

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, March 4, 2024


PRESENT: Mrs. Amy Austin; Mr. Brad Marley; Mr. Tom Schott; Mrs. Rachel Witt; Dr. Yue Yin; Mrs. Dacia Mumford; Mr. Laurence Wang; Dr. Shawn Greiner, Superintendent; Mrs. Anna Roth, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Michelle Cronk, CFO; Mrs. Amy Matthews, Legal Counsel (CCHA)


President Austin called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.


I. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

The Junior-Senior High School was represented at this month's meeting.

-  Gay-Straight Alliance
 - Kamren McCallister
 - Emerson Tingle
 - Ren Yother

-  ECO Clubs
 - Jessica Jiang
 - Ashley Yang

-  Students Demand Action
 - Mary Grace Austin
 - Rahul Durai
 - Natalie David
 - Ana Rakita

-  National Honor Society
 - Bea Cabot
 - Grace Reynolds
 - Anneliese Stolarz

We are SO PROUD of our students! Keep up the FANTASTIC work and CONGRATULATIONS!

II. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

- Becky Creech, Teacher – Role of the School Board and Superintendent
- Jonathan Eifler, Teacher – Role of School Board Members
- Graham Whitcomb, Teacher – Gratitude for the administrators and their professionalism

- Lori Windler, Library Media Specialist – Gratitude for staff, phenomenal facilities, freedom to do their jobs in the Media Centers and Library Policy 2520
- Randy Studt, Teacher – Non-Discrimination Board Policy
- Emily Ohland, Parent – Excellence of the WL Community School Corporation and Non-Discrimination Policy
- Colin William, Parent – Board Meeting Minutes
- David Kucik, Parent – Unanimous Board voting and transient housing

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Austin read an excerpt from a letter written by the Public Access Counselor, dated July 19, 2023, regarding Consent Agendas. *As a practical matter, it is not necessary for a governing body to discuss every issue at length. School Boards usually do not micromanage the daily business of a school corporation, instead, they set policy, drive innovation, set parameters on spending and put people in place to execute their vision. Controlling routine duties on a granular level would amount to poor management and governance as well as marathon meetings. Therefore, governing bodies use of a Consent Agenda for approving routine business is not prohibited by the Open-Door Law. Additionally, this office does not believe that Consent Agenda are antithetical to transparency.*

The following items were placed under the Consent Agenda for the Board's approval:

- Agenda for the March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees.
- Minutes of the Annual Finance Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held on January 8, 2024.
- Executive Session of the Board of School Trustees held on February 12, 2024.
- Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held on February 12, 2024.
- Field Trip: WL Swim/Dive to IHSA State Swim Meet in Indianapolis (February 23-24, 2024).
- Personnel Report
- Accounts Payable
 - Corporation Claims - \$3,791,339.69
 - WVEC Claims - \$83,648.50
 - Total Claims - \$3,874,988.19

Mrs. Witt requested that the Personnel Report be pulled and voted on separately since she needs to abstain from voting on that specific item. Dr. Yin seconded the request.

Mrs. Mumford requested that the February 12, 2024 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting be pulled and voted on separately. Mr. Wang seconded the request.

A motion was made to approve all items listed under the Consent Agenda except for the Personnel Report and February 12, 2024 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting.

Motion by: Mr. Schott

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 7 of 7

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

A motion was made to approve the February 12, 2024 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Trustees.

Discussion ensued pertaining to the section of the Minutes regarding as to why the Secretary of the Board of Finance did not review the Finance Meeting meetings prior to the vote. It was decided that the wording would be omitted from the February 12 Meeting Minutes. A motion and vote were conducted for the revision.

Motion by: Mrs. Mumford

Seconded by: Mr. Wang

Vote: 7 of 7

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

A Motion was made to approve the Personnel Report included in the March 4, 2024 Board Meeting Packet.

Motion by: Mr. Schott

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 6 of 7

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

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution of Board Policy

Recommendation: Mrs. Matthews, with CCHA, shared with the Board the Resolution of Board Policy. The Resolution Policy system change is to put in place and memorialize that the WLCSC is embarking on a change in the system. At the beginning of the Resolution there is information about goals including streamlining, maintaining legal compliance, etc. and lays out the system with the A through H organization system.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the Resolution of Board Policy as presented by Mrs. Matthews of Church Church Hittle & Antrim.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 7 of 7

Discussion ensued regarding how the process will work when new policies are approved and what will be done with current policies. Legal counsel said that both sets of policies can remain during the transition hence the reason for the deletion list. It was also asked if Board Docs would be used for policies or if they would be managed by the school corporation and uploaded to a file on the website.

