

**REGULAR MEETING
WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #323
JANUARY 21, 2020**

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 in the Boardroom at McNair Elementary School. Members answering roll call were Dennis Daly, Jamie Gray, Elizabeth Johnson-Lovett, Wendy Schneider, Christopher Schoeneweiss, and Nichole Smith. Michael Rossol was absent.

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

1. The appointment, 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. Gray.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 6-0

The school board returned to Open Session at 6:01 p.m.

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:08 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 in the Library at McNair Elementary School. Members answering roll call were Dennis Daly, Jamie Gray, Elizabeth Johnson-Lovett, Wendy Schneider, Christopher Schoeneweiss, and Nichole Smith. Michael Rossol was absent. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; seconded by Mr. Gray. 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 – December 16, 2019
 2. Executive Session – December 16, 2019
 3. Special Meeting – January 9, 2020
 4. Executive Session – January 9, 2020
2. Approve Accounts Payable
3. Approve Personnel Report – NEW HIRES: Tracey Kast – WHS – Student Council Co-Advisor, Suzanne Wiegert – WHS – Theatre Director; RETIREMENT: Suzann Alde – McNair – Teacher – effective end of 2023-24 school year, Shirley Eubank – WMS/WHs – Hall Monitor – effective March 14, 2020, Sandra Falconer – WMS – Head Cook –

effective June 1, 2020

4. Report on monthly FOIA Requests
5. Approve Fundraisers

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 6-0

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Matt Bennett, WHS Principal, gave a report on how things have been going at WHS for the 1st semester of the school year. He spoke of the PBIS trips, how many students earned the right to attend, and how discipline reports show that the actions being taken are working. When speaking on student health, he talked about the vaping epidemic. On the next early release day, students will have a presentation by experts from Rosecrance and the County Health Department. Another presentation will be held on February 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at WHS to share the information with parents, staff, and school board members who would like to attend – RSVPs should be made to WMS or WHS Offices. The goal is to find a way to combat this issue with students. Comments were made about the 5Essentials survey, how many students have already completed it, and how others will be encouraged to participate. Staff and parents are also given the opportunity to complete the survey, which has a deadline of February 14, 2020. Mr. Bennett brought along WHS Teacher Jim O'Rourke to speak on political issues classes. Mr. O'Rourke reported on how it is the best of times and the worst of times to be teaching this subject with there being so much going on in the country at this time. Comments were also made about the amount of misinformation being circulated. Importance is put on teaching students to think for themselves. He told that students are given the opportunity to register to vote while in class. With this being taken care of, students can vote in both the primary and general elections this year. He noted that students are excited to get their voter cards. In class, they are shown sample ballots, told where they go to vote, and learn about giving consideration to varying points of view. Mr. Bennett continued by sharing good things being done by National Honor Society, Key Club, Chorus/Band, and overall student volunteering. He also recognized the STEP Program, Construction Class, Snow Sculpting Team, and National Honor Art Society. Mr. Bennett thanked all who have helped him get acclimated to WHS. Ross Eberle, Technology Director, spoke of the Communication Committee of the Strategic Plan. He shared information on needed changes to the website. A vendor has been chosen by the committee. Startup and annual costs, which fall within budget, were discussed with final pricing coming to the school board at the next meeting. Training will be provided to the Technology Department and other specific employees. It was noted that the website is where the public should look for general information, and social media will continue to be utilized. With the new site, approvals will be in place so teachers can have their own sites.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Schwuchow reported that he had given a Strategic Plan update to the staff. He spoke on the communication efforts including using a district wide calendar system and shifting to a new website. He spoke on the use of the Curriculum Coordinator to establish more formal grade level meetings, work on English Language Arts curriculum, using MAPS as an assessment tool, looking more at standards, gathering input from staff, and more. Discussion is needed on changing to a full Curriculum Director instead of someone working under a stipend. Strides are being made in the Student Services Department with the adding of staff members. The Maintenance Department is now using a work ticket system similar to the Technology Department. When speaking of Ed360, Dr. Schwuchow explained that the state is pulling data and putting it all in one place. This can provide a larger view of student progress and will help

with looking at standards. Information is now being uploaded to the State daily. Dr. Schwuchow reported that a TSA Review had taken place to review safety policies. The committee consisted of staff, police department and fire department. They will be pulled together again to go through policies and procedures and create documentation. Safety checks will continue to be conducted. Dr. Schwuchow told that Mr. Gray, Mrs. Johnson-Lovett, and he met with the Winnebago Park District to update the Intergovernmental Agreement dated 2008. The school district attorney has review recommended revisions. Items no longer needed and day-to-day procedures will be removed. Comments were made on language needed pertaining to vaping and marijuana issues, increasing the insurance coverage, fees involved with the use of weightroom equipment, the repair and replacement of broken and aging weightroom equipment, setting a replacement schedule, and comparisons between how much students use the equipment versus how much community members do. When talking about the Track Facility Project, Dr. Schwuchow stated that he had met with potential contractor, and he has heard that others have approached the architect. After the bids are opened on February 3, 2020, a Committee of the Whole Meeting will be scheduled to go over details with the school board noting the tight timeline. Dr. Schwuchow explained that he had checked with the district auditors and learned that it is permissible to make a one-time transfer between funds. At this time, the Transportation Fund is larger than necessary and some funds could be moved to the Operations & Maintenance Fund to assist with paying for the facility project. The attorney would draft the resolution, which would need to be published in the newspaper and require school board approval. It was expressed how important it would be to leave a good amount of reserves in the Transportation Fund. When talking about why the Transportation Fund has a higher balance, it was explained that when the Education Fund was tax capped, extra funds were levied in other funds to maximize funding opportunities. Once the final costs come in for the facility project, a decision can be made. Dr. Schwuchow reported that the State of Illinois reintroduced the ISBE School Facility Grant, and he has had confirmation that our project would qualify. Board approval is needed to be able to move forward with the grant application process. Other potential grant opportunities were discussed, such as: ADA compliance and setting up solar power. Dr. Schwuchow spoke of the two maintenance vehicles that are in poor shape. Pictures were provided to the school board. The one with transmission problems is not cost effective to repair. He said he would confirm with the auditors if the funds for a replacement should come from the Transportation Fund or Maintenance Fund. To replace the work van, bids would have to go out, but budget money has been set aside to make the purchase of a new vehicle that would also be used for plowing.

OLD BUSINESS

SECOND 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

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

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 6-0

Mr. Daly made a motion to approve the Application for the School Maintenance Project Grant, as presented; seconded by Mrs. Schneider.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 6-0

It was reported that the Winnebago Chamber of Commerce is looking for nominations for people to be awarded at their annual event, which will be held on March 19, 2020 at New Life Bible Church. Nominations are due by February 14, 2020. It was shared that another Fundraising Drive Event will be held on May 9, 2020 at the same location. Funds are raised by people test driving vehicles - \$20 for each test drive and \$10 for a second test drive. It was noted that students are needed to participate in WHS WRAMPS. Announcements will be made soon on their upcoming activities.

At 7:37 p.m., Mr. Daly made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Johnson-Lovett. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Approved: February 18, 2020

Respectfully submitted:

Christopher Schoeneweiss, President

Jennifer Lindgren, Secretary