

# MINUTES

## WEST LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Happy Hollow Building, LGI Room

1200 N. Salisbury Street

West Lafayette, Indiana

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Monday, November 13, 2023

**PRESENT:** Mrs. Rachel Witt; Mr. Bradley Marley; Mrs. Amy Austin; Mr. Thomas Schott; Dr. Yue Yin, Mrs. Dacia Mumford; Mr. Laurence Wang; Dr. Shawn Greiner, Superintendent; Mrs. Anna Roth, Assistant Superintendent and Mrs. Michelle Cronk, CFO

President Witt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Witt expressed sincere appreciation to the community for their support of the WLCSC Referendum. Special thanks to the YES Committee Co-Chairs, David Purpura and Tanya Finkbiner along with George Lyle, Cathy Cavanaugh and Alan Karpick for their leadership, skills, time and talent.

Gratitude was also extended to Mr. Jeff Dehler and his team at DehlerPR for guiding us through the process.

### I. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS – JSBS “Student Writing Mentors”

- ✚ Ryan Chang – Sophomore
- ✚ Natalie David – Junior
- ✚ Kayla Xu – Junior
- ✚ Jerry Gu – Senior
- ✚ Jannah Noshi – Senior
- ✚ Catherine Wilcox - Senior

CONGRATULATIONS! We’re so PROUD of you! Keep up the fantastic work!

### II. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Joanne Zhang – Community Member  
Graham Whitcomb - JSBS Teacher and WLEA President

### III. ROUTINE BUSINESS

A. A motion was made to approve the Agenda for the November 13, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees.

Discussion ensued.

*Motion by: Mr. Marley*

*Seconded by: Mr. Schott*

*Vote: 4 of 7*

*Yes: Witt, Marley, Austin, Schott; No: Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.*

Mrs. Mumford made a motion to add an Agenda item titled Policies to discuss various policy topics.

Discussion ensued.

**Motion by: Mrs. Mumford      Seconded by: Dr. Yin      Vote: 3 of 7**

*Yes: Mumford, Yin, Wang; No: Witt, Marley, Austin, Schott; The motion failed.*

Dr. Yin made a motion to change Agenda item 14 “Legal Services Review: Policy” from a motion to information only.

Discussion ensued.

**Motion by: Dr. Yin      Seconded by: Mr. Wang      Vote: 3 of 7**

*Yes: Yin, Wang, Mumford; No: Witt, Marley, Austin, Schott; The motion failed.*

**Mrs. Witt returned to the main motion.**

**B. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held on October 9, 2023.**

Discussion ensued.

**Motion by: Mrs. Austin      Seconded by: Mr. Marley      Vote: 5 of 7**

*Yes: Witt, Marley, Austin, Schott, Wang; No: Yin, Mumford; The motion passed.*

Mr. Wang made a motion to include public comments in the meeting minutes.

Discussion ensued.

**Motion by: Mr. Wang      Seconded by: Dr. Yin      Vote: 3 of 7**

*Yes: Wang, Yin, Mumford; No: Witt, Marley, Austin, Schott; The motion failed.*

**Mrs. Witt returned to the main motion.**

**C. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Work Session of the Board of School Trustees held on November 10, 2023.**

Discussion ensued.

**Motion by: Mrs. Austin      Seconded by: Mr. Marley      Vote: 4 of 7**

*Yes: Witt, Marley, Austin, Schott; No: Mumford, Wang, Yin; The motion passed.*

Mrs. Mumford made a motion to include more detailed information in the Work Session Minutes.

Discussion ensued.

*Motion by: Mrs. Mumford      Seconded by: Mr. Wang      Vote: 3 of 7*

*Yes: Mumford, Yin, Wang; No: Witt, Marley, Austin, Schott; The motion failed.*

**Mrs. Witt returned to the main motion.**

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Early Childhood Education Study**

Mrs. Erin Easter provided the Board of School Trustees with an update regarding the Early Childhood Education Study. She stated that there is not enough Early Childhood Education to sufficiently meet the needs that parents have within the community.

Discussions have included the following topics:

- Community Investment
- Affordability
- Quality of Care
- Type of Education (play, colors, numbers, shoe-tying, etc.)
- Level of Education (preparing for Kindergarten)

This study is not just for the West Lafayette Community School Corporation, but the Tippecanoe School Corporation is also involved since many of their schools are in West Lafayette.

The needs of both school corporations will be explored by:

- Quantitative Data Analysis
- Qualitative Analysis
- Cost Modeling
- Document and Literature Review

The next phase will be reaching out to the community and holding focus groups along with conducting a survey.

Discussion ensued.

