

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, April 8, 2024

PRESENT: Mrs. Amy Austin; 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

ABSENT: Mr. Brad Marley

GUEST: Mrs. Amy Matthews, Legal Counsel (CCHA)

President Austin called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Mrs. Austin expressed appreciation to the first responders for their prompt response on March 26 and for everything they are doing to keep our school community safe. She also extended gratitude to Dr. Greiner and his team, administrators, teachers, staff and students.

I. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

- ✚ Sharanya Kar, 6th grader at WLIS, won the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee of Northwest Indiana and was presented with an award for her accomplishment.

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

II. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

- David Kucik, parent – Transient Housing

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Agenda for the April 8, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees.
- Minutes of the Work Session of the Board of School Trustees held on March 4, 2024.
- Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held on March 4, 2024.
- Personnel Report
- Accounts Payable
 - Corporation Claims - \$3,059,166.48
 - WVEC Claims - \$66,581.88
 - Total Claims - \$3,125,748.36

A motion was made to approve all items listed under the Consent Agenda.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Schott

Vote: 6 of 7

Mr. Wang had a question regarding one vendor payment listed on the Accounts Payable Report.

(Mrs. Cronk explained that a consent Agenda, per Roberts Rules of Order, allows the Board to approve items together without discussion or individual motions).

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

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Policies

Recommendation: Policy A100 was presented to the Board of School Trustees with three suggested revisions that were discussed during the Work Session held prior to the Regular Board meeting. It was recommended that the Board of School Trustees accept the suggested revisions as provided so that Policy A100 could be updated and brought before the Board of School Trustees during the May meeting for a final vote.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the suggested revisions to Policy A100.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Schott

Vote: 6 of 7

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

Following the vote, discussion continued between the Board of School Trustees and CCHA Legal Counsel regarding Policy A300, Responsible Use of Technology and Policy A301, Wireless Communication Device Policy.

Mrs. Austin requested a first reading of Policy A301, Wireless Communication Device Policy. Mrs. Matthews, with CCHA, explained that this policy is essentially the language that the legislators passed as the cell phone prohibition with definitions that have been candidly created from looking at different sources.

Discussion ensued between the Board members, school attorney and administrators (in attendance) regarding student cell phone usage during school hours, lunch and recess.

No additional policies were ready for a vote.

There was also conversation regarding how the policies will be posted on the WLCