

Please note, these are the notes written by Board President, Rachel Witt for her reference to use while speaking at the Jun 12, 2023 board meeting. These are not the exact words spoken at that meeting.

Agenda Item 15

As you are all aware, we have provided the YouTube generated transcripts to the board for review in this month's packet materials.

First, I'd like to take a look at the current effective policy we have in place. We have had this policy and our current minutes reviewed by legal counsel, twice, and have confirmed that this policy and our current practice does meet or exceed the legal requirements for meetings.

As additional information, I have pulled some side by side text comparisons for the board's consideration with regard to any consideration of revision to our current policy to allow for members to submit their commentary and written statement as part of the official meeting minutes.

Example 1

Neutral language to report factual transactions.

Column 1 is the exact words as taken from the transcript

Column 2 is a description of words spoken taken from Mrs. Mumford's commentary.

A change of as few as one or two words, in this case, from "requested" to "directed," can change the tone and meaning of what was said.

The third column is the minutes of that exchange, which indicates the actual words that were spoken. In this case, "discussion ensued," which would , be available in entirety to any concerned listener by watching video, listening to audio recording and via transcript (if this method is the desire of the board)

Example 2

A need for accuracy of content in minutes.

Column 1 is the transcript of Mr. Wong's comments from our April meeting discussion on whether two policies designated for single reading should instead fall under the two-reading process.

Column 2 is the commentary Mr. Wang submitted to be added to the official minutes. The statement submitted by Mr. Wang to the official record does not actually match the content of what he stated on the matter in the meeting. In fact, it more closely matches a combination of comments made by Mrs. Mumford and Dr. Yin during the meeting; however, items two and three on the list were not actually said in the meeting.

Example 3

If we decide as a board to include member commentary in our minutes, we should also consider by what means we would correct this commentary, and if we want to put ourselves in a position to discuss comments made by members in our public meetings for the purpose of including those comments in formal meeting minutes.

Columns 1 and 2 are an example of language used by Mrs. Mumford in her commentary of the February meeting (distributed to the community via her personal website) that resulted in a significant amount of negative communication to the board from our community and in particular the teacher group affected. In purple is her original comment; in red is her corrected comment. The changed area is highlighted. Both the original comment and the corrected comment received negative community feedback. In column 3 is my response as board chair to her request to send an apology.

Example 4

Finally, in example four, I offer you a side by side comparison to consider the Implications of potentially misleading or dishonest content or inference to be added if we allow addition of "commentary" to official meeting records.

Column 1 is the transcript of Dr. Yin's engagement report from May regular meeting.

Column 2 is the transcript of Mr. Marley's engagement report from May regular meeting.

As you can see, Dr. Yin gave her entire report and concluded and then was asked by the board chair for a report on a meeting that was known to have taken place and is of great importance to the board as it relates to special education in our schools. Dr. Yin has also just taken on the role for GLASS and gave an enthusiastic report in our April meeting. Mr. Marley has served on the RDC for years, has a pattern of communication, regular participation and communication and began his report by saying he had not attended the most recent meeting.

On the next page:

Column 1 Mrs. Mumford's commentary description of reports by Dr. Yin and Mr. Marley.

Column 2 Proposed official minutes of reports by Dr. Yin and Mr. Marley.

Mrs. Cronk did kindly reach out to other school corporations who use a transcript method with the following response:

Many of the schools that responded to my question take the recording of the meeting and then personally transcribe from that recording word for word. Others have the recording and just outline the highlights in the minutes. One school corporation uses an Olympus digital recorder with a USB connection and downloads the file after the meeting. Another school corporation used an application called Audio Note and also takes notes manually during the meeting. No one indicated that they pay anyone special to transcribe the meeting.

It is my recommendation that we continue with the live stream/video option as well as the audio recording for our minutes. That we continue to provide the community with meeting minutes in alignment with our policy and state law, and, if desired by this board that we consider an unedited transcript option that can be provided for nominal effort using existing technology, for community members who may desire written information.

