

**REGULAR MEETING
WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #323
OCTOBER 21, 2019**

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 21, 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 Mrs. Johnson-Lovett. 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 five 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. Regular Meeting – September 23, 2019
 2. Committee of the Whole Meeting – October 15, 2019
2. Approve Accounts Payable
3. Approve Personnel Report – NEW HIRES: Patricia Fowler – WMS – part-time Cashier – starting September 23, 2019, Dalton Langholf – WMS – Volunteer 6th grade Boys Basketball Coach, Rich Wessel – WHS – Assistant Soccer Coach, Edward Traum – Substitute Bus Driver; LEAVES OF ABSENCE: Emily Goken – WHS – part-time Teacher – effective approximately November 15, 2019 through February 28, 2020, Kayla Hedlund – Simon – Teacher – effective approximately March 12 through May 8, 2020, Chelsie Wandell – McNair Teacher – approximately January 14 through February 21, 2020, Kim Hyson – WHS – part-time Cook – effective October 22, 2019 through January 3, 2020; RETIREMENT: David Andrews – WHS – Custodian – effective January 3, 2020
4. Report on monthly FOIA Requests

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 distributed Illinois Assessments of Readiness score documentation. It was explained that the data sources differs from the year before, and even after thorough checking, there is no way to make score comparisons from year to year. McNair, Middle School, and High School students were tested in Math and English Language Arts. The global view was offered on how Winnebago students scored compared to students in similarly sized school districts throughout Illinois. No comparisons were made

involving amounts spent on students. Scores were noted for McNair students and WMS students in both subjects as whole schools, and also broken down by grade levels. Also, a subgroup was added which includes IEP students in Math and ELA. In an effort to improve scores, teachers and others will be pulled together to form plans for both schools. The plans will need approval at school board and state levels. Efforts at the high school will be continued. Details were shared on additional curriculum that could be implemented, as well as, strengths and concerns with current curriculum. It was noted that sample questions from the state help show what students struggle with and allow students to get a feel for question types. When speaking about the special education test scores, it was explained that they must show growth. At the high school level, graduation rates were compared in addition to Math and ELA scores. Khan Academy and Credit Recovery were noted as being beneficial. Discussion took place on how other school districts are doing, the impact that should be realized while working through the Strategic Plan, current class sizes, and current curriculum. It was noted that Winnebago High School and the Athletic Department had not submitted written board reports to the school board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Schwuchow gave an update on the Strategic Plan. On Communication, he stated that changes in the website are desired. On Curriculum, he told that information is being collected from all schools. On Social Emotional, he said the student services team is being asked for input. On Security, he reported that concerns are being addressed including transportation concerns. Dr. Schwuchow expressed how proud the school district is of Sarah Hinde, RAMP Youth Advocate of the Year. Sarah is a strong advocate for students with disabilities. It is hoped to have her attend a future board meeting to be recognized. Dr. Schwuchow spoke of the joint agreement with the Winnebago Park District and the updates needed to the IGA. Reps from the school district and park district met to review and update the agreement. Concern was raised about the joint funds and if the balance is to carry forward each school year. According to the auditors, the account must have a start and end date each year, and the school district's fiscal year should be used. It was decided that both entities would contribute \$3,000 per year for improvements and paid for within the timelines each year. Discussion took place on how the rent paid to the school district should be spent and what repairs are needed to the modular unit the Park District uses. Dr. Schwuchow asked Mike Reinders, Transportation Director, to report on the bus bid process. Mr. Reinders gave explanation on the background of the current process. He told that the school district has gone to using buses with airbrakes, which need less maintenance, and he noted the benefits of having a paved bus lot. To better meet needs, the recommendation is to purchase one less bus and instead purchase an activity bus for smaller groups. A CDL is not required to drive an activity bus, which makes finding a driver much easier. When asked about the buyback program, he reported that bus companies say this is the wisest way – the school district no longer needs a mechanic because of warranties, and there is no need for replacements of tires, exhaust systems, and brakes. It was also noted that all buses started last winter in the terrible weather. At one time, three buses a year were turned over, but several years ago it was decided to flip the whole fleet and go with the current plan. During the bus bid process, only one vendor, Central States, submitted a bid. The Transportation Fund has been building a balance to be able to pay for this round of bus purchases, so no loan will be needed. Approval for the bus bid will be sought at the November board meeting. Comments were made about the upcoming Winnebago Chamber of Commerce Trunk or Treat event and the Murder Mystery dinner being held at Kennedys on November 6, 2019. It was reported the IASB Northwest Division dinner and meeting will be hosted at WHS on October 30, 2019. School tours are being offered prior to the 6:00 p.m. meeting time. Many staff members have been involved with the planning of the event, and it is anticipated that the evening will go well. Hosting this event is an opportunity to showcase your school district. When referring to the upcoming annual IASBO school board conference, Dr.

Schwuchow told he was looking for direction from school board members on if they would like to attend a function together on Friday evening.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the Simon Vestibule project as Health/Life Safety not to exceed \$55,000, as presented; seconded by Mrs. Schneider.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the Winnebago Middle School Vestibule Door project as Health/Life Safety not to exceed \$23,000, as presented; seconded by Mr. Gray.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the Track and Stadium Improvements not to exceed \$1,250,000, as presented; seconded by Mr. Gray.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: Mrs. Johnson-Lovett, Mr. Rossol

Approved: 5-2

At 7:05 p.m., Mr. Daly made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Rossol. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Approved: November 18, 2019

Respectfully submitted:

Christopher Schoeneweiss, President

Jennifer Lindgren, Secretary