

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, December 11, 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 6:02 p.m.

President Witt reminded the Board of School Trustees of Robert's Rules of Order.

I. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

WLES – Good Citizenship Club (Life-skill of Courage)

- ✚ Da'Mari Almon
- ✚ S'Rinity Almon
- ✚ Aurora Cabral
- ✚ Jane Hoffmann
- ✚ Sara Ji
- ✚ Mabel McCullough
- ✚ Austin Morris
- ✚ Henrik Stoker

2023 Regional Spelling Bee Winner

- ✚ Sharanya Kar

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

Mrs. Witt read a message of appreciation for WLCSC Alum and (outgoing) Mayor of the City of West Lafayette, John Dennis, for his service, dedication and commitment to the community.

II. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

- David Kucik – Parent/Community Member – Topic: Decorum

III. ROUTINE BUSINESS

- A. A motion was made to approve the Agenda for the December 11, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees.

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.

B. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held on November 13, 2023.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Mumford stated she opposes the minutes disputing lack of details with “discussion ensued” in the meeting minutes.

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

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

C. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the Board of School Trustees held on November 30, 2023.

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

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

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Cell Tower Proposal

Recommendation: At the November 13, 2023 Regular Board of School Trustees Meeting, Fortune Wireless provided an informational presentation regarding a proposal to place a Wireless Communication Facility (Cell Tower for Vertical Bridge/T-Mobile) at the Bob Friend Ball Park or near the West Lafayette Athletic Complex to provide cell service to the area. Mrs. Witt asked the Board for a motion to proceed with additional information and consideration regarding the Cell Tower proposal.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees continue further discussion and consideration regarding the Cell Tower proposal by Fortune Wireless.

Motion by: Mrs. Austin Seconded by: Mr. Wang Vote: 0 of 7

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

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bullying: Information/Response/Awareness/Prevention

The three building principals, Mrs. Delaney, Mrs. Psarros and Mr. Shriner, prepared and presented a presentation with information regarding “Conflict vs. Bullying”.

Conflict

Disagreement or argument in which both sides express their views.

Equal power between those involved.

Generally, stop and change behavior when they realize it is hurting someone.

Bullying

Goal is to hurt, harm or humiliate.

Person bullying has more power*.

Continue behavior when they realize it is hurting someone.

*”Power” can mean the person, bullying, is older, bigger, stronger or more popular.

Indiana Code requires all schools to conduct Bullying Education by October 15th of each year. Each building engages students in educational activities regarding bullying, depending upon the developmental level of the students.

Each building has protocols for receiving information from students, staff, parents and community members. All concerns shared with staff, including bullying behaviors, are taken seriously and investigated promptly.

Not all conflicts meet the definition of bullying. If bullying is identified, all required documentation is sent to the IDOE, parents are notified and corrective actions are taken. If it is determined that conflict took place, appropriate disciplinary measures will be taken per the Student Code of Conduct Handbook.

B. Policy Transition: NEOLA to CCHA

Legal counsel representative, Jessica Billingsley, was present to provide the Board of School Trustees with an overview of what transitioning the policies from NEOLA to CCHA (Church Church Hittle Antrim) will “typically” look like.

It will be up to the School Board of Trustees to determine how many policies, per meeting, they want to review. Policies are updated, normally, in the spring and fall to coincide with the state and federal legislature. Sometimes the Department of Education will issue a new interpretation of a policy, therefore, those policies can be updated anytime during the year.

CCHA will review all current policies, make a recommendation of the corresponding NEOLA policy, and it will be up to the Board of School Trustees whether or not to keep the current policy or rescind it and replace with CCHA’s suggestions. One advantage of the transition from NEOLA to CCHA is that the policies will be streamlined. Several policies are repeated and found in multiple areas.

- At 7:36 p.m., Mrs. Witt called for a 5-minute break.
- At 7:42 p.m., Mrs. Witt called the meeting back to order.

C. Superintendent/Board Officer Meeting: “Policy Re-enactment”

During the November 13, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees, Mr. Wang made a motion to hold an “open-door” meeting to discuss the content shared during the policy meeting that was held on November 2, 2023. During the meeting, policy 2520 was reviewed per NEOLA’s suggested updates/changes. A “re-enactment” of the meeting took place to share what was discussed.