Transcript of words spoken by Rachel Witt 5/8 meeting with time stamps

01:16:35.159 --> 01:16:40.500
Dr Greiner could I also ask you please
01:16:37.380 --> 01:16:41.280
to reach out to
01:16:40.500 --> 01:16:44.400
um
01:16:41.280 --> 01:16:47.239
Mrs Shelby Johnson to provide the
board
01:16:44.400 --> 01:16:47.239
with some
01:16:47.580 --> 01:16:51.540
description of appropriate language
and
01:16:49.860 --> 01:16:54.000
reference to our students who have
01:16:51.540 --> 01:16:55.260
disability so that we all as a board May
01:16:54.000 --> 01:16:57.360
grow in our
01:16:55.260 --> 01:16:59.100
ability to communicate about all of our
01:16:57.360 --> 01:17:02.159
students in a way that's respectful of
01:16:59.100 --> 01:17:06.420
them and respects their dignity

Dacia Mumford's post meeting commentary. (By her definition, meeting details are in normal text, her commentary is in italics.)

Witt directed Greiner to have Shelby Johnson provide the board with a description of appropriate language to use when speaking about students with developmental disabilities. *It was clear that Wang had good intentions, though it wasn't clear if he was referring to students with mental health challenges or students with developmental disabilities or both. Rather than asking him, Witt announced that the board needs training on using appropriate language. It was an uncomfortable moment. I understand the importance of using appropriate language, but was disappointed by the way Wang, a non-native English speaker, was treated in a public setting. Wang was asking about an important topic and I appreciated the information that Roth provided in response.*

Meeting minutes (draft prepared for vote) for this item.

D. Student Code of Conduct Handbook Revisions

Recommendation: Mrs. Roth recommended the Board of School Trustees approve the changes/updates to the Student Code of Conduct Handbooks for all three schools (WLES, WLIS and JSHS). The proposed revisions can be viewed on the website www.wl.k12.in.us (view all documents / School Board Information / Board Meeting Documents / 2023 / 2023_05_08).

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the recommended changes/updates to the Student Code of Conduct Handbooks for all three schools.

***Motion by: Mr. Schott
Seconded by: Mr. Wang
Vote: 7 of 7***

***Yes: Witt, Marley, Austin, Schott, Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None;
The motion passed.***

<Dr. Greiner asked clarifying question here>

would

01:17:02.159 --> 01:17:08.460

you develop a develop a perhaps a

01:17:06.420 --> 01:17:10.860

some type of resource for us to review

01:17:08.460 --> 01:17:12.960

as a board so we as individual members

01:17:10.860 --> 01:17:15.719

could grow in our understanding of

01:17:12.960 --> 01:17:20.540

appropriate language and speaking of our

01:17:15.719 --> 01:17:20.540

students with developmental disability

01:17:20.780 --> 01:17:24.480

might be an area of growth for all of us

01:17:23.219 --> 01:17:27.300

too

01:17:27.300 --> 01:17:31.739

when we're when we're speaking of these

01:17:29.100 --> 01:17:33.840

issues in our meetings

Laurence Wang comment in meeting as transcribed with time stamps. (In Blue) Please note that this comment was in response to Agenda Item 05, however, when this comment was given, the vote was complete on item 05 and the board was considering item 06.

member

12800:06:32,100 --> 00:06:37,080

Wong I would suggest to our second

12900:06:35,160 --> 00:06:39,479

reading about that both of them

because

13000:06:37,080 --> 00:06:43,020

there's our bylaw so we just follow our

13100:06:39,479 --> 00:06:45,780

bad laws and also we can collect the

13200:06:43,020 --> 00:06:48,060

feedback from communities and we

don't

13300:06:45,780 --> 00:06:50,639

need to do things rush we need to do

13400:06:48,060 --> 00:06:53,100

things uh right so that's my comment

13500:06:50,639 --> 00:06:55,740

Rachel Witt response in meeting

thank you okay just to be clear

remember

13600:06:53,100 --> 00:06:57,360

Wong um item five agenda item five is

Meeting Minutes (Member Wong's submitted written commentary is in blue.)