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

B. Board Policies – 2nd Reading

Recommendation: School Wellness, Policy A275 was presented to the Board of School Trustees for a motion and a vote.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees adopt School Wellness Policy A275.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 7 of 7

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

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees repeal School Wellness Policy 8510 which is replaced by School Wellness Policy A275.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mrs. Witt

Vote: 7 of 7

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

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees adopt Civility and Decorum Policy A350, which is a new policy.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mrs. Witt

Vote: 7 of 7

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

C. Board Policies – 1st Reading

The Policies listed under the 1st Reading, for this meeting, are B100, B125, B150, B175, B200, B225, B250, C200, C350, D175 and H250 which are also posted on the website. These Policies will be “on hold” until the “A” Policies are finalized. Work Sessions will continue to discuss Policies prior to bringing them for a vote.

D. District Priorities/Transportation Center

Dr. Greiner presented information regarding the building that was recently vacated by the Wabash Valley Education (WVEC). The Central Office leadership team is recommending relocating its current office to the vacated WVEC location and moving the Transportation Office to a portion of the current Central Office building to meet one of the 2023-2024 Board Priorities, #3 – Facilities: Developing a plan for a possible transportation facility. This transition would allow the Transportation Director to be in the vicinity of a majority of the Corporation’s buses and allow for more space for their department meetings, trainings, etc. The WVEC building is larger than the current Administration Office which would provide Central Office staff private office space, more storage for files and space to hold meetings and conferences.

Discussion continued regarding the information presented and the potential of a preschool program. Following an uncontroversial discussion, Mrs. Austin asked if the Board would like to proceed with a motion and vote to approve the transitions between office locations. Another question was also asked regarding Board meeting capacity at the WVEC building.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve Central Office relocating to the WVEC building, and the Transportation Department relocating to the Administration building.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mrs. Witt

Vote: 7 of 7

Discussion continued as to the capacity at the WVEC building for Board Meetings and what potentially could go into the HH LGI Room.

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

E. Safe Harbor Before & After School Care Agreement

Recommendation: Mrs. Roth reported that the school corporation has an agreement with Safe Harbor to provide before/after school care at the elementary and intermediate schools, in addition to, conducting summer programs. The contract is updated yearly, and the price and services remain the same from last years contract. Safe Harbor maintains its licensed status and ratios to meet CCDF requirements which allows the program to accept vouchers from qualifying families. Safe Harbor also maintains their liability and takes responsibility for staff qualifications and training.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the contract between the West Lafayette Community School Corporation and Safe Harbor.

Motion by: Mr. Marley

Seconded by: Mr. Schott

Vote: 7 of 7

Discussion continued regarding who is responsible for cleaning the areas utilized by Safe Harbor. Mrs. Beall, owner of Safe Harbor, was present to address that question and said it was Safe Harbor’s responsibility.

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

F. WLCSC and WL Public Library – MOU

Recommendation: The West Lafayette Public Library contacted the West Lafayette Community School Corporation requesting permission to utilize the School District's parking lot on an occasional basis during programs held at or near the Grand View Cottage. Special events are primarily held on the weekends and/or occasional evenings, and the library will notify the School District no less than two weeks in advance of any such events.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the MOU between the West Lafayette Community School Corporation and the West Lafayette Public Library.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Wang

Vote: 7 of 7

Discussion continued regarding the improvements to the facility and how nice it looks. There was also a question regarding the MOU listing the address of 1200 N. Salisbury St. (parking lot of Central Office and the Happy Hollow Building) and if the library would also be utilizing parking at the intermediate school. Another question was how this MOU might have any impact on bus parking.

The Board will vote on the information based in the current MOU only, and if the West Lafayette Public Library would like to use the intermediate school parking, they will need to submit another MOU.

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

G. Skyward Contract

Recommendation: Mrs. Cronk reported that the Technology Department is requesting permission to renew our software agreement with Skyward for our student data information system software for the next three years. Locking in the cost for three years will afford us a large discount compared to annual pricing. The cost per student for all necessary modules amounts to \$10.24; the total cost per year would be approximately \$25,000. This software is necessary to house our student data, fee tracking, food service payments, student support, online enrollment, and textbook tracking/inventory.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the Skyward Software Renewal as submitted.

Motion by: Mr. Marley

Seconded by: Mr. Wang

Vote: 7 of 7

Discussion continued regarding clarification if there was a percentage increase.