- *At 6:59 p.m., Mrs. Witt motioned for a 5-minute break.*
- *At 7:05 p.m., Mrs. Witt called the meeting back to order.*

**B. Cell Tower Presentation**

Fortune Wireless provided an informational presentation regarding a proposal to place a Wireless Communication Facility (Cell Tower for Vertical Bridge/T-Mobile) either at the Bob Friend Ball Park or near the West Lafayette Athletic Complex to provide cell service to the area. The client would like to build a stealth tower in a location that might work for the school district with an overall height of approximately 90'. They are seeking a new location to place their tower from its current location which is on the West Lafayette water tower near the George E. Lommel Park.

This was an introductory presentation, no votes were taken, negotiations did not take place and pricing was not discussed.

Discussion ensued.

**C. School Board Policy 2520 – Revision (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

Policy 2520 – Selection of Materials, Curricular Materials and Equipment was presented for a first

reading with proposed revisions. This policy states that the School Board of Trustees shall provide curricular materials and equipment, within budgetary constraints, to implement the School Corporation's educational goals and objectives and to meet students' needs. The primary objective of such curricular materials and equipment shall be to enrich, support and implement the educational program of the school. This policy is to ensure the WLCSC is compliant with I.C. 20-26-3-5 and I.C. 20-20-5-4.

Policy 2520 will be included on the December Agenda for a second reading and vote.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Wang made a motion to hold an Open-Door Meeting, prior to the December Regular Board Meeting, to discuss the content that has been shared with the Board and the Public regarding Policy 2520.

Discussion ensued.

***Motion by: Mr. Wang      Seconded by: Mrs. Mumford      Vote: 4 of 7***

*Yes: Wang, Mumford, Yin, Witt; No: Marley, Austin; Abstention: Schott; The motion passed.*

**D. 2024-2025 School Calendar (amended)**

***Recommendation:*** The Calendar Discussion Representatives met and proposed adding a 2-hour early dismissal on Wednesday, October 23, 2024. The PSAT will be given that morning, and Parent-Teacher Conferences can be scheduled for the afternoon. Students would receive lunch prior to dismissal.

Discussion ensued.

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the amended 2024-2025 School Calendar as presented.***

***Motion by: Mrs. Austin      Seconded by: Mr. Schott      Vote: 7 of 7***

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

Dr. Yin requested that a link be added to the bottom of the calendar for easy reference to the following:

- Attendance - Policy 5200 (g)
- Absences for Religious Instruction - Policy 5223

**E. 2025-2026 School Calendar**

***Recommendation:*** The Calendar Discussion Representatives met and provided a proposed 2025-2026 school calendar. This calendar "mirrors" the previous school year with the addition of a 2-hour early dismissal on Wednesday, October 22, 2025. The PSAT will be administered that morning, and Parent-Teacher Conferences scheduled for the afternoon. Students will receive lunch prior to dismissal.

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar as presented.***

***Motion by: Mr. Marley      Seconded by: Mrs. Austin      Vote: 7 of 7***

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

**F. Personnel Report**

**Recommendation:** Dr. Greiner recommended that the Board of School Trustees approve all information contained in the personnel report.

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the names and positions reflected in the Personnel Report including the update as previously mentioned in the meeting.***

***Motion by: Mrs. Austin***

***Seconded by: Mr. Schott***

***Vote: 7 of 7***

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

**G. Stem Grant Professional Development Update**

Mrs. Roth provided an update regarding the Stem Grant Professional Development. She reported that in September 2022, the West Lafayette Junior and Senior High School was recognized by the Indiana Department of Education for excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. The honor of this recognition came with an award of \$250,000 for professional development and \$250,000 for equipment and supplies. What our West Side teachers have done with this opportunity has been nothing short of amazing. All teachers K-12 were given the opportunity to participate in arranged opportunities for professional development or to submit independent proposals for professional development which would best enhance their skills and teaching. A full year has been taken to work through professional development proposals, and some proposals continue. Grant funds were used to pay for professional development opportunities and to ensure that teachers working above and beyond their typical duties were provided with stipends. Mrs. Roth acknowledged that we are forever grateful for the professionalism of our teachers and their dedication to our students.

Discussion ensued.

**H. Performance Reports**

Mrs. Roth provided an update to the school performance report. In lieu of issuing letter grades for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years, HEA 1591 requires the IDOE to develop a school performance report for public and state accredited non-public schools to post on their websites. The report for each West Lafayette school is posted and can be viewed by going to the District Main Website > Academics > Performance Report. The report cards replace the state's previous accountability system in which the state assigned A through F grades. School grades have been effectively suspended since 2018, when Indiana shifted from ISTEP to a new state standardized test (ILEARN and SAT) and experienced the COVID-19 pandemic. A-F school grades are still required in the state code. Under the new law, however, the IDOE will issue "null" grades for each school for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years, as it has since 2018. Under the new law, IDOE is also charged with providing the Indiana General Assembly with future accountability recommendations.