Recommendation: Dr. Greiner recommended that the Board of School Trustees approve the revisions to the following policy. • Policy 0171.3 – Secretary Dr. Greiner conferred with WLCSC legal counsel regarding the duties of the Board Secretary. Per advice, of legal counsel, substantive revisions were made to the policy to reflect the actual duties of the Board Secretary. Discussion ensued.

**Member Wang's discussions:*

1) The updates of this policy are substantive (all existing clauses have been replaced). Per school bylaw, such change needs 2 readings before Board voting.

2) The clause C in the repealed policy may need to keep unchanged in the updated policy since, as far I as I understand, the IC requires the secretary of a governmental entity (including school corp.) with long term (> 5 years) debt to publish an Annual Financial Report.

3) Per Indiana Code, the Superintendent could recommend a school employee as Board Executive

Transcript continued

13700:06:55,740 --> 00:06:59,759

already closed we're now only discussing

13800:06:57,360 --> 00:07:01,259

agenda item number six just to be clear

13900:06:59,759 --> 00:07:03,300

you referenced both I just want to make

14000:07:01,259 --> 00:07:06,319

sure that's clear okay

14100:07:03,300 --> 00:07:06,319

all right

Wang Submitted notes, continued

Secretary, and the School Board approves the recommendation so that we can officially establish the position of Executive Secretary for our School Board.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the revision/updates to the following policy:

- Policy 0171.3 – Secretary 4 Motion by: Mr. Marley Seconded by: Mr. Schott
Vote: 5 of 7 Yes: Witt, Marley, Austin, Schott, Yin; No: Mumford, Wang. The motion passed

Commentary written by Mrs. Mumford and distributed to the community following our regular meeting (email dated 2/25)

I wrote a summary of the February school board meeting that I have included at the end. In the summary I originally said:

“There is a pattern in our school district where classroom teachers want to move out of the classroom while remaining a teacher covered by the union contract. A PE teacher position is a sought-after job where the teacher does not have to deal with grading homework, holding case conferences, etc. There are other similar positions (for example, the librarians) who are paid the same as classroom teachers, but have fewer responsibilities. I think we need to do a better job of supporting classroom teachers and providing incentives so they will stay in the classroom.”

This was insensitive. I never intended to imply that specials teachers are less important, though I see how what I wrote could easily be interpreted that way. I replaced that passage with the following that I think better explains my point:

“There is a pattern in our school district where classroom teachers want to move out of the classroom while

remaining a teacher covered by the union contract. When a specials position (librarian, physical education, etc.) is posted, it is a sought-after job and many of our classroom teachers apply. However, when a classroom teacher position is posted, none of the specials teachers apply because they are already in a more preferred position. The only internal applications for classroom teacher positions come from our special education teachers, but when a special education position is posted, none of the classroom or specials teachers apply. There are some positions that require an additional certification, and so that could have some influence, but my point is that a specials teacher is generally a more preferred position than a classroom teacher. I think we need to do a better job of supporting classroom teachers and providing incentives in order to keep our teachers.”

I would like to send an apology to the staff, and would like to know how to go about that.

Respectfully, Dacia

Response to Dacia Mumford from Rachel Witt as the board chair (email dated 2/25)

Dacia,

Your commentary is your personal correspondence. It is not the role or responsibility of the school administration or school board to distribute any member’s personal correspondence. I would suggest that you distribute whatever apology or correction you would like to make via the same method(s) you distributed the original document.

