents. Input will be sought from as many stakeholders as possible. It was noted that the number of school board members would need to be limited for each meeting to avoid having to post the meetings. The last Strategic Plan was done in 2010, and it is preferred to have this one extend three to five years. Mr. Schoeneweiss explained that the purpose is to provide focus for the school district and to show the community what goals are in place and then movement towards reaching them. Dr. Schwuchow shared information about the need to replace the Simon Elementary and Winnebago Middle School intercom systems utilizing Health/Life Safety funding. With state approval, the installation could take place during Spring Break. It was explained that at this time, it is in the budget to take care of only two of the schools. The current aging systems can no longer be serviced and hamper clear communication between the offices and classrooms. Two options were presented to the school board for consideration. The first includes use of existing speakers, bells, and intercom buttons in each room. Communication could be done using the traditional way or through the classroom telephones. Additional features, which would be hugely beneficial in emergency situations, would allow blocks of classrooms to be linked together, as well as building all-calls. The new system would tie into the current door security system and alert first responders if necessary. In the future, the other schools would have the

same system installed, ultimately linking all buildings together. The second option included everything from the first plus the installation of digital clocks in common areas. The clocks would be synchronized to ensure the bell system is consistent between buildings, and would adjust automatically for daylight savings time. Discussion was held about the impact of having the digital clocks added. Dr. Schwuchow reported that Westlake Golf Course will be closing, which will impact the high school golf team. Mr. Hartje is gathering information on alternative courses. Dr. Schwuchow told about the establishing of an Acellus STEM Robotics Lab at WMS, which will be set up using grant funding with CEANCI agreeing to pay the remaining balance. A teacher, who currently teaches at both WMS and WHS, will be working only at WMS beginning with the 2019-20 school year to teach this new elective. When speaking of WHS electives, he commended Mrs. Finley and Mr. Gruber for their due diligence. Mrs. Finley secured grant funding of approximately \$21,000 for desired technology and teacher training. Other school districts will be consulted for guidance. Mr. Gruber has provided thorough information on new WHS elective offerings. With approval, a half time Health Science and a full time Computer Science teachers will be sought. Since the current Home Economics Teacher is retiring and will not be replaced, and with the teacher shifting to full time at WMS, the teacher count at the high school will not be increasing. It was noted that other teachers will pick up some of the aspects left behind by not replacing the Home Economics Teacher.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the FY19 Levy, as presented; seconded by Mr. France.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Mr. France made a motion to approve the 2019-20 WMS/WHS Electives, as presented; seconded by Mr. Daly.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Mrs. Johnson-Lovett made a motion to approve the 2018-19 Superintendent Contract, as presented; seconded by Mr. Rossol.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the Intercom System Purchase for Simon Elementary School and Winnebago Middle School as Health/Life Safety with an amount not to exceed \$104,000; seconded by Mr. France.

Roll call vote:

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

Schoeneweiss

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Dr. Schwuchow explained that the school district has older technology hardware that could be sold. Matt Adams, Technology Director, has done research on potential pricing and feels there is a small

market for this equipment. He also gave assurance that prior to anything being sold, all equipment would have their files wiped clean. Funds generated would go back into Fund 10.

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Sale of Personal Property, as presented; seconded by Mr. France.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

It was asked if the January School Board Meeting would be held on Monday, January 21, 2019 because it now going to be a school attendance day/snow day makeup. Since meeting date approval for the year was already done, the January meeting will still be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019. Dr. Schwuchow told that Pecatonica School District gave thanks for assistance sent to them recently when they suffered the loss of one of their elementary school students. He also shared that Sara Patrick, a former Winnebago student, would be receiving a 2019 Yes I Can Award from the Council for Exceptional Children, which is an incredible accomplishment. It was noted that Mr. Schoeneweiss and Mr. Daly would be the school board representatives meeting with the WEA on a salary committee, which will begin meeting in January, 2019.

At 6:48 p.m., Mr. Daly made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Mr. France. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Approved: January 22, 2019

Respectfully submitted:

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Christopher Schoeneweiss, President

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Jennifer Lindgren, Secretary