

**REGULAR MEETING
WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #323
NOVEMBER 18, 2019**

Nichole Smith called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2019 in the Boardroom at McNair Elementary School. Members answering roll call were Dennis Daly, Jamie Gray, Michael Rossol, and Nichole Smith. Elizabeth Johnson-Lovett, Wendy Schneider, and Christopher Schoeneweiss were absent.

At 5:31 p.m., Mr. Daly made a motion to enter Executive Session for the following reason:

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); seconded by Mr. Rossol.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 4-0

The school board returned to Open Session at 5:58 p.m.

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2019 in the Library at McNair Elementary School. Members answering roll call were Dennis Daly, Jamie Gray, Elizabeth Johnson-Lovett, Michael Rossol, Christopher Schoeneweiss, and Nichole Smith. Wendy Schneider 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 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.

Merry Trotter – parent of several students – spoke on concerns with academic eligibility and the PBIS program. She expressed that for student athletes the guidelines on eligibility are not clearly stated. She felt that everyone could have worked together better before her athlete was released from the team.

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 – October 21, 2019
 2. Approve Accounts Payable
 3. Approve Personnel Report – NEW HIRES: Lorena Davis – Simon – part-time Special Education Paraprofessional – starting November 5, 2019, Donna Hall – Simon – part-time Special Education Paraprofessional – starting November 13, 2019 through the remainder of the 2019-20 school year only, Caroline Moscato – WMS – part-time Special Education

Paraprofessional – starting November 19, 2019, Dalton Menke – WHS – Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach; INTERNAL TRANSFER: Dee Spring – from WMS – Special Education Paraprofessional to McNair – Special Education Paraprofessional – effective November 14, 2019; RESIGNATION: Corinne Weerda – Simon – part-time Special Education Paraprofessional – effective October 25, 2019; TERMINATION: Christine Schwengels – McNair – part-time Special Education Paraprofessional – effective November 19, 2019

4. Report on monthly FOIA Requests
5. Approve Fundraisers

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 6-0

RECOGNITION OF ATHLETES

Will Hartje, District Activities Director, spoke of the successful Fall sports season. He offered congratulations to Marcus Smith, who participated in the IHSA 1A Golf State Meet for the 4th time in his high school career, and placed 5th. The Girls Cross Country team was congratulated for their 1st place finish at the IHSA 1A Cross Country State Meet. Members of the team: Natalia Martino, Kaylee Woolery, Katie Erb, Grace Erb, Marissa Roggensack, Sophia Martino, Renee Rittmeyer, Aurora Insko, Miyah Brown, Maddie Bertram. Comments were made that they would have won even if they had run in the 2A race. They are looking forward to next year's season with all of the girls returning. Certificates of acknowledgment were distributed to the athletes.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Ross Eberle, Technology Director, shared information about giving consideration to updating the school district website. As with other parts of the strategic plan process, any changes with costs involved will be brought to the school board for approval. Mr. Eberle has spoken with two vendors used by other area school districts and intends to speak with two more. Most companies start with premade templates and bill according to enrollment numbers. After more information is gathered, the communication committee will meet again, and then bring recommendations to the school board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Schwuchow asked Jenny Blocker from Benning Group to report on the FY19 Audit. Ms. Blocker shared that their firm does audits for several area school districts. She gave explanation on the impact of the shortage of early tax money including the reasons why it was not received in a timely fashion, and the drop in the school district's profile score from 4 to 3.2. During her report, she reviewed the balance sheet, fund by fund balances for both revenues and expenditures, the income statement, the potential cost shift of Illinois pensions, increasing minimum wage, how the transportation funds can be spent, how federal and state grant funds must be spent, an overview on the past ten year levy, daily attendance and operating expenses, operating expense per pupil, copy machine lease payment reclassification, internal controls, and more. When speaking of Activity Funds, she noted that more consistency and procedures are needed, noting how important documentation is. From a compliance standpoint, she stated that some board members did submit their Statements of Economic Interest as required, and the Treasurer must be bonded appropriately. Explanation was given on the fact that local banks cannot be used for loans per School Code. Connie Franklin, Fiscal Assistant, was commended for having information well-organized and ready for review. It was noted that the audit went very smoothly. Dr. Schwuchow spoke of the Preliminary FY19

Levy explaining that the Education Fund is no longer capped, the Transportation Fund is approximately where it should be, and increases needed because of the upcoming stadium project. He commented that the numbers seem to be in line with the budget and the audit. At the December meeting, the Levy will be voted on. Dr. Schwuchow gave an update on the Strategic Plan. He noted that the Communication Committee is working on website updates. The Curriculum Committee is moving forward with elementary ELA curriculum, which should help students transition well from Simon to McNair. The Social Emotional Committee has designed a survey to distribute to determine what needs are. Since the school district took over programs from the Special Education Cooperative, student needs have been increasing, and the staff has been struggling. Consideration will need to be given to hiring additional professionals.

A recess was taken from 7:18 p.m. to 7:23 p.m.

It was noted that other school districts are in the same situation, and trends are showing that students are needing more support. For Security, the administrative team is looking into a program for the anonymous reporting of issues to the school district at the same time linking with the police department. The cost for the program is small and will need board approval before moving forward. When speaking about the track and stadium project, Dr. Schwuchow stated that he had met with the architect and a civil engineer. Concern has been raised about how the project will impact sport seasons. A Committee of the Whole meeting will probably be needed in January before bids go out. He commented that he has learned of a few grant opportunities. It was asked who will be overseeing the project. Dr. Schwuchow confirmed that he would be along with Architect Scott Johnson and others from the administrative team. Comments were made about having all details listed in the contract, and if a third party vendor should be used again to oversee the project. Dr. Schwuchow announced the nominees from Winnebago School District for Golden Apple Awards: Simon – Katie Drake and Wendy Mathieu, McNair – Angela Coy, Kathi Engelkes, Mandey Johnson, Tracy Miller, and Kari Schmidt. Dr. Schwuchow spoke of the IEP Designation Plan saying that they had met with an ISBE official. A ten year partnership will be formed between ISBE and the school district, and they will begin by looking for opportunities available to IEP students. The Special Education Cooperative will also need to play a part. Student performance needs to be improved. Annually, \$15,000 will be received to assist with initiatives, co-teaching and paraprofessional assistance, and substitute coverage. Dr. Schwuchow shared open dates for an upcoming school board retreat under the direction of Laura Martinez of the Illinois Association of School Boards. Potential dates are December 3, 10 or 16 and January 8, 9, 22, or 23. The meeting will likely take three hours and will be used for board self-evaluation. It was commented that a date in January would be better than December. Dr. Schwuchow is looking for approval to offer a stipend for a high school cheerleading assistant. In the past, a volunteer coach was utilized. Rationale included the size of the cheerleading team and safety of the athletes. The recommended amount would be half of the stipend paid to the head coach.

Mr. Daly took the opportunity to recommend the book “*Educated*”, which he read recently and felt it was impactful.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 6-0

Mr. Gray made a motion to approve the Central States Bud Bid with an amount not to exceed \$850,000, as presented; seconded by Mr. Daly.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none Approved: 6-0

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the Cheerleading Assistant Coach Stipend at an amount of \$1,363.00, as presented; seconded by Mr. Gray.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none Approved: 6-0

At 7:45 p.m., Mr. Daly made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Rossol. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Approved: December 16, 2019

Respectfully submitted:

Christopher Schoeneweiss, President

Jennifer Lindgren, Secretary