

**REGULAR MEETING
WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #323
SEPTEMBER 23, 2019**

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Budget Hearing of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 23, 2019 in the Library at McNair Elementary School. Members answering roll call were Dennis Daly, Jamie Gray, Elizabeth Johnson-Lovett, Michael Rossol, Wendy Schneider, Christopher Schoeneweiss, and Nichole Smith. No one was absent.

Mr. Schoeneweiss read the following statement: This Public Hearing is convened for the purpose of presenting on a public meeting, the 2019-20 Winnebago Community Unit School District 323 Budget as proposed by its Board of Education. Notice of this Hearing was published in The Gazette, a local newspaper, on August 15, 2019. A copy of the proposed budget has been on file and continuously available for public inspection at the District Office since August 20, 2019.

Dr. Schwuchow explained that the numbers have stayed tight and no fund balances have changed since the Preliminary Budget had been presented.

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.

At 6:01 p.m., Mr. Daly made a motion to close the Budget Hearing; seconded by Mr. Gray.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:02 p.m. on Monday, September 23, 2019 in the Library at McNair Elementary School. Members answering roll call were Dennis Daly, Jamie Gray, Elizabeth Johnson-Lovett, Michael Rossol, Wendy Schneider, 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. 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 make Public Comment.

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda; seconded by Mrs. Smith.

Items on consent agenda:

- 6.1. Approval of Minutes

1. Executive Session – August 19, 2019
2. Regular Meeting – August 19, 2019
3. Committee of the Whole Meeting – September 11, 2019
2. Approve Accounts Payable
3. Approve Personnel Report – NEW HIRES: Rebecca Nelson – WMS – RtI Teacher – starting September 23, 2019, Sharon Smith – Simon – part-time Art Teacher – long term substitute for the 2019-20 school year, Staci Thompson – Curriculum Coordinator, Connie Birsa – WHS – part-time Cook, Phillip Rigsby – Simon – Kids Club Staff, Tracy Heslop and Corinne Weerda – Simon – part-time Special Education Paraprofessionals, Derek Moore – WHS – Assistant Volleyball Coach, Thomas Stahl – WMS – 8th grade Boys Basketball Coach, Nathan Ambrose – WHS – Volunteer Cross Country Coach; INTERNAL TRANSFERS: Angela Asplund – Simon – from part-time Special Education Paraprofessional to Special Education Paraprofessional, Lisa Meads – Transportation – from Bus Driver to Substitute Bus Driver; RESIGNATIONS: Kim Wieggers – WHS – part-time Cook, Ron Adams – WMS – 8th grade Boys Basketball Coach, Courtney Jumbeck – WHS – Assistant Volleyball Coach
4. Report on monthly FOIA Requests
5. Approve Mandated Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report
6. Disposal of Surplus Maintenance Equipment

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. Schwuchow spoke of bringing the leadership team together with reps from the Rockford School District Communication Department. Discussion took place on how they communicate and what suggestions they'd have for Winnebago School District. It was noted that the find Facebook works well for them to reach stakeholders from their district. Comments were made about using Facebook and Twitter for day-to-day posts and the website for more official stories. It was reported that efforts are being made to use a unified calendar system to avoid the confusion of multiple calendars. Since the athletic system is working well, other calendars are being blended with it. A letter will be sent out to parents explaining where to look for calendar information. Information was shared about the current website and prospective improvements. It is the intention to bring the Strategic Plan Communication Committee back together to share updated information. If any plans are put in place and involve costs, school board approval will be sought.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Schwuchow spoke on IAR scores, which is a shift from PARCC assessments, and student growth. Comments were made on the reliability of the test, noting that other districts have seen drops in scores. It is intended to have the leadership team see our scores compared to others within the state. At this time, it is challenging to make comparisons. When speaking of the Strategic Plan, Dr. Schwuchow explained that Staci Thompson, newly approved Curriculum Coordinator, will be moving forward with surveying to gather information from all staff, which will assist with understanding testing practices and ultimately scores. He noted that security concerns will also be addressed together with the Village of Winnebago. Focus will be on procedures and best practices. Also, meetings are being held with members of the student services staff to determine how well the needs of the special education students are being met. Dr.

Schwuchow shared detailed information about the potential updates to the outdoor athletic facilities. He explained that project funding could come from Funds 10 - Education, 20 - Maintenance, and 90 – Health/Life Safety and could actually be spread over two fiscal years in an effort to keep fund balances above the 25% reserve balances documented in school board policy. He noted that grants and other opportunities would be sought. Discussion took place on comparisons between the 6 lane and 8 lane track projects and the other factors needing consideration – drainage, lighting, fencing, condition of the football field, relocation of field event areas, shifting of visitor side bleachers, and costs involved. Comments were made on others being allowed to use the football field area, the ability to host additional events, reducing the length of track meets, and attracting more people to the school district. School board members were asked to individually express how they felt about moving forward with the facility updates. It was decided to request a side by side cost comparison between the 6 lane versus 8 lane track project projected costs. Dr. Schwuchow spoke of improvements needed in cement work for the shot put and discus areas. Quotes were sought from three companies with the totals falling below the threshold of needing board approval. Pictures were shown of current conditions, and it was noted it would be best to have work done in the Fall instead of waiting for Spring. This work could be lumped in with the rest of the updates, but that would not be ideal. Concern was raised that not all the quotes contained the same criteria. It was decided to go back to the companies and have them all quote similarly including cement work, soil removal, aglime installation, etc. Once they are received, a decision will be made how to move forward. Dr. Schwuchow shared information about the Simon vestibule. Costs would be in excess of \$200,000 and would not be funded from Health/Life Safety because the state considers this an add-on instead of remodeling the current entry. It was asked if there would be a way to have a secure entrance by remodeling the current space in the school office instead. Dr. Schwuchow stated he would do a site visit and have further discussion with the architect.

OLD BUSINESS

SECOND READING BOARD POLICY

- 2:110 Qualification Term, and Duties of Board Officers
- 2:140 Communications To and From the Board
- 2:140-E Exhibit-Guidance for Board Member Communications Including Email Use
- 2:230 Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board
- 4:20 Fund Balances
- 5:180 Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity
- 6:40 Curriculum Development
- 6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program

Discussion took place about Policy 2:230 and the recommendation to make the amount of time for public comment five minutes.

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve these policies, as presented; seconded by Mr. Rossol.

Roll call vote:

Aye: Mr. Rossol, Mr. Gray, Mr. Daly, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Schneider, Mr. Schoeneweiss

Nay: Mrs. Johnson-Lovett

Approved: 6-1

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the FY20 Budget, as presented; seconded by Mr. Gray.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Sale of Personal Property; seconded by Mr. Rossol.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

It was shared that the Winnebago Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Murder Mystery event on October 12, 2019 at 4:45 p.m. at Kennedy's on Benton. Reservations are due by September 27, 2019. Also, the Chamber will be conducting a Trunk or Treat downtown Winnebago on October 26, 2019 with groups of WHS students volunteering.

Comments were made about the struggle for the school district to find substitutes. It was suggested to consider increasing the substitute pay rates to see if it would attract more people.

Mr. Schoeneweiss told that he and Dr. Schwuchow attended a meeting with Officer Dallas, Dixon High School Resource Officer. They toured our schools, heard suggestions of possible improvements, learned of trainings that could be offered and how a resource officer could be involved in the schools and community by attending athletic events and other activities. Should it be decided to employ an officer in the future, collaboration on salary would take place with the police department.

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Daly made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Rossol. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Approved: October 21, 2019

Respectfully submitted:

Christopher Schoeneweiss, President

Jennifer Lindgren, Secretary