Rachel

Transcript of Dr. Yin's Engagement Report from 5.8.23 regular meeting

02:08:26.159 --> 02:08:32.219

I'm Dr Yin so the main main issue that I really is throughout school district is afterschool program which we have covered earlier and the other activities related to our school in on April 17th and under the supervision of our environmental science teacher and the picture and our student Volunteers in from high school removed some unwanted species near uh near the Kingston entrance in Happy Hollow park and our district becomes the first school system in Indiana designated for three composite k212 by the Arbor Day Foundation another event in the park is on April 28th and more than 200 volunteers Um pick up trashes near the Wabash River and so there are so many and very overwhelming and this activity and basically the volunteer working for the whole morning and picked up a whole dumpster without the trash is near the Wabash River those trashes will likely go into the river if they are not picked and this activity is how the area twice a year one in April one in Spring one in Fall so everybody's welcome to join it in the future um the the farmers market is open and from this this week and

02:10:06.060 --> 02:10:09.960

um Dr Ian I believe there was a glass meeting as well during this time period were you able to report on that tonight some glass the special education did you did you have a report on that

I didn't go to the last time was there a Meeting

uh yes there is a was a meeting did you did they have a quorum Dr Greiner we did it was on I'm sorry it's okay real quick I didn't uh Mrs Julian we send the glass skin again so she can Mark her calendar if at any point you're not able to attend um please let us know uh um officers are always happy I'll remind all board members officers are always happy to try and pick up meetings if you're unable to attend I know Mrs Austin has a degree in special education and she will happily pick that up if it doesn't fit your schedule

Transcript of Mr. Marley's Engagement Report from 5.8.23 regular meeting

02:11:33.480 --> 02:11:39.300

and Mr Marley uh yeah I was unable to attend the last RDC meeting and there's another one scheduled for Wednesday of next week so I'll be there gave you a full report one thing we did Miss while Pride was on 413 uh celebration occurred at West Lafayette Country Club uh we honored Sonia Angel uh Mayor John Dennis Dave Kelso Gary Layman Chris ho and Joseph Krauss really well attended great uh celebration and really uh cool to see what these people have done since theyn left West Lafayette it is Corporation so

Meeting Commentary by Dacia Mumford as distributed by her via personal website and email.

Yin said that a group of students and Mrs. Hipsher, Jr/Sr HS Environment Science teacher, removed some invasive species at Happy Hollow Park. WLCSC is the first school district in Indiana to be designated as a K-12 tree campus by the Arbor Day Foundation. Park and Rec had a Detrash the Wabash event on April 28. She also noted that the farmers market is now open for the season. Witt asked Yin about attending a GLASS meeting. Yin said she wasn't aware that there had been a meeting. Witt asked Roberta Julian to send a calendar of GLASS meetings to Yin and reminded all members that if they cannot attend to let her know so that someone else can attend. It was an uncomfortable exchange.

Marley said that he had not been able to attend the previous Redevelopment Committee meeting but said that he would attend the next one. Witt did not comment about him missing this meeting. I don't like the way Witt speaks to Yin and Wang during public meetings. From their reports and the questions they ask, it's obvious to me that they dedicate a large amount of time to the schools. They deserve to be treated in the same way that Marley is.

Report summaries included in the draft minutes presented to the board for review

Dr. Yin

The after-school program was covered earlier in the meeting.

On April 17th, under the supervision of our Environmental Science Teacher Andi Hipsher, student volunteers removed some unwanted species near the Kingston entrance in Happy Hollow Park.

On Friday, April 28th, the West Lafayette Parks Department and the West Lafayette Tree Friends hosted their annual Arbor Day Celebration with planting 16 trees.

Over two hundred volunteers worked together to "Detrash the Wabash" on Saturday, April 22nd. De-Trash Day cleans over a nine mile stretch of the Wabash River. A second clean-up will take place in the fall.

The Farmer's Market has opened for the season. The market is open Wednesdays in Cumberland Park from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. May-October.

Mr. Marley

The Redevelopment Committee will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, May 17th at 8:30 a.m. in Margerum City Hall.

Wall of Pride Alumni Reception was held on Thursday, April 13th at the Lafayette CountryClub. Inductees honored were:

- Sonia Yris Angell – 1983
- John Dennis – 1977
- Dr. Chris Ho – 1984
- David Kelso – 1963
- Gary Lehman – 1970
- Joseph Krause – Educator

The event was very well-attended and a great celebration.