

**REGULAR MEETING
WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #323
DECEMBER 16, 2019**

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 5:31 p.m. on Monday, December 16, 2019 in the Boardroom 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.

At 5:32 p.m., Mr. Daly made a motion to enter Executive Session for the following reasons:

1. Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8); seconded by Mr. Rossol.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

The school board returned to Open Session at 6:12 p.m.

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:15 p.m. on Monday, December 16, 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 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. Schneider.

Items on consent agenda:

- 6.1. Approval of Minutes
 1. Regular Meeting – November 18, 2019
 2. Executive Session – November 18, 2019
2. Approve Accounts Payable
3. Approve Personnel Report – NEW HIRES: Paul Miller – WHS – Custodian – starting December 16, 2019, Vicki Reagan – WHS – part-time Cook – effective December 9, 2019, Derek Moore – WHS – Assistant Cheerleading Coach; FMLA LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Megan Moseley – Simon – Teacher – from December 9, 2019 to January 17, 2020; LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Angela Asplund – Simon – Special Education Paraprofessional – beginning November 26, 2019 for approximately 8 weeks;

RETIREMENT: Rhonda Waggoner – Simon – Teacher – effective end of 2019-20 school year; RESIGNATIONS: Connie Birsra – WHS – part-time Cook – effective December 6, 2019, Kadie Cross – WMS – part-time Special Education Paraprofessional – effective December 20, 2019, Gloria Strandin – WHS – Theatre Director

4. Report on monthly FOIA Requests
5. Approve Trip Request

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. Schwuchow explained that there has been a shift in state testing. Review has been done on McNair test results. Further details were shared on “Unpacking the IAR” by Staci Thompson, Curriculum Director, and Sean Monahan, McNair Principal. Information was given on teacher meetings held with the purpose of tying data to curriculum, looking at designations and academic indicators, and putting plans in place on how to challenge students. Reports to the school board highlighted the Evidence Statement and School Performance Summaries. Moving forward, they want to make sure teachers have good understanding of Standards and have access to digitally-released past questions as additional resources. When looking at Writing, they wanted to see how students are assessed and how prepared they are to write to a prompt. It was noted about how much the current curriculum has available with decisions needing to be made on what should be used and what may be being left out. Then, Mrs. Thompson and Cathy Finley, WMS Principal, spoke on Winnebago Middle School test results. They shared information on teaching students strategies like using scratch paper, when permissible, for example. It was noted that some students use different devices on a daily basis than what they are expected to use when testing, the desire to have students test in the same classrooms where their classes are held, and how student growth will be celebrated. When speaking on the needs of teachers, it was expressed that dedicated time is needed for idea sharing and discussion on how to best move forward. With the measurement of student growth, the desire is to have students become more confident and lifelong learners. In the future with the opportunity of more release time, a shift will be made to multi-grade level meetings. Dr. Schwuchow stated that the vision and intent is to have a Curriculum Director with a larger role employed next school year, which would prove helpful district-wide.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Schwuchow reported on the STAR assessments that are currently being used for K – 8th grade in Language Arts and Math. Due to concerns, he would like to have a committee formed to give consideration to switching to using MAPS assessments instead. This program has made many improvements and would give teachers a better opportunity to see how students are doing and provide the district with valuable data. It is felt that MAPS is better suited to mirror IAR, help determine which students need additional assistance, and could be used to test freshman also.

Dr. Schwuchow gave an update on the stadium improvements plans. Aaron Full, a civil engineer, was in attendance to share detailed information on the plans that have been drawn up. As firmer plans are being put together, it is speculated that costs could increase to \$1.4 million from the original estimate of \$1.2 million. Dr. Schwuchow would like to have a Committee of the Whole meeting before the January School Board Meeting to gain a better understanding in advance of project bids going out. It is hoped that once the bids come in that actual costs will be lower. Final approval for the project will be sought at the February

