

**REGULAR MEETING
WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #323
AUGUST 17, 2020**

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2020 in the Boardroom at McNair Elementary School and via Zoom. 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. Gray made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; seconded by Mrs. Schneider. 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. Gray made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda; seconded by Mr. Rossol. Items on consent agenda:

- 6.1. Approval of Minutes
 1. Regular Board Meeting – July 20, 2020
 2. Executive Session – July 20, 2020
 3. Special Board Meeting – July 23, 2020
 4. Special Board Meeting – July 29, 2020
2. Approve Accounts Payable
3. Approve Personnel Report – NEW HIRES: Jennifer Fuller – WHS – Special Education Teacher, Samantha Kovac – McNair – Special Education Paraprofessional, Reilly Mathieu – Simon – Kids Club Director/part-time Special Education Paraprofessional, Shayleigh Nelson – Simon – part-time Special Education Paraprofessional, Alivia Holleman, Emma Kamholz, and Monica Snyder – all Kids Club Staff, Sheila Erickson – WHS – Senior Class Co-Advisor, Jim O’Rourke – WHS – Assistant Golf Coach; CHANGE IN POSITION: Kim Hyson – WHS – Assistant Cook to WHS – Head Cook; RESIGNATIONS: Laura Benthien – WHS – Head Cook – effective May 29, 2020, Austin Gugliemetti – Kids Club Staff – effective May 29, 2020, Lawrence Lockhart – McNair – part-time Custodian – effective August 11, 2020, Lauren Williams – WMS – Special Education Paraprofessional – effective May 29, 2020
4. Report on monthly FOIA Requests
5. Approve Transportation Hazardous Routes – no change from 2019-20 school year

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

There were no verbal Administrative Reports given.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Schwuchow explained that all district administrators were attending the meeting via Zoom in case they were needed to share information on the Return to School Plan. He reviewed details on how many students will be attending school in-person and how chose remote learning. In general, approximately 80% of parents decided to have their students attend in-person. Class sizes will be small enough to fit in classrooms with sufficient space for distancing. A recent retiree will be coordinating Simon School remote learning efforts. She will be paid a stipend along with other teachers receiving stipends for taking on the additional responsibilities related to remote learning. Similarly, McNair School has one teacher, who will overseeing their remote learning plans. A long-term substitute will be hired for her classroom during this time. WMS and WHS will be using block schedules and have teachers taking on the needed duties without having to hire. Comments were made that WHS scheduling has been challenging. Some students will not get their first choice for electives if sizes of classes drop too low or conflicts occur with some electives being offered during one period only. Should the district need to shift to entirely remote learning, extra duties would change and stipends would not be needed. It was explained that remote learners will be graded the same as in-person attendees. Questions were asked about students with IEPs and 504 plans. The special education team has gathered to revise IEPs and 504s as needed. Every students whether learning in-person or remote will have their needs met. Parents are being updated on details as often as possible. Explanation was given on the use of plexiglass to provide safety barriers in schools where needed. Varying spaces will be used for lunch periods to keep numbers of students in one place lower. Details were shared on plans made by each school for their Open Houses, school supply drop-offs, schedule pick-ups, and Chromebook distribution. Discussion took place about the \$278,000 in CARES Act funding received by the school district. Most of the funds have been spent on technology, maintenance, and professional development needs. An update was given on transportation routing. Importance was placed on keeping the number of students on any bus route under the recommended number. Meals will be made available to remote learning families. They will be charged for these unless they qualify for free or reduced lunches. Kids Club services will be offered at both Simon and McNair Elementary Schools. Parents will be expected to symptom check their children every morning, and students will be checked again by staff before entering the schools. Dr. Martell from the Winnebago County Health Department is scheduled to come to the school district on Friday, August 21, 2020 to do a walkthrough of all buildings. Then, she will offer feedback.

Dr. Schwuchow had Rachel McLaughlin from ForeFront Power share additional information about the potential solar field project. She explained that if the school district decides to build the field on its own versus using them as a vendor, the investment tax credit will be lost. She shared detailed information about the Power Purchase Agreement - PPA rates and what it would take to get the project started.

A short recess was needed from 7:10 – 7:13 p.m.

Dr. Schwuchow talked about the Tentative FY21 Budget. It was sent electronically to all board members. He noted a deficit showing in the Education Fund, which is caused by 2020-21 pay increases and projected costs for the remote learning stipends, which would not be paid if the school district ends up going to fully remote learning. Comments were made about State of Illinois funding being flat and if any more stimulus funds is anticipated. It is assumed that all levy payments will be received. In Transportation, this is the year that buses will be purchased with the funding saved in the past two years. Costs have also been incurred while taking care of hail storm damage repairs. A meeting was set for Monday, August 24, 2020 to approve remote learning stipends.

Dr. Schwuchow shared information about the track project being finished on time, but there were issues with the triple jump area. Civil has agreed to tear up and redo the area soon.

Dr. Schwuchow reported that at the recent meeting with the Winnebago Park District, it was suggested that someone take minutes and share them with both groups. A diagram was distributed showing where they would like the walking path to go around the perimeter of the shared school district and park district property. With approval from the school board, the park district will be able to quickly move forward with a grant application when one becomes available. Concern was raised about school district possible future plans for the property, for example: a solar field, a new school, or relocating the transportation building. For their grant opportunities, another entity is needed as the keeper of the funding. They intend to work with the Winnebago Chamber of Commerce, so their approval would also be needed on plans before they could move forward. The school board decided to not give approval at this time.

Dr. Schwuchow spoke about School Improvement and Strategic Plans and working through the Ogle County Regional Office of Education using a research based Qualities Assessment rubric. This is in regards to maintenance, technology, special education programming, instructional quality, and overall leadership. He is interested in putting the school district through the process to see what things are going well and identifying things needing more attention. It was shared that efforts are being made to get Chromebooks for all students, hotspots being made available to families needing them, and online access points being placed outside buildings, so internet can be used by those coming to parking lots.

OLD BUSINESS

SECOND READING BOARD POLICY

- 2:220 School Board Meeting Procedure
- 7:190 Student Behavior
- 7:340 Student Records
- 2:220-E9 Exhibit – Requirements for No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video During Disaster Declaration
- 4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention
- 7:345 Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security

Mr. Gray made a motion to approve these policies as second read, seconded by Mrs. Smith.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Dr. Schwuchow stated that he spoke with the attorney assisting with the tribe sponsorship in support of the Winnebago Indian mascot. More information will be shared at the September meeting.

At 7:46 p.m., Mr. Gray made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Smith. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Approved: September 21, 2020

Respectfully submitted:

Christopher Schoeneweiss, President

Jennifer Lindgren, Secretary