



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES December 13, 2022 Regular Meeting

Pursuant to the regulations, the regular Board meeting was held on the above date in the Waupaca High School Community Room and live streamed via YouTube. The meeting was also broadcast on TV Channel 991.

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](#).

President's Comments and Pledge of Allegiance:

Stephen Johnson welcomed everyone and wished everyone a happy holiday season. He then asked Detective Sgt. Bret Rodenz to lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Johnson at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Excused: Ron Brooks.

Also Present:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Ron Saari, Sandy Lucas, Carl Hayek, Mark Flaten, Steve Thomaschefskey, Michael Werbowsky, Jenifer Erb, John Meyer, Jody Pankratz, Rylie Nusz, Anne Collins-Reed, Laura Rapp, Evelyn Kabke, Megan Sanders, Sandy Robinson, Det. Sgt. Bret Rodenz, Everett Morgan of Waupaca County Crime Stoppers, and members of the community.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Molly McDonald to approve the agenda as presented as well as the items of the consent agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes:

November 8, 2022, Regular Board Meeting

November 10, 2022, Expulsion Hearing

November 29, 2022, Instructional Committee Meeting

November 29, 2022, Board Retreat

Financial Reports:

Accounts Payable Approval: \$3,108,296.34, and Building Fund Payable: \$0

Cash Receipts: \$877,107.68

Treasurer's Report (October) – Total Cash per Reconciliation: \$7,816,616.52

Treasurer's Report (November) – Total Cash per Reconciliation: \$5,608,272.60

Budget to Actual Comparison by Fund Groups for July:

Fund 10 Ending Balance: \$10,408,933 [2021-2022: \$10,585,110]
Fund 21 Ending Balance: \$457,697 [2021-2022: \$350,021]
Fund 27 Ending Balance: -\$44,152 [2021-2022: -\$29,667]
Fund 38 Ending Balance: \$0 [2021-2022: \$0]
Fund 41 Ending Balance: \$0 [2021-2022: \$70,273]
Fund 49 Ending Balance: \$1,053,729 [2021-2022: \$166,696]
Fund 50 Ending Balance: \$339,839 [2021-2022: \$78,080]

Budget to Actual Comparison by Fund Groups for August:

Fund 10 Ending Balance: \$8,753,451 [2021-2022: \$9,377,693]
Fund 21 Ending Balance: \$478,906 [2021-2022: \$344,590]
Fund 27 Ending Balance: -\$47,652 [2021-2022: -\$63,386]
Fund 38 Ending Balance: \$0 [2021-2022: \$0]
Fund 41 Ending Balance: \$0 [2021-2022: \$70,281]
Fund 49 Ending Balance: \$995,174 [2021-2022: \$166,696]
Fund 50 Ending Balance: \$345,642 [2021-2022: \$82,842]

Budget to Actual Comparison by Fund Groups for September:

Fund 10 Ending Balance: \$8,546,204 [2021-2022: \$8,731,179]
Fund 21 Ending Balance: \$498,980 [2021-2022: \$347,985]
Fund 27 Ending Balance: -\$380,082 [2021-2022: -\$325,788]
Fund 38 Ending Balance: \$0 [2021-2022: \$0]
Fund 41 Ending Balance: \$0 [2021-2022: \$0]
Fund 49 Ending Balance: \$996,967 [2021-2022: \$199,336]
Fund 50 Ending Balance: \$356,478 [2021-2022: \$20,203]

Budget to Actual Comparison by Fund Groups for October:

Fund 10 Ending Balance: \$6,499,118 [2021-2022: \$7,180,078]
Fund 21 Ending Balance: \$438,139 [2021-2022: \$337,323]
Fund 27 Ending Balance: -\$781,420 [2021-2022: -\$729,156]
Fund 38 Ending Balance: \$0 [2021-2022: \$0]
Fund 41 Ending Balance: \$0 [2021-2022: \$0]
Fund 49 Ending Balance: \$999,201 [2021-2022: \$199,340]
Fund 50 Ending Balance: \$347,142 [2021-2022: \$56,969]

Budget to Actual Comparison by Fund Groups for November:

Fund 10 Ending Balance: \$4,510,452 [2021-2022: \$5,317,765]
Fund 21 Ending Balance: \$458,828 [2021-2022: \$348,544]
Fund 27 Ending Balance: -\$1,039,292 [2021-2022: -\$963,743]
Fund 38 Ending Balance: \$0 [2021-2022: \$0]
Fund 41 Ending Balance: \$0 [2021-2022: \$0]
Fund 49 Ending Balance: \$1,001,972 [2021-2022: \$199,346]
Fund 50 Ending Balance: \$350,191 [2021-2022: \$76,619]

Retirements – End of 2022-2023 School Year:

Dawn Biba – WMS Guidance Counselor

Resignations:

Alexandra Coenen – CEC Class I Health Aide

Matthew Arndt – WLC Custodian

Jordan Dempsey – WHS Custodian

Hires – 2022-2023 School Year:

Salina Selle – WHS Food Service Class 3B

Erin Cady – WLC Custodian

Calan Stichman – Part-time WMS Ed. Asst.-Spec. Ed.
Tammy Larson – WLC Ed. Asst.-Spec. Ed.
Rhoda Huycke – Part-Time WHS Custodian

Extra Curricular Coaches and Advisors – 2022-2023 School Year:

Resignations:

Annette Shock – Elementary Destination Imagination Advisor
Autumn Beese – Elementary Destination Imagination Advisor
Josh Christensen – WHS Forensics Advisor
Mike Waldschmidt – 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach

Colleen Larson – Elementary Destination Imagination Advisor

WHS Volunteer Coaching Positions:

Damian Pomerence – Wrestling
Ron Mason - Wrestling

WHS Advisor Positions:

Nancy Cummings - Forensics

WHS Volunteer Advisor Positions:

Kirsten Gregory – Forensics
Jade Bautista-May – Forensics
Linda Walsh – Prom
Todd Mallasch – Curling Club
Heather Devine – Curling Club
Thomas Hansen – Curling Club

WMS Coaching Positions:

Rocky Mondello – 7th Grade Girls Basketball

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Public Comment:

None.

Review of Board Meeting Norms:

The Board reviewed their collective commitments.

Mental Health Services Provided in our District:

District Social Workers Anne Collins-Reed and Laura Rapp and Guidance Counselor/Mental Health Navigator Evelyn Kabke advised that they provide mental health partnerships with families, the schools, and the community. They assist with removing barriers to education to help our students to be successful by developing and providing District-wide mental health programs. They outlined several of the complex and chronic challenges and roles they assist students and families with.

Ms. Rapp believes that mental health is a basic human right and includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. She highlighted a few of the factors that impact our mental health, such as negative self talk, lack of basic needs, lack of support and connection, and experiencing trauma and feeling unsafe. Ms. Collins-Reed outlined ways to protect our own mental health, adding that positive support systems are provided in the District and community to help students. She outlined certain obstacles that individuals may encounter when wanting to seek mental health care, such as insurance coverage, lack of providers, wait lists for services particularly for Catalpa and Rawhide, and transportation. Ms. Collins-Reed outlined the universal support programs available for students and advised that the District offers more services and support systems to students now than she has ever seen in the past.

Ms. Rapp advised of the different ways they gather data on students which helps them to develop programming around this data, in particular relationship mapping. This begins at the kindergarten level and lists all staff (not just teachers), and added that one of the most important factors for students is having a caring and supportive adult in their lives. They concluded by advising of the many mental health services that are school-based as well as the resources that are available in the Waupaca area.

Ms. Collins-Reed, Ms. Rapp, and Ms. Kabke responded to several Board members' inquiries, specifically the availability of AODA counseling services for students; the wait lists for Catalpa and Rawhide services on site; the general length of time a student uses a service; and Telehealth services offered in the school buildings. In addition, they shared that students know who they can go to and how to contact them, and know that when they are in their offices, they are in a safe place and conversations will be kept confidential. They also advised how not having insurance or difficulties with certain insurance providers and/or deductibles can be an obstacle to students/families receiving mental health services, especially relating to AODA services.

