

**BUDGET HEARING
WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT #323
SEPTEMBER 21, 2020**

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Budget Hearing of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 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.

Christopher Schoeneweiss read the following statement:

This Public Hearing is convened for the purpose of presenting in a public meeting, the 2020-21 Winnebago Community Unit School District 323 Budget as proposed by its Board of Education. Notice of this Hearing was published in the Gazette, a local newspaper, on August 20, 2020. A copy of the proposed budget has been on file and continuously available for public inspection at the District Office since August 16, 2020.

During the Public Comment part of the Budget Hearing, no had had signed up to speak.

Dr. Schwuchow reported that no changes were made to the budget since the proposed budget was presented in August. When addressing the Fund 10 deficit, he stated that the reason is the payment of remote learning stipends. Efforts are being made to find other funding sources to offset this expense. Planning is being done conservatively.

At 6:04 p.m., Mr. Gray made a motion for the Budget Hearing to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Rossol. All voted aye, Budget Hearing adjourned.

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

Christopher Schoeneweiss called the Regular Meeting of the Winnebago Board of Education to order at 6:04 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 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.

Mrs. Johnson-Lovett 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.

Mrs. Schneider 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 – August 17, 2020
 2. Special Board Meeting – August 24, 2020
2. Approve Accounts Payable
3. Approve Personnel Report – NEW HIRES: Heather Corl – part-time Health Care Provider – effective August 27, 2020, Linda Dierks – WHS – part-time Cook – effective August 25, 2020, Natalie Dishman – Kids Club Staff – effective September 1, 2020, Kody Grove – Technology Staff – effective September 2, 2020, Tara Hilton – WMS/WHS – part-time Custodian – effective August 31, 2020, Graham Johnson – Simon – Simon part-time Supervisory Paraprofessional – effective September 9, 2020, Terri Larson – Simon – part-time Supervisory Paraprofessional – effective August 27, 2020, Katelyn Prose – Simon – part-time Special Education Paraprofessional – effective September 1, 2020, Shawn Turner – WHS – Custodian – effective September 21, 2020, Amanda Warrington – WMS – part-time Special Education Paraprofessional – effective September 4, 2020, Cody Wilkins – WHS – part-time Custodian – effective August 24, 2020; CHANGE IN POSITION: Paul Miller – from WHS – Custodian to WMS – Custodian, Lisa Reichert – from WMS – Custodian to McNair - Custodian; FMLA LEAVE: Corinna DeVivo – Simon – part-time Special Education Paraprofessional – effective August 25, 2020 to October 13, 2020; RESIGNATIONS: Martha Bates – Simon – part-time Supervisory Paraprofessional – effective May 29, 2020, Caroline Moscato – WMS – part-time Special Education Paraprofessional – effective May 29, 2020
4. Report on monthly FOIA Requests

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none

Approved: 7-0

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. Schwuchow reported that he worked with Staci Thompson, Curriculum Director, and Christine Kaufman, Director of Student Services, to provide updates on the Strategic Planning process. On Communication, Mrs. Thompson told of the December launch of the new website, increasing use of social media, and continuing use of Google Classroom for remote learning. On Curriculum, she spoke of the hiring of a full-time Curriculum Director, surveying staff on technology and professional development, switching to NWEA Maps Assessments, and developing a District Curriculum Map. On Social Emotional, Mrs. Kaufman talked about the forming of a Committee, developing an anonymous assessment, adopting an MTSS model, and reviewing Student Services staffing. On Facilities & Staff, Dr. Schwuchow reported on completing a District Wide Assessment, upgrading of facilities, revising safety procedures, and continuing with maintenance planning. He shared that they are looking to use IL Framework as an outside audit to assist with work on School Improvement Plans.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Schwuchow asked S Sypolt, who joined the meeting in place of C Solomon, to speak on the school district being adopted by the Pawnee Nation in support of the use of the Indian mascot. This will provide the school district opportunities with curriculum, art displays, music festivals, programming for students, and more. It was expressed that the Indian image used by the Winnebago School District has been

determined to be a very close to what Indians from this area would have looked like. Until 1830, this area of the country was heavily populated until the Indians were forced from their land by an Act of Congress. Dr. Schwuchow asked K King from King Financial to present on the potential of refinancing 2017 Bonds. Mr. King stated that interest rates have significantly dropped, which impacts bonds also. Refinancing these bonds at a lower rate would allow them to be paid back much sooner. Another option is to continue on the same repayment plan and use the reduced interest rates, but add new money to the bonds to bring in more funds for projects or savings. Differing scenarios were discussed on how much funding could be added, details involved, and what the monies could be used for. It was commented that this would not increase taxpayer tax bills. It was suggested to have a Special Board Meeting to review the Maintenance Plan, current facility needs, and planning for the future.

Dr. Schwuchow asked Sean Monahan, McNair Principal, to give an update on the McNair School Improvement for IAR Summative Designation Plan. Mr. Monahan talked about being flagged in the 2018-19 school year and needing to submit a plan for making necessary improvements. The school district began IL Framework, which then shifted to building level. Focus was placed on activities for awareness, even working with Simon Elementary School because they feed students into McNair. The seven standards were reviewed with the Leadership Team using results from the rubric to form a Plan, which was completed while the team met during the summer. Factors in the Plan include: focusing on students with disabilities, providing additional professional development to all staff, improving building climate and culture both socially and behaviorally, supporting struggling students, sharing leadership, helping more with ELA and Math, expanding communication between schools, encouraging students to take lead roles and improving themselves, creating a version of a student council, supporting an inclusive environment, and more. With funding received from the ISBE, a paraprofessional was hired to provide additional support throughout the entire building. Dr. Schwuchow commented that comparisons are to be made between students and those in other school districts over a three year period, which may be tough during current times. It was mentioned that as students move forward from school to school, they will still benefit as this plan will expand to be district-wide.

Dr. Schwuchow reported on the Return to School Plan. He noted the many things that are going well: transportation routes, elementary supervision to account for the shortened school day, Kids Club services at both elementary schools, symptom checks, WHS students using check-in app, lunches for remote learners, and block schedules with expanded passing periods at WMS and WHS. He commended the School Nurses for their efforts. They have established clear communication with the Winnebago County Health Department, which continues to provide guidance. At this point, it has been determined that data shows the Covid transmission rate is low in schools. Re-evaluation will be done at the Simon trimester and McNair, WMS and WHS semester marks. Everyone wants students and staff to be safe, so classroom sizes, bus capacities, etc. will continue to be considered. Many parents have requested the option for their students to shift from remote learning to in-person.

OLD BUSINESS

FIRST READING BOARD POLICY

- 2:220-E9 – Requirements for No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video During Disaster Declaration
- 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure
- 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- 5:100 Staff Development Program
- 5:20 Workplace Harrassment
- 5:220 Substitute Teachers

- 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
- 7:180 Prevention of Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harrassment
- 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited
- 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited

These policies will be second read at the October 19, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Gray made a motion to approve the FY21 Budget, as presented; seconded by Mrs. Johnson-Lovett.
Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none Approved: 7-0

Mrs. Schneider made a motion to approve the McNair School Improvement IAR Designation Plan, as presented; seconded by Mr. Rossol.

Roll call vote:

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

Nay: none Approved: 7-0

OTHER BOARD DISCUSSION

Mrs. Johnson-Lovett spoke about the virtual IASB Northwest Division meeting in October and encouraged board members to attend. It was determined that a Special Board Meeting would be held in-person and via zoom to discuss facility planning on Monday, September 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Johnson-Lovett talked of plans being made by the Winnebago Chamber of Commerce for events. Updates can be found on their Facebook page.

At 7:44 p.m., Mr. Gray made a motion for the meeting to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Rossol. All voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Approved: October 19, 2020

Respectfully submitted:

Christopher Schoeneweiss, President

Jennifer Lindgren, Secretary