



*Respectful, Responsible, Safe & Prepared*

## **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 13, 2020 Regular Meeting**

Pursuant to the regulations, the regular Board meeting was held on the above date in the Waupaca High School Performing Arts Center (PAC), and virtually via Google Meet, Live Stream, and by phone. The meeting was also broadcast on TV Channel 991.

The purpose of the Board Meeting Minutes are 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](#).

### **President's Comments and Pledge of Allegiance:**

Stephen Johnson welcomed everyone and asked Betty Manion to lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Johnson at 5:15 p.m.

### **Roll Call:**

Present in the WHS PAC: Stephen Johnson, Betty Manion, Dale Feldt, and Patrick Phair. Sandra Robinson and Steve Hackett were virtually present via Google Meet.

Excused: Mark Polebitski.

### **Also Present:**

Present in the PAC: Ron Saari, Sandy Lucas, Mark Flaten, Laurie Schmidt, Steve Thomaschefskey, Eric Connor, Michael Werbowski, and Matt Vassar. Virtually present via Google Meet: Carl Hayek, Laura Colbert, John Erspamer, Jody Pankratz, Carrie Naparalla, Hannah Rowe, Mandi Salter, and Dawn Jacobs.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

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

### **Public Comment:**

None.

### **Review of Board Meeting Norms:**

The Board reviewed their collective commitments.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Betty Manion to approve the September 8, 2020, regular Board meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

## **Communications:**

Mr. Saari recognized the many important observances during the month of October.

### Donations:

Mr. Saari expressed the District's sincere thanks to Synergy Home Care for their generous donation of face masks to the entire District, as well as to the Waupaca Rotary Club for their donation of \$1,740 for the purchase of sanitizer and PPE.

A motion was made by Patrick Phair and seconded by Dale Feldt to accept the donations of Synergy Home Care and the Waupaca Rotary Club as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

### District Administrator's Report:

Mr. Saari advised that Learning in 2020-21 continues to be positive thanks to the planning and work of our staff and everyone following the 3W's to keep COVID-19 at bay. He added that extra curriculars are also going well.

Mr. Saari advised that the Gaggle (inappropriate material on devices) and discipline incidents have decreased dramatically because of remote learning. However, he outlined several concerns due to remote learning, particularly with student engagement, understanding of material, and students not working up to their full potential. He added that if the student cannot handle all remote learning, they will be moved to hybrid learning. Mr. Werbowski advised that 54 seniors were sent letters advising them that they are not on track to graduate in the spring and an additional 42 are behind in credits and in jeopardy of not graduating. Staff are following up with the students and working with the families to provide support to meet their needs. He added it is not a technological issue but a student engagement issue. Other districts are experiencing the same concerns. At this time, DPI has not made any changes in the requirements for graduation.

Mr. Saari also advised that a COVID Dashboard regarding the number of students and staff who are positive is posted on our website and of the precautionary measures that have been taken to reduce the spread of illness. He also presented information outlining COVID-related absences for staff and students. To date we have been able to repurpose staff to cover for teachers who are out.

Mr. Saari advised that the Administration will be asking for approval at an upcoming Board meeting to not use any of the documentation components within the Frontline Educator Effectiveness system; instead staff will be observed.

Mr. Saari also provided additional information relating to the decrease in enrollment of 55 students this school year. Of significance is the number of students who have opted to homeschool this year. Despite lower enrollment, we have a balanced budget which includes a 1.81% CPI increase across-the-board for all employee groups.

Mr. Saari congratulated Rene Jungers, our Gifted and Talented teacher, who was nominated by a parent of one of her students and was chosen by the Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted Awards Committee to receive the 2020 Outstanding Educator Award.

Mr. Saari also provided an update on the installation of the ionizers, as well as an update regarding the CARES Act dollars.

Mr. Saari advised that it is Homecoming week and expressed thanks to our students and staff for participating in Homecoming week traditions. Unfortunately, the Homecoming football game has been postponed, but we need to thank those athletes who did the right thing to protect their teammates, coaches, and families.

### **Monitoring:**

#### 2020-2021 Budget:

Carl Hayek, Director of Business Services, presented the District's Preliminary 2020-2021 Budget. Property taxes will be going down, wages are going up, and the District's budget is balanced. The District did receive \$280,000 in government subsidies for COVID-19 related expenses, however, Mr. Hayek is not expecting to receive any additional subsidy. The District's projected property tax levy required to support the 2020-2021 budget is estimated at \$11,998,835 and a projected mill rate of \$7.28 per \$1,000. A Finance Committee meeting to discuss the 2020-2021 budget in greater detail will be scheduled sometime during the week of October 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Board Reports:**

#### Upcoming Meetings and Other Activities:

The Board was reminded of the following upcoming meetings and other activities:

October 15, 2020 - Charter School Grant Monthly Call, Cohorts 1 and 2 (Awarded in February 2018 and 2019) - 3:00 p.m.

Board member Sandra Robinson advised that she and Megan Sanders, President of the Governance Council of the Chain Exploration Center, will be presenting on the topic of autonomy and encourages others to listen in on the presentation which will also be recorded.

October 15, 2020 - Learning in 2020-2021 Stakeholders Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

October 22, 2020 – Policy Committee Meeting – 11:00 a.m.

October 22, 2020 (Corrected Date) – WASB Fall Regional (Virtual) Conference – 7:00 p.m.

October 29, 2020 - Budget Hearing/Special Board Meeting - 4:00 p.m.

November 10, 2020 – Regular Board Meeting – 5:15 p.m.

### **Student Services Committee:**

Due to Committee Chairperson Mark Polebitski's absence, Committee member Betty Manion reported that the Committee was updated regarding the pickup and delivery of school lunches while students are not in school. Administration made recommendations on how to implement the program and, despite the challenges for Food Service to provide meals because of staff shortages, Administration assured the Committee that 100% of the students needing meals will be provided meals. Mr. Saari advised that the program is going as planned and will be starting tomorrow, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Personnel Committee:**

Committee Chairperson Betty Manion reported that the Committee had a lengthy agenda and determined that four recommendations needed to come before the full Board.

A motion was made by Betty Manion, per Committee recommendation, to accept the increase in Karen Stinemat's hourly wage as of July 1, 2020. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

A motion was made by Patrick Phair, per Committee recommendation, to restructure the WHS and WMS Athletic/Activities Secretary position and increase the current work days from 209 to 240 days, and restructure the WHS Student Services Secretary position and increase the current work days from 225 to 240 days as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

A motion was made by Patrick Phair, per Committee recommendation, to approve a 1.81% CPI salary increase across-the-board into all staff pay schedules and for all employee groups (including for the three positions previously mentioned) for fiscal year 2020-2021, as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

A motion was made by Patrick Phair, per Committee recommendation, to approve, in addition to the 1.81% CPI salary increase, all District Custodial staff, Food Service staff, and District Maintenance staff salary schedules be increased an additional \$0.50 per hour for fiscal year 2020-2021 as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

**Administration:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in September Enrollment Report:

The report was presented to the Board indicating 55 fewer students enrolled in the District this year.

Early Graduation Requests:

A list of 17 students and their reasons for requesting early graduation was presented to the Board. Mr. Werbowisky added that every student on this list is on track to graduate early, they just need to complete their current courses. If they do not meet the expectations, they will continue on in school and will graduate in the spring or when they complete the requirements.

A motion was made by Steve Hackett and seconded by Dale Feldt to approve the early graduation requests of the 17 high school students as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

**Consent Agenda:**

Mr. Saari mentioned that his wife, Tanya Saari, has been hired by the District. He pointed out that she went through the normal hiring process and that he was not involved in that process at all.

A motion was made by Betty Manion and seconded by Dale Feldt to approve the items of the consent agenda as presented.

Financial Reports:

Accounts Payable Approval: \$2,348,624.73, and Building Fund Payable: \$17,000.00

Cash Receipts: \$1,555,714.88

Treasurer's Report – Total Cash per Reconciliation: \$8,564,586.97

Fund 10 Ending Balance: \$7,891,105 [2019-2020: \$6,828,350]

Retirement:

Monica Serio – CEC Cook

Resignations:

Rylie Hermanson – WLC Ed. Asst. – Spec. Ed.

Ronda Glass – MS Ed. Asst. – Spec. Ed.

Hires – 2020-2021 School Year:

Rhonda Glodowski – WLC Health Aide

Jennifer Miller – .6 FTE CEC Spec. Ed. Teacher

Cynthia Christensen – CEC Cook

Vanesa Buhler - .5 FTE CEC Ed. Asst.

Tanya Saari – WLC Ed. Asst. – Spec. Ed.

Alissa Garcia – WLC Ed. Asst. – Spec. Ed.

Robin Eckstein - .5 FTE CEC Ed. Asst.

Transfers/Changes:

Madeline Pulchinski - .5 FTE CEC Admin. Asst. to .5 FTE CEC Ed. Asst. and .5 FTE CEC Admin. Asst.

Extra-Curricular Hires – 2020-2021 School Year:

WHS Coaching Resignations:

Dave Clark – Varsity Boys Soccer

Julie Thobaben – JV1 Softball

WHS Coaching Positions:

Jeremy Koehler – Varsity Boys Soccer

Camryn Borland – JV1 Boys Soccer

Greg Smidt – Freshman Football Asst.

Gretchen Hulka – JV2 Volleyball

Tim Guyer – Boys Hockey Asst.

WHS Volunteer Coaching Positions:

Melanie Peterson – Volleyball Asst.

Jessie Jenson – Volleyball Asst.

Jed DeYoung – Boys Soccer Asst.

Julie Thobaben – Softball Asst.

Evan Hunchar – Boys Hockey Asst.

Ryan Makuski – Football Asst.

WMS Coaching Positions:

Laura Bahr – 8th Grade Volleyball

WMS Advisor Positions:

Brooke Neubauer – Art Club

Erin Eller - DI Asst./Focus Coach

Gail Lundberg - DI Asst./Focus Coach

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Betty Manion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Johnson, President  
Board of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Manion, Clerk  
Board of Education