School Board Meeting. Mr. Full gave an overview on the increased size and location of the 8 lane track, drainage points and plans, the retaining wall and guardrail needed on the visitor side of the field to accommodate the bleachers, the increased amount of paved walkways, the re-crowning the football field, the relocation of the long jump, triple jump, and pole vault pits, and the clearance needed if soccer games will be played on the field. Concerns were raised on if the new drainage system will be permissible by the Village of Winnebago, on if seeding the football field will meet needs, and about the large increase in the overall cost. Mr. Full answered questions and provided insight into the overall project. It was stated that the architect's plans included speculated costs, but as more details on the scope of work are pulled together, the amount of costs becomes clearer. More information will be gathered and shared at the Committee of the Whole meeting, and then again once the bids are in. It was asked if the school district will be applying for grant funding. Dr. Schwuchow talked about the pursuing of a grant opportunity.

Dr. Schwuchow shared information on the Safe School Contract that will allow the community to anonymously report wrongdoing via web, text, or phone. If approved, the program would be made available beginning the first of the year. During school days, administrators would receive alerts, and during off hours, the police department would be involved.

Dr. Schwuchow spoke on the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Winnebago Park District. He told that representatives from both boards have met to discuss funding and revisions needed to the current document. Details will be shared with the whole school board after decisions are made on recommended changes.

Dr. Schwuchow talked about the staffing increases needed in the Student Services Department to provide better coverage for schools, students, and families. It is desired to hire an additional School Psychologist and School Social Worker beginning with the 2020-21 school year. With board approval, these openings would be posted in January, 2020 so applications can start to be collected.

Dr. Schwuchow stated that the School Board Retreat is set for Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Laura Martinez from Illinois Association of School Boards will be present to provide guidance.

It was asked for Dr. Schwuchow and board members who attended the annual School Board Conference to share information on the sessions they attended. Dr. Schwuchow and Nichole Smith made positive comments on the Happiness Advantage Session, which was presented by a motivational speaker, and highlighted the studies on the impact once changes have been made. Christopher Schoeneweiss attended a Legislative Session and learned about student restraints, substitute shortages, increasing transportation costs, pension costs, and more. He also attended a School Safety Seminar, which talked about cyber safety, school safeguards, allowing school visitors, and the importance of making counseling available. Elizabeth Johnson-Lovett attended an Equity Session, where she learned about how bullying can happen. She also attended a Negotiations Session, where she learned of differing methods of conducting negotiations with unions. Both Elizabeth Johnson-Lovett and Dennis Daly attended Attention Pays Session, which addressed making efforts to better communicate. Jamie Gray attended a School Finance Session, where he gained an understanding on how funding is distributed to school districts throughout the state, and about the levying process. He also attending an English as a Second Language Session, which detailed the practice of full immersion for students, which has proven to be the best practice.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING BOARD POLICIES

- 2:20 Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification
- 2:70 Vacancies on the School Board – Filling Vacancies
- 2:100 Board Member Conflict of Interest
- 2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban
- 2:110 Qualifications, Term and Duties of Board Officers

- 2:200 Types of School Board Meetings
- 2:220 School Board Meeting Procedures
- 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure
- 2:70-E Exhibit – Checklist for Filling Board Vacancies by Appointment
- 2:220-E2 Exhibit – Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting
- 2:220-E6 Exhibit – Log of Closed Meeting Minutes
- 4:15 Identity Protection
- 4:30 Revenue and Investments
- 4:60 Purchases and Contracts
- 4:80 Accounting and Audits

Policies involving Safety will be brought to the next meeting. The listed policies will be second read at the January 21, 2020 meeting.

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

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the Safe School Contract at an amount not to exceed \$1,125; seconded by Mrs. Smith.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the hiring of an additional School Psychologist and Social Worker beginning with the 2020-21 school year, as presented; seconded by Mr. Gray.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

It was reported that the Winnebago Chamber of Commerce’s website has information on the annual Individuals of the Year Awards nominations. Their meeting and Awards Night will be on March 19, 2020.

At 7:52 p.m., Mr. Daly made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Rossol. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Approved: January 21, 2020

Respectfully submitted:

Christopher Schoeneweiss, President

Jennifer Lindgren, Secretary