Mrs. Witt provided some additional information to the Board of School Trustees provided by Mrs. Billingsley of CCHA regarding library removal request procedure. Mrs. Billingsley has recommended that the library material removal procedure be a stand-alone policy either in the 2000 section program or the 9000 section relations.

D. School Board Policy 2520 – Revision (2nd/Final Reading)

Recommendation: Policy 2520 – Selection of Materials, Curricular Materials and Equipment was presented for a first reading with proposed revisions during the November 13, 2023 Board of School Trustees Meeting. 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.

Motion by: Mr. Schott

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 7 of 7

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

E. 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. Marley

Vote: 7 of 7

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

F. Survey Results

Mrs. Roth provided the Board of School Trustees with the most recent survey results regarding District Priorities. She explained that this is the second year for carrying out the process of setting priorities and inviting staff and community feedback. The survey asked participants to:

- Rank the importance of the following
 - Academics
 - Whole Child Approach
 - Facilities
 - Finances
 - Communications

- Which role represents you
 - Community Member
 - WLCSC Employee
 - WLCSC Parent/Guardian of Student
 - WLCSC Parent/Guardian of Graduate
 - WLCSC Student
 - WLCSC Alum

- The survey also included
 - Curricular Materials Review and Adoption
 - Pilot 4-Year Old Preschool Class
 - Equity and Engagement Specialist
 - Districtwide Communication
 - Overview
 - Year-to-Year Comparison

Mrs. Roth noted that 150 people (parents and teachers) participated in the survey.

G. Equity and Engagement Position

Recommendation: One of the district’s priorities was to identify quantifiable measures as a basis for analyzing student needs and setting goals in the position. The job description was re-developed and revised, after feedback from the Board, Administration, staff and community, and names specific data sets that the position will review and provides support and structure through the use of a common IDOE designed rubric focused on increasing family engagement. Mrs. Roth recommended the Board of School Trustees approve the next step of posting the shared job description for this re-designed position to fill the vacancy.

Mrs. Roth noted that the position has priorities and functions that the individual would be responsible for completing, and she would be responsible for evaluating the employee with input from building principals.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the posting of the Equity and Engagement position.

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.

H. Wonderland Lease

Recommendation: Wonderland is an “experiential learning center” where kids can learn through engagement. Wonderland Education, Inc. has requested to lease classroom space within the Happy Hollow building. The space would be utilized for workshops that are offered to area students, both in and out of district, and for storage. Mrs. Cronk made the recommendation to approve the lease as presented.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the Wonderland Lease to utilize space at the Happy Hollow building.

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.

I. Property Insurance Renewal

Recommendation: Mrs. Cronk recommended that the Board of School Trustees approve to renew the West Lafayette Community School Corporation’s property insurance. WLCSC has worked with the Henriott Group for its insurance needs for many years, and they provided quotes from multiple providers to determine the best coverage at the best rates.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the renewal of the West Lafayette Community School Corporation’s property insurance renewal.

Motion by: Mr. Marley

Seconded by: Mr. Wang

Vote: 7 of 7

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

J. 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:

- o Corporation Claims – \$2,572,665.72
- o WVEC Claims – \$415,525.97
- o Total Claims Paid – \$2,988,191.69

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

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.

K. Safe/Accessible Neighborhood Discussion

Mrs. Witt led a discussion regarding conversations with Mayor-elect Easter at to what extent, legally, the City of West Lafayette can request a full restriction of transient guest housing in R1 zones. Mrs. Witt requested feedback from the Board of School Trustees regarding this issue and asked if they would like to provide a statement in support of the City’s recommendation to request a full restriction which would express concerns for families and children providing them with access to the neighborhoods that are safe, accessible, multi-generational and walkable or if the Board of School Trustees is opposed.

VI. INFORMATION TO THE BOARD - Mrs. Witt

Mrs. Witt reminded the Board of School Trustees what the beginning of the new year will look like. On Monday, January 8, 2024, there will be an Executive Session at 5:15 p.m. followed by the Organizational, Regular and Finance Meetings beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The first order of business during the Organizational Meeting is to elect and seat the Board Chair for 2024. Mrs. Witt, as Board Chair, will convene the meeting, then will steer the nomination and election of the 2024 Board Chair who will then be immediately seated and move forward with the meeting. She also noted that she will not be seeking or accepting re-election as Board Chair.

VII. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Dr. Greiner

Reminded the Board that holiday break begins at the end of the day on Friday, December 22, 2023 providing staff and students with a full two-weeks off. They will return on Monday, January 8, 2024.

JSHS Principal search is well underway, and the first-round of interviews will be held next week, starting Monday, December 18th through Thursday, December 21st. The second-round of interviews will be held during the week of January 8th.

Dr. Greiner took an opportunity to thank each Board member for their service noting he has no doubt it is a thankless job, but he appreciates their service. He expressed gratitude to Mrs. Witt for her time serving as Board Chair and wished the Board a Happy Holiday Season.

Mr. Schott

Thirty-five alumni and friends gathered at Arni's Restaurant in Indianapolis on November 29th for a reception. Remarks were shared by Brad Cohen, Dan Walbaum, Jon Speaker and Wendi Ailor. Great response to this event.

WLSEF partnered with Mrs. Sheffield and the Counseling Office to present a scholarship information night on December 4th. Over 40 parents and students attended; it was very well-received and will likely become an annual event. A special thank you to Karen McCullough, a West Lafayette parent and Director of Scholarship Stewardship and Development with the Purdue for Life Foundation, for sharing her knowledge and expertise.

The foundation hosted a "watch party" on December 10th (yesterday) as Dr. Mounji Bawendi (class of 1978) received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

The Devil's Advocate alumni newsletter will be landing in mailboxes very soon.

Dr. Yin

Reported that her and Mrs. Roth met and had a discussion regarding the Matrix for activities which provides the community with information regarding the schools.

The Ice Rink is open and there will be a free skating social on December 18th.

The West Lafayette Wellness Center will be renamed to the John R. Dennis Wellness Center in honor of Mayor Dennis' years of service.

Mr. Marley

Redevelopment Commission met on November 15, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. and there was a great crowd in attendance. Mayor-elect Erin Easter announced that the Pre-K Study/Survey is progressing nicely.

The Grant and Salisbury Street Improvement Project will not be completed until after the first of the year.

Cason Park, on Cumberland Avenue, is well underway.

Yeager Trail has started and is nicely progressing.

Requests, for proposals, for a comprehensive strategic plan have been approved for West Lafayette.

The lease agreement was signed on the Caretaker's Cottage located on Salisbury Street.

The library signed a lease, so it's in good hands, and it will be used for some historic significance and presentations within the Caretaker's Cottage.

Mr. Wang

Reported that he attended three training sessions which included a Legislative Action Network, Managing Public Comments and School Law Seminar.

Mrs. Mumford

No meetings took place to report.

Mrs. Austin

Dr. Greiner and I attended a training from the Indiana Superintendent's Association. She enjoyed getting some excellent team building ideas.

She listened to a Webinar from the ISBA (Indiana School Business Association) about the legislative agenda and advocacy, and another about public comments.

Mrs. Austin said, "Finally, my husband and I had a wonderful time at the holiday party, and I'd like to thank Mrs. Julian for her work in putting that together for the central office and administrators. Everything was wonderful. And, I would like to thank you, Rachel, for your service to this community. Few people will ever truly know how much you've done, and how much it has cost, but those of us who do will never forget your generosity and the bar you've set for selfless community leadership."

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

Work Session (if needed): Friday, January 5, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. - HH LGI Room

Executive Session: Monday, January 8, 2024 at 5:15 to 5:45 p.m. - Central Office

Regular, Organizational and Finance Board Meetings: Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. - HH LGI Room

IX. UPCOMING DATES of INTEREST

Friday, December 22, 2023 - 1st Semester ends

Monday, December 25, 2023 - Winter Break begins

Monday, January 8, 2024 - School Resumes / 2nd Semester begins

Monday, January 15, 2024 - MLK Day (no school)

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 9:27 p.m.

Motion by: Mr. Marley

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_12_11