Communications:

Donation:

Mr. Saari expressed his thanks on behalf of the District for the \$2,500 donation to the Waupaca Learning Center received from the Waupaca Thrift Store. A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Patrick Phair to accept, with gratitude, the donation as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

District Administrator's Report:

Mr. Saari advised of the following:

- Provided a timeline of meetings that will be taking place regarding the facility safety projects.
- He has had several meetings with representatives of FVTC and will be partnering with them focusing on areas to improve upon, particularly relating to courses/credits being offered and possibly using our building for certain courses.
- Shared the notes for the Agriculture Pathway and Construction Pathway meetings.
- As a token of our appreciation for all of their hard work, staff will be able to leave school after the students leave on the last day of school before break rather than staying until 4 p.m.
- He has met with the Teacher Cabinet on three occasions and shared the topics they have focused on for each meeting.
- The Rotary Club of Waupaca approved grants applied for by four of our teachers.
- He, along with Mr. Vassar and Mr. Hayek, met with the Waupaca County Safety Group regarding upcoming tabletop activities for our building safety teams.
- Our County Superintendents will be meeting with County and City law enforcement tomorrow to discuss what we're seeing and to receive guidance.
- Encouraged the Board to participate in the WASB School Perceptions self-evaluation this year.
- Shared updates from the Grant Writer, and advised that the Grant Writer has been pursuing grants related to mental health services as well.

Waupaca County Crime Stoppers:

Mr. Everett Morgan, Vice President of Crime Stoppers, shared some background on the non-profit organization, which is a citizen-backed organization responsible for the operation of the program, funding, and awards. This program helps to fight against crime but is not affiliated with any law enforcement agency. He advised that they are paying more attention now to our schools, and always

keep tipsters anonymous. At this time they are looking for feedback or interest that the Board may have regarding establishing the P3 system in our schools. P3 stands for public, police, private sector.

Detective Sergeant Bret Rodenz of the Waupaca Police Department further explained what the P3 system is. It would make it easier for tipsters to submit tips of crime, guns, drugs, or mental health situations anonymously. It is an app that could be put on all the Middle and High School students' Chromebooks. The money awards are picked up at a bank by the recipient.

The app is more user friendly and there would be no cost to the District. The app could also be put on the District's Facebook page and is available for cell phones as well.

Monitoring:

Review of State Report Cards:

Director of Teaching and Learning Mark Flaten reminded everyone that our Future and Career Readiness Foundation of Excellence pillar of our Strategic Plan focuses on growth and performance of our students. It is also important to remember that our Strategic Plan and overall focus is not just on student academics, but that our staff works very hard to ensure that our students are ready to learn and we continually look to improve. The main purpose of the DPI annual School Report Cards is to help districts utilize performance data to target their improvement efforts.

Mr. Flaten provided an overview of the District's report card, pointing out that the state report data is just one tool we use to measure student and District success. He advised that the CEC, WLC, and WMS scores were "Exceeds Expectations" and the WHS and overall District scores were "Meets Expectations". He also shared a comparison of the scores from the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years for each of the schools and overall District. He added that the trend data is only available for the past two years because the report card format changed.

Mr. Flaten advised that schools and districts receive a score for each of the following four priority areas: student achievement, student growth, target group outcomes, and on-track to graduation. He then provided additional information relating to the District's scores in each of those four areas, with the District receiving an overall score of 69.5%. Mr. Flaten shared that we have some work to do in the achievement area but we are closing the gaps in the growth area – we want to see high achievement and high growth. He added we are starting to see some of the results regarding the target-based learning expectations.

Mr. Flaten advised that the postsecondary preparation data is currently not used in determining building or district report card scores but that could change in the future. In response to Board member Phair's inquiry, Mr. Flaten advised that the low score in the advanced courses section could be because of a combination of different factors such as an incorrect course code, declining student population, and there are a lot of options available to students now.

The bottom line is that every school receives their own report card which he then discusses with the principals. He also outlined the strategies the District will use to improve the growth scores in all of our schools.

Administration:

CEC Contract Data Follow-up:

Mr. Saari provided a high level executive summary of the information and data contained in the December 9th memo to the Board relating to the Chain Exploration Center (CEC) Charter School and its contract. He emphasized that it is important to note that what matters most is the "relationship" between the School District of Waupaca Board of Education and Administration and the CEC Governance Council, and that despite everyone's best efforts to create a clear contract, there will always be differences in interpretation.

He explained that creating and maintaining a charter school is a lot of work and is a decision that should not be taken lightly or made quickly. The bottom line regarding return on investment – it is a complex task that should be carefully thought out and monitored. It is critical that the requestor and authorizer agree on the methods and measurables that will be used to monitor and evaluate the success of the charter school. He asked the Board to consider what characteristics make a high quality school, what are the ways to monitor and/or assess each characteristic, and should these characteristics be a part of every school in our District or just one.

Mr. Saari advised there are options with regard to the CEC contract – we can continue with the CEC operating as a charter school with a governance council and a contract (from 1 to 5 years); or we can continue operating the CEC without a charter contract, keeping many aspects of the CEC unchanged.

Mr. Saari pointed out that as previously mentioned, a charter school contract is about a partnership between the authorizer, the SDW Board of Education, and the CEC Governance Council. Yet the CEC Governance Council has approved a new contract without SDW Board of Education or District Administration involvement. He advised that the District will need time to create a draft contract.

He asked that the Board please keep in mind that because having a charter school is additional work for the SDW and the CEC Government Council, the question then becomes how much additional work can we sustainably afford and are payoffs worth the cost. He asked the Board to consider the necessary commitments versus the payoffs of effectively running a charter school.

Mr. Saari reiterated that the Administration is not recommending that we close the CEC, as we are continuing with the safety entrance renovations. However, the Administration is questioning the need for the charter school contract as we believe the CEC can exist in much the same way as it does currently without the additional requirement of having a Governance Council and a contract.

The purpose today is to have a discussion and answer any questions the Board may have regarding this additional information. We may need to schedule another retreat to discuss it in more detail.

Board President Johnson reminded everyone that because of the open meetings law and the fact that this was a posted agenda item as CEC contract data follow-up, any discussion or questions must be related to the data only.

Board member Betty Manion had some concerns regarding the proposed survey being sent out by a third party to CEC staff. But again, Board President Johnson reiterated that any discussion must be regarding the data.

Board members Dale Feldt and Molly McDonald requested that the open enrollment trends and students continuing in the program be given as percentages rather than numbers.

Board President Johnson advised that since the additional information requested has been provided, the next steps would be to schedule another meeting to discuss various aspects of the contract. A draft contract would then have to be reviewed by legal counsel, with Board approval following that.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan:

Mr. Saari presented the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan of the School District. This is a bi-annual report that is required as part of the ESSER III dollars. Mr. Saari advised that all of the previous information in the plan remains the same, and shared the updates to the plan made as of today. At this time the community has the opportunity to provide any input they may have.

Public Comment: None.

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Molly McDonald to approve the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Board Reports:

Student Representative Report:

Student Representative Rylie Nusz advised that the MadJazzers started performing for the holiday season and the Madrigal Dinner was recently held with Mr. Johnson as guest king. Student Council went to the WLC and read to the K-3rd graders. She also spoke with the visitors from Tajikistan regarding the students' view on online learning during COVID. She also advised of the many events she has attended through FFA.

School Visits or Other Board Reports:

Board member Feldt advised that he also met with the Tajikistan representatives who were English and technology teachers. Board member Phair shared that he visited the CEC. He is also working with Ms. Reeves and Ms. Holterman on a school play being put on in February. Board member Klismet shared that he also attended the Madrigal Dinner. Board member Manion shared that she went to the Authors & Actors event at WMS, and also attended the CEC project night and Suzuki concert.

Upcoming Meetings and Other Activities:

The Board was reminded of the following upcoming meetings and other activities and was asked to check the updated notices recently sent out:

December 13, 2022 – Holiday Gathering – Immediately Following Meeting

January 3, 2023 – Building and Grounds Committee Meeting – 5:30 p.m.

January 10, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.

January 17-20, 2023 – WASB Wisconsin State Education Convention

WASB Resolutions:

Board member Phair advised that he is the WASB Delegate and asked the Board to review the WASB Resolutions and let him know if they have any questions or concerns that they would like him to take to the State Education Convention in January

Instructional Committee:

Recommendation to approve three new WHS courses (Health, Safety and Nutrition; Machining; and English 9) for the 2023-2024 school year:

A motion was made by Molly McDonald, per Committee recommendation, to approve three new WHS courses, Health, Safety and Nutrition; Machining; and English 9, for the 2023-2024 school year as presented at the Committee meeting. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Steve Klismet to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Stephen Johnson, President
Board of Education

Date _____

Elizabeth Manion, Clerk
Board of Education

Date _____