Discussion ensued.

**I. WLJSHS Door Mechanical Upgrade**

**Recommendation:** The exterior doors at the West Lafayette JSHS need upgrades in order to enhance safety and efficiency, including new weather stripping and mechanicals. Three quotes, from local vendors, were received with the lowest quote from Mulhaupt in the amount of \$68,131. Mrs. Cronk requested approval for Mulhaupt to be awarded the job so that work can be completed as soon as their schedule allows. The project will be funded using remaining construction funds for the high school or the Operations Fund.

Discussion ensued.

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the upgrades to the WLJSHS exterior doors as presented.***

**Motion by: Mr. Wang**

**Seconded by: Mrs. Austin**

**Vote: 7 of 7**

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

**J. Employee Classified and Administration Wage Increase**

**Recommendation:** Mrs. Cronk recommended that the Board of School Trustees approve a 5% wage increase for classified staff that will go into effect beginning with day worked on the January 19, 2024 pay and 3.5% increase for administrative staff for the 2023-2024 contract. The total cost of the 2023-2024 classified and administrative raises will be approximately \$300,000.

In addition, since the Master Teacher Contract was approved bargained for a two-year period, it is recommended that classified staff receive a 3% wage increase that will go into effect beginning with days worked on the January 20, 2025 pay and a 3% wage increase for administrative staff for the 2024-2025 contract. The total cost of the 2024-2025 classified and administrative raises will be approximately \$200,000.

In order to be eligible for the raises, administrative and classified staff must have worked at least 120 days in the school year prior and received an evaluation rating of effective or highly effective.

Discussion ensued.

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the classified and administrative wage increases for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year/contract as presented.***

**Motion by: Mr. Wang**

**Seconded by: Mr. Marley**

**Vote: 7 of 7**

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

**K. Youth Baseball Lease Agreement**

**Recommendation:** Mrs. Cronk presented an updated Youth Baseball Lease Agreement for the Board's consideration. The updated lease requests the WLCSC add the property insurance under their current plan since an individual policy is costly for the League. Church Church Hittle Antrim added language from the recent lease amendment as well as changes to the insurance section. The League will be required to provide liability coverage and will reimburse the WLCSC for the pro-rated cost of covering the property under the WLCSC plan. The new term of the lease will begin on December 1, 2023 and continue for three years.

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the Youth Baseball Lease Agreement as presented.***

**Motion by: Mr. Schott**

**Seconded by: Mrs. Austin**

**Vote: 7 of 7**

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

**L. Accounts Payable/Finance Update**

**Recommendation:** Mrs. Cronk recommended that the Board of School Trustees approve the audited claims in the report.

The total claims paid:

- Corporation Claims – \$3,823,991.02
- WVEC Claims – \$250,695.71
- Total Claims Paid – \$4,074,686.73

*A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the audited vouchers as presented.*

*Motion by: Mr. Wang*

*Seconded by: Mrs. Austin*

*Vote: 7 of 7*

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

**M. Legal Services Review: Policy**

**Recommendation:** Currently, the WLCSC has a contract with NEOLA who licenses certain modified versions of Templates for Board Bylaws and Policies, and modified versions of the Templates for Administrative Guidelines and Forms, which are referred to as Corporation Approved Editions of the Administrative Guidelines and Forms. The WLCSC Administration would like to consider utilizing the school's law firm of Church Church Hittle Antrim (CCHA) to provide direction on Board Bylaws, Policies and Administrative Guidelines and Forms.

Discussion ensued.

*A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve changing from NEOLA to Church Church Hittle Antrim (CCHA) to provide direction on Board Bylaws, Policies and Administrative Guidelines and Forms.*

*Motion by: Mrs. Austin*

*Seconded by: Mr. Schott*

*Vote: 4 of 7*

*Yes: Witt, Marley, Austin, Schott; No: Yin, Mumford; Abstention: Wang; The motion passed.*

**VI. INFORMATION TO THE BOARD - Mrs. Witt**

Mrs. Witt thanked all members who attended the ISBA Fall Conference and for submitting their reports (Witt, Austin and Mumford).

**VII. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

**Dr. Greiner**

**Referendum**

I want to thank our community including patrons who voted YES to the referendum. We appreciate the work of the YES committee (Dr. Purpura, Tanya Finkbiner and Alan Karpick for their leadership roles), Board Members, Administrators and Teachers for the work and effort put into the Referendum Campaign to ensure voters had access to information allowing for an informed vote.

- 80.4 percent approval is impressive; we were among the best in the state as several did not pass.

To our Community:

- Thank you for supporting our students and families, and our hard-working staff.
- Thank you for believing in the continued success of our schools as a reflection of our thriving community.
- We cannot take for granted the overwhelming support of the community.
  - We recognize not everyone voted yes
  - Whether for financial hardships or for feelings on nonsupport for the schools; we will continue to grow and learn in our efforts to be the best for our students and we will pledge to continue and be transparent and fiscally responsible.

**Principal Search Update**

- Posting: We are well into the posting of the position.
  - Indiana Organizations such as Indiana Association of School Principals, Department of Education Job Board, Indiana Association of Public-School Superintendents, and even the National Association of Secondary School Principals. We are utilizing social media to spread the word, too.
- We have collected information from stakeholders through a survey.
  - We also met with high school staff members last week in a voluntary staff meeting to take questions and understand perspectives.

- We are in the process of assembling an interview committee for round one and round two.
  - Round One: Includes Teachers, Board Member Representation, and Admin Representation.
  - Round Two: We will add Student and Parent Representation.
    - Mrs. Sheffield has assisted with Student Representation (thank you).
    - We have asked current parent council president and previous parent council president to represent parents (thank you).
    - All Board members, who wish to, will participate in Round Two (several board members also represent a parent perspective).
- Round One Interviews: Week of December 18, 2023.
- Round Two Interviews: Week of January 9, 2024.
- The goal is still to have a preferred candidate to the board in February.
- Start Date Goal is still July 1, 2024.

**Mr. Schott**

The *Devil's Advocate* alumni newsletter will be mailed later this month.

The West Lafayette High School Alumni Association is hosting an alumni reception at Arni's Restaurant in Indianapolis on Wednesday evening, November 29<sup>th</sup>. It will be hosted by WLSEF and members of the alumni committee: Brad Cohen, Jon Speaker and Dan Walbaum.

WLSEF is partnering with Mrs. Sheffield, Director of Counseling at the JSHS, to host a scholarship information night on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the LGI Room. The purpose of this information session is to promote scholarships that are available through the Foundation and other sources in the community.

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, WLSEF hosted 40 WLCSC retirees for lunch at the Whittaker Inn. Many thanks to Dr. Greiner for sharing school news with the group. It was a fun and enjoyable event.

**Dr. Yin**

The Parks and Recreation Department has proposed a new rate for part-time employees and are recruiting employees (instructors and coaches). Teenagers are welcome to apply for positions.

**Mr. Marley**

A Redevelopment Commission Meeting was held on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The spending plan was reviewed and the City of West Lafayette has 5 TIF Districts which will generate over \$26 million dollars which is not an insignificant amount. Of that, approximately \$17 million is dedicated towards debt repayment (examples: Wellness Center and Morton City Building). The balance of almost \$8.9 million will apply to Capital needs (examples: police cars, fire trucks, equipment and so forth).

**Mr. Wang**

Attended a webinar on Budgeting and Financial Oversight for School Board Members. It was a good summary regarding School Finance and what School Board Members should know.

**Mrs. Mumford**

The Public Schools Foundation held their Grant reception last Thursday which I served on. There were no teachers from our school district who submitted any grant proposals.

**Mrs. Austin**

The Board-Teacher discussion was brief, but productive as usual.

Mrs. Austin was unable to attend the Fall ISBA.

Mrs. Austin was able to travel to Washington, D.C., as a chaperone, with the Social Studies Department



and was able to see the President speak at Arlington in honor of Veteran's Day. Other dignitaries included Pete Buttigieg, the First Lady, the Second Gentleman and the Vice President. It was an amazing opportunity.

**VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 6 p.m. – Executive Session, Central Office (BOARD MEMBERS ONLY)  
Friday, December 8, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. – Work Session (IF NEEDED), Happy Hollow Building, LGI Room  
Monday, December 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting, Happy Hollow Building, LGI Room

**IX. UPCOMING DATES of INTEREST**

Wednesday, November 22 - Friday, November 24, 2023: Thanksgiving Break (no school)  
Friday, December 22, 2023 - 1<sup>st</sup> Semester ends  
Monday, December 25, 2023 - Winter Break begins  
Monday, January 8, 2024 - School Resumes / 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester begins

**X. INFORMATION for the PUBLIC**

Board documents will be posted on the WLCSC website as early as Friday afternoon and no later than noon on the Monday prior to the Board meeting.

Video, audio, and written transcript will be posted within 7-10 days following the Board meeting.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

*Motion by: Mrs. Austin*

*Seconded by: Mr. Wang*

*Vote: 7 of 7*

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Please note: a transcript of a meeting is a non-edited electronic transcription generated by YouTube from the livestream of the meeting. These have not been reviewed or edited for accuracy and ***should not*** be considered official minutes of the meeting. Typographical errors and omissions should be expected.

Documents are available on the WLCSC website <https://www.wl.k12.in.us/> Recent Documents / View All Documents / School Board Information / Board Meeting Documents / 2023 / 2023\_11\_13