

**REGULAR MEETING  
WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #323  
NOVEMBER 16, 2020**

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 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.

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

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. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); seconded by Mr. Rossol.

At 6:02 p.m., the school board returned to Open Session.

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:08 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 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 amend the meeting agenda to move the Kings Financial presentation on the Resolution providing for the issue of General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds to before the Administrative Reports; seconded by Mr. Rossol. All voted aye, motion was approved.

Mrs. Schneider made a motion to approve the amended 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. Rossol made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda; seconded by Mr. Gray.

Items on consent agenda:

- 6.1. Approval of Minutes
  1. Working Cash Fund Bond Hearing – October 19, 2020
  2. Regular Board Meeting – October 19, 2020
2. Approve Accounts Payable
3. Approve Personnel Report – NEW HIRES: Kelli Johnson – WMS/WHIS – permanent

Substitute Teacher – starting November 9, 2020 for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year, Jessica Nelson – McNair – long term Substitute Teacher – starting November 9, 2020 through at least the end of the first semester of the 2020-21 school year; FMLA LEAVE: Jessica Woods – Simon – Teacher – effective approximately March 8, 2021 to May 10, 2021; RESIGNATIONS: Sandra Bush-Joseph – McNair long term Substitute Teacher – effective October 21, 2020, Kortney Lambert – Kids Club Staff – effective November 11, 2020

4. Report on monthly FOIA Requests

Roll call vote:

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

Schoeneweiss

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

K King from Kings Financial distributed information in reference to the Bond Sale Resolution, which is the final step in the process and is being considered for approval later in the meeting. Details were shared on the following: the amount of the bond sale of approximately \$6.4 million, current low interest rates, approximately \$3.4 million new money coming into the school district in December, 2020, extending the bond repayment schedule by 20 years, the repayment structure, annual action needed each fall to capture CPI, and tax rates going down for taxpayers for the next 20 years. It was explained that the bank is offering a CD at the same interest rate for the last three years of the schedule. This will make monies more readily available. Working the bank this way, the district will gain more interest than other investments.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Sean Monahan, McNair Principal, shared information along with McNair Transition Team members K Schmidt, C Draves, and S Schaller. They spoke about consideration given and improvements made to daily procedures, adapting to safety procedures, taking Art, Music, and Library to the classrooms, focusing on ELA and Math for in-person learners while Social Studies and Science are through google classroom, plans in place for remote learners to make sure they are supported well, distribution of report cards, and changes made to the Accelerated Reader Program, Book Fair, and Veterans Day activities. Comments were made on events not being offered this school year, how parents without home internet are getting report cards, teachers taking on the extra duties for remote learning, and how all students are learning the same standards. Staci Thompson, District Curriculum Director, reported on the District School Improvement Plan. She stated that the major goal is for all teachers to feel ready for all circumstances. During their meeting, suggestions were offered and information shared from some who have already had to remote teach. She told that some teachers are practicing. It was noted that skills are being developed that will continue to be used after the current situation ends. A survey will be distributed to see how teachers are feeling about the plans put in place. Dr. Schwuchow expressed how valuable the day was to plan and prepare for varying scenarios going forward. The District SIP Committee will meet monthly and will include Principals, Tech Director, Director of Student Services, Dr. Schwuchow, and two teachers from each building while building level SIP Teams will meet twice each month. Ongoing goals were discussed and what plans are being put in place.

The school board took a recess from 7:12 p.m. to 7:17 p.m.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Schwuchow asked J Blocker from Benning Group to present on the annual Audit. Ms. Blocker reported that the district profile on the report is up to a 3.9 out of 4 because in FY19, some taxes did not arrive in time to hit the books, but not this school year. Explanation was given on the Balance Sheet and Summary of Fund Revenues and Expenditures. Each fund was in surplus for the year, and the one time transfer of funds was noted. Detailed information was shared on real numbers versus budgeted numbers. Dr. Schwuchow commented on how it is hard to know when tax dollars will arrive because it does not always happen on the scheduled dates. Ms. Blocker spoke of pension concerns especially about the TRS pension shift. IMRF continues to be completely funded. Information was shared on the last three years of levies, EAV trends, average daily attendance, per pupil spending, and total operating expenses. The annual management letter states auditor responsibilities, audit notes, the fact that there were no difficulties even though they could not be on-site, and some posting adjustments. Recommendations included statement of economic interest submissions and inconsistency of detailed activity funds.

Dr. Schwuchow stated that the 2020 levy does not need approval at this meeting. Preliminary numbers were provided to the school board and approval will be sought at the December meeting.

Dr. Schwuchow requested that Stateline Solar attend the meeting. While they recognize the school district is still in planning stages, they made themselves available for questions and concerns. They explained that for the educational component, the next round of applications will be due in February, 2021. To move forward, a teacher rep from each interested school and a decision on the placement location for their system is needed. Information was shared the size of the parcel where the solar field would be located, the fencing surrounding it, setbacks from the road, monthly energy savings, producing more power in the summer, optimizer and panel specs, safety features, the transformer connecting to current energy lines, warranty specs, and insurability of the panels. Discussion took place on comparisons between fields that are built and owned by an entity versus leased fields. It was decided to look more into the bid process and hold a Special Meeting to further discuss this project.

Dr. Schwuchow spoke about the recent parent survey. He said that there will not be a big shift from remote to in-person learners and vice versa. It looks like elementary class sizes will stay consistent. Attention will be given to WMS and WHS to make sure their classes do not grow too big. Communication is continuing with the WEA, as well as, with the Winnebago County Health Department.

Dr. Schwuchow shared information about the maintenance plan and project cost breakdowns. Decisions will be needed on what projects can be done during the school year and what must wait until the summer. It was noted that bids will need to go out for some projects, and then arrangements made for moving forward with planning. The Health Life Safety reports by building were reviewed and violations discussed.

Dr. Schwuchow told that the school district has been approved for the USDA Lunch Program.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Gray made a motion to approve the FY20 Audit, as presented; seconded by Mr. Rossol.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

Mr. Rossol made a motion to approve the Resolution providing for the issue of \$6,478,500 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2020, of Community Unit School District Number 323, Winnebago and Stephenson Counties, Illinois, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of said School District and refunding certain outstanding bonds of the District, providing for the levy of a

direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof, as presented; seconded by Mrs. Schneider.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

At 9:20 p.m., Mr. Gray made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Rossol. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Approved: December 21, 2020

Respectfully submitted:

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Christopher Schoeneweiss, President

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Jennifer Lindgren, Secretary