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

H. E-Rate II Category Project Approval

Recommendation: Mrs. Cronk explained that during the 2024 Budget Planning, the Technology Department indicated that upgrades to the network infrastructure were needed as equipment is nearing its end of life. The purchase was included on the Capital Project Plan during the budget process. The Technology Director has been working with the E-Rate consultant at AdTech through the proper channels of obtaining federal E-Rate Category II funding to help supplement the cost of these infrastructure upgrades. The West Lafayette Community School Corporation is eligible for a 50% discount on approved projects through that funding mechanism. Wintek submitted the winning proposal for the network infrastructure replacement at a total cost of \$231,510.67 and with the E-Rate discount, the final cost will be \$115,755.34.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the E-Rate II Category Project as submitted.

Motion by: Mr. Schott

Seconded by: Mr. Wang

Vote: 7 of 7

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

I. Finance Update

Mrs. Cronk reported that the Objects Breakdown of the month's claims is included in the Board Packet. A preliminary Fund Report dated February 29 shows a total cash balance on hand for the district of \$18,088,499.10. The Education Fund has a balance of \$3,430,146.33, but keep in mind this is still preliminary as revenue is still being processed for the month of February.

Congratulations to Nathan Snyder, Payroll Specialist, who was named the Indiana Association of School Business Officials (IASBO) Region 4 School Support Professional. Nathan joined the WLCSC Central Office team in October of 2022.

J. JSHS Ground Floor Update

Mrs. Austin read the following memo.

RE: WLSEF Donation and Future Fundraising Discussion.

The West Lafayette Education Foundation (WLSEF) has fundraised money, in the past, for renovations to the West Lafayette Junior/Senior High School. They currently have approximately \$1.6 million that they would like to transfer to the school corporation for the purposes of commencing ground floor renovations including locker rooms and restrooms that will be utilized by all students. We will be asking in April that the Board accept these funds into the school corporation accounts to be tracked separately in a construction fund specifically for the ground floor renovations. The Fanning Howey study of the ground floor is included in your board packets for consideration. The study outlines different projects that could be completed on the ground floor to meet the needs of both academics and athletics at the high school. As can be seen, the cost of the renovations is more than the funding that is currently available. The WLSEF Executive Board believes that they have the ability to continue fundraising efforts to fully fund the Phase I project of the ground floor as well as work towards funding the Phase II through IV projects. We will also be asking in April that the Board approve WLSEF moving forward with continued fundraising efforts.

Mrs. Austin said an official recommendation would be brought before the Board at the April meeting.

Discussion ensued between Board members and the WL Athletics Director who was present to answer questions and provide additional information. Some points of the discussion were locker rooms (student privacy/modesty), funding, the phases of construction and gratitude to the WL Education Foundation for their contributions/partnership.

VI. INFORMATION TO THE BOARD

Mrs. Austin – Legislative Liaison

The Legislative Session is winding down and the legislators are trying to finish by March 8. This year has been fairly quiet for K – 12 education bills and there isn't anything too terrible on the horizon.

VII. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Dr. Greiner - Superintendent

Dr. Greiner reported that there are so many great things happening in the district and wanted to, personally, share.

My Fair Lady: Great performance by our high students with the musical "My Fair Lady"- this past weekend.

- Congratulations to our students and directors, Directors Carrie Francis, Carol Letcher and Michael Bennett.
- Truly commendable work!
- Thank you, students, staff and parents, for a job well done.

Academics: Some of us had the opportunity to visit WLIS and the science fair exhibits and presentations last week as well as the Literature Fair at the High School. Here is what I can tell you:

- Our students produce quality work
- Our students research and develop impressive presentations
- Our students are impressively well-spoken when preparing and presenting their findings and creations.
- Simply amazing exhibitions by our students with the facilitative support of our staff and support of our families.

Spelling Bee: Congratulations to WLIS's Sharanya Kar.

- She is heading to nationals again this year.
- This is the second year in a row for Sharanya to head to nationals.
- You may recall she attended nationals last year and finished 74th
- So here we are with TAKE 2 and we are all very proud of her.

Boys Basketball: Congratulations to our Boys Basketball Team, SECTIONAL CHAMPS.

- We are proud of our boys for their commitment and hard work to get here.
- We are grateful for Coach VanArsdel and his entire coaching staff for the dedication and expertise they bring to our team.
- We wish the team good luck at regionals this next Saturday.

Robotics: Traveled to Mishawaka and experienced success this weekend too.

- This is the third straight district event where they took home gold.
- They received the Sustainability Award.
- Next competition is at Plainfield March 23 and 24.
- They will be co-hosting the state championship April 6 and 7 at Lafayette Jeff.

She Devils Dance Team: Placed among the 4 top teams at state in every category this weekend.

- The team also took home one of the highest pom scores in She Devils history.
- We are proud of their growth.
- We are proud of their hard work.
- And we are proud of the coaches and adults who helped bring this team to such success.

Golden Apple Award: Several of us were able to attend the Greater Lafayette Golden Apple Award Ceremony this past week celebrating our own John Levy for receiving this award.

- We are grateful for Mr. Levy's passion and expertise.
- His acceptance speech was among the best regarding exhibiting the passion he brings to our district.
- His passion and genuine care and affection for his own children and the students he serves in the classroom was heartfelt.
- I left reflecting on our entire staff and thinking just how fortunate we are to have the level expertise, commitment and dedication, we have on our elementary, intermediate and JSHS teams.

Again - SO MANY MORE great things to celebrate in our district day in and day out. While I cannot attend EVERYTHING, I did want to highlight a few Points of Pride, to illustrate just how fortunate we are to be a part of such an amazing community we call home.

Spring Break: Remember that next week students will be on spring break throughout the week of March 11. We wish safe travels for any of our families traveling over the break.

Mrs. Mumford – Public Schools Foundation of Tippecanoe County

The Public Schools Foundation Spring Grant, for the teachers, is open until March 6th, and the Cupcake Bake Off was February 15.

Mr. Wang – Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation are recreating an Impact Fee Study which will take approximately 8-9 months. The Cason Family Park is going well and field trips are available. The Wellness Center After-School Program will be offering a summer camp with availability for 125 students and 50 in the Nature Center; all slots were filled quickly. There are also summer jobs available for interested high school students.

Mrs. Witt – Board/Teacher Discussion

Board-Teacher Discussion met on Thursday, February 15. It was said that the teachers are appreciative of the communicative and collaborative environment between the school, teachers and Board. Dr. Greiner recapped information pertaining to the principal search. April 8 is a scheduled Professional Development Day which is the same day as the solar eclipse. Discussions have begun on what the 2024-25 school year will look like. Mrs. Cronk helped everyone understand the legislation and tax assessment question. The fifth-grade teachers have not expressed concerns about class sizes as some have 25 students.

Dr. Yin – G.L.A.S.S.

School psychologists and speech/language pathologists are in great need, so G.L.A.S.S. hired some online providers. They recently surveyed the school psychologist about their working environment and needs and proposed some general and recruitment strategies such as developing relationships, partnering with higher education institutions, offer paid internships and a sign-on bonus. The next meeting will be held on April 16 from 2-3 p.m. Public comments are welcome.

Mr. Schott – WLSEF and Community Council

The West Lafayette Schools Education Foundation received a record number of applicants for scholarships this year – 67 students. This is a wonderful response and shows the growing need for support to pursue higher education.

The 2024 Wall of Pride class will be announced later this week – with the induction ceremonies scheduled for April 11-12.

Registration is open for the Scarlet & Gray Dinner and Auction on April 19. Visit the wlsef.org website for a link to the event site and to purchase tickets.

Mr. Marley – Redevelopment Commission

The Redevelopment Commission met back on January 17 and again on February 21. There are two members, Arnold Chen and Kristen Edmundson, who have joined the group. Construction project updates include the following:

- Cason Family Park – the boathouse and restroom facility are under construction.
- A new Public Safety Center is going to be built.
- A declaratory resolution in the Levy Village Redevelopment Plan. There is a new project planned for the area that will be 7 stories tall consisting of 1200 bedrooms (plus), retail on the main floor and some realignment in the levy. A new grid pattern is being developed to straighten the street in that area. There will be a \$5.5 million bond that will be repaid from property taxes on the project that has an estimated expense of \$250 million and will take a couple of years to build.
- A new platform firetruck, with a ladder, will be ordered for \$2.393 million; arriving in a few years.
- Cherry Lane Trail Project was approved at almost \$2.7 million.
- Request for (improvements) bids will be accepted for: Salisbury Street, Cumberland, LaGrange, Grant, Leslie, Cherry Lane; bids will also be accepted to resurface McCormack Road.
- There is a Quit Claim Deed going on in the same Levy Project with some public park space.
- APA Consulting provided an update regarding the Early Child Education feasibility work.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

Friday, April 5, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. – Work Session (IF NEEDED), Happy Hollow Building, LGI Room

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. – Work Session, Happy Hollow Building, LGI Room

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting, Happy Hollow Building, LGI Room

IX. UPCOMING DATES of INTEREST

Friday, March 8, 2024 – End of 3rd 9-week grading period

Monday, March 11 - Friday, March 15, 2024 – Spring Break

Monday, March 18, 2024 – School Resumes / 4th 9-week grading period begins

Monday, April 8, 2024 – Professional Staff Day (no school for students)

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 8:26 p.m.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Wang

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, 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/board/meetings-info>