



Respectful, Responsible, Safe & Prepared

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 25, 2023 Special Meeting

Pursuant to the regulations, a special Board meeting was held on the above date in the Waupaca High School Community Room and live streamed via YouTube.

The purpose of the Board Meeting Minutes is to capture the essence of discussions through the actions voted on. These minutes should not be interpreted to represent a transcription of the meeting. To watch a recording of this meeting, please click [here](#).

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Johnson at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Stephen Johnson, Dale Feldt, Steve Klismet, Molly McDonald, Patrick Phair, Betty Manion, and Ron Brooks.

Also Present:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Ron Saari, Sandy Lucas, Mark Flaten, Laurie Schmidt, Chain Exploration Center Governance Council (CECGC) President Megan Sanders, CECGC Vice President Sandy Robinson, CEC Principal Carrie Naparalla, and CEC staff members Mackenzie Loken, Lori Wolff, and Brianna Hass.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Steve Klismet to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Discussion of the “Chain Exploration Center Charter School Contract”:

Board President Stephen Johnson advised that the purpose of this meeting is to determine whether we are moving forward or not moving forward with a contract for the Chain Exploration Center (CEC). As previously advised by CEC Principal Carrie Naparalla, they need a determination from the Board because enrollment notices go out soon to families. If we decide to move forward, we will look for next steps, but will not be getting into the specifics of the contract at this time.

Board member Dale Feldt then read a statement he had prepared stressing the importance of the need for trust among the School Board, Administrative team, staff, and the community. He added we need to build positive relationships, in particular between the Administrative team and the Governance Council; it takes time and effort from everyone.

Mr. Feldt proposed that we continue to operate the CEC under the current contract for one year. During this time we will meet a minimum of at least twice a month to develop a new contract that is a collaborative work with the School Board of Waupaca, the Governance Council, and the Superintendent of the School District. Upon completion of this contract, the School Board will grant the CEC Governance Council with a two year rolling contract.

Mr. Feldt made it clear that he does not support shutting down the CEC. He added that it is important that the Governance Council, the Administrative team, and the School Board work out any differences and create a contract that is not rushed. While working on this contract together we can build a working relationship for years to come that is built on collaboration, communication, compassion, clarity, competency, commitment, contribution, and connections. We must intentionally work together to build this trust. Therefore, our teachers won't have to worry if they will have a job and our community will know that the school will exist.

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Steve Klismet to continue to operate the CEC for one year under the current contract. During this time, we will meet a minimum of at least twice a month to develop a new contract that is a collaborative work with the School Board of Waupaca, the Governance Council of the CEC, and the Superintendent of the School District. But it cannot go more than a year. If it gets done earlier, then we can at that point issue a new contract. Thereafter, the School Board will grant the CEC Governance Council with a two year rolling contract.

Much discussion then ensued. Many of the Board members liked Mr. Feldt's motion, adding that they really liked the idea of a rolling contract because it alleviates the staff from being fearful of losing their jobs.

Board member Patrick Phair suggested amending the motion regarding meeting twice a month for a year to twice a month until a contract is reached in case there is an agreement reached earlier.

Board member Ron Brooks wants to see the grooming of the next generation of Governance Council members so when their kids leave the CEC we don't lose the structure there.

Board member Betty Manion suggested that a one year contract could cause some enrollment concerns as families would be fearful of the school closing. But Mr. Feldt reiterated that it is one year under the current contract, and upon completion of the new contract, it would become a two year rolling contract, for a total of three years. Mr. Phair added that the staff, families, and community should not be fearful because we are looking at the CEC as a long-term venture. Ms. Manion was also assured that the CEC would continue as a charter school and not become a project based learning school within the District.

Then Ms. Manion inquired about getting a third party to come in to write the new contract. But Board President Johnson advised that that would have to be a separate motion and would come into play only because of the time involved to write a contract. It was originally suggested to aid in revising the existing contract, rather than extending the current contract as Mr. Feldt's motion proposes. He added that we would also have a school law attorney look at the contract prior to the Board's final review and approval.

Board President Johnson asked CEC Principal Carrie Naparalla and CECGC President Megan Sanders if they felt that, if the Board approves Mr. Feldt's motion, it would provide a level of security to the families. Ms. Naparalla advised that three years is OK knowing that as the years roll through we can discuss things as they progress, but she would prefer four years. She inquired what happens during the second year. Mr. Johnson advised that every year the contract would renew for two years, so there would always be two years out in the contract, subject to cancellation. So he asked, knowing that the renewal would be two years out, are people going to know of the Board's commitment further out – that we are here to stay? Or will they not feel as secure?

Ms. Sanders thought it would work, but it will take education of the families and community. A rolling contract could provide sustainability, particularly knowing how we operate now has changed and people here have changed since the original contract was created. But she added that a rolling contract doesn't afford as much confidence in the program.

Mr. Brooks argued that a rolling contract provides more stability because you never have to deal with the contract ending – you're not always faced with the deadline approaching. This provides more continuity and is better for sustainability and stability and should provide confidence to the parents.

Ms. Manion advised that she wants to give everyone the stability that they need and suggested that we give a three year contract now and then make it a two year rolling contract. Board President Johnson commented that it is a pending one year contract because there are differences that we need to come to an agreement on. Mr. Feldt reiterated that we have one year or less to get it done, then it is a two year rolling contract.

Board members Steve Klismet and Molly McDonald commented that the Board is very supportive of the CEC, and reminded everyone that the District is investing money into the CEC building. Mr. Phair added that to be fiscally responsible, it would be difficult for the Board to go beyond three years.

Board President Johnson commented that we will need to look at the timing of transitioning to a new contract. He's not sure if we can amend the contract in the middle of the year if it gets completed early. However, if perhaps we get a new contract completed by June 30th, then it would become a two year rolling contract at that time.

Ms. Sanders then brought it to the Board's attention that the current contract does not meet all of the DPI's current benchmarks so some modifications to the contract will need to be made now.

Director of Teaching and Learning Mark Flaten reiterated that we all need to maintain conversations and they must be ongoing to build a better relationship.

Board President Johnson then asked Mr. Feldt to read his motion again:

Motion that we continue to operate the CEC for one year under the current contract. During this time, we will meet a minimum of at least twice a month to develop a new contract that is a collaborative work with the School Board of Waupaca, the Governance Council of the CEC, and the Superintendent of the School District. But it cannot go more than a year. If it gets done earlier, then we can at that point issue a new contract. Upon completion of this contract, the School Board will grant the CEC Governance Council with a two year rolling contract.

Board President Johnson asked Mr. Feldt if he was willing to amend his motion to reflect the need to have some revisions made now to the contract to bring the benchmarks up to the current DPI required standards. And Mr. Phair reiterated his suggested amendment that we meet twice a month until the contract is completed (rather than for a year). Board members Feldt and Klismet both agreed to amend their motion and second. So the motion now reads:

Motion to continue to operate the CEC for one year under the current contract with modifications made relating to the DPI benchmarks. During this time (or until the contract is completed), we will meet a minimum of at least twice a month to develop a new contract that is a collaborative work with the School Board of Waupaca, the

Governance Council of the CEC, and the Superintendent of the School District. But it cannot go more than a year. If it gets done earlier, then we can at that point issue a new contract. Thereafter, the School Board will grant the CEC Governance Council with a two year rolling contract.

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ron Brooks and seconded by Steve Klismet to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.
The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

_____ Date _____
Stephen Johnson, President
Board of Education

_____ Date _____
Elizabeth Manion, Clerk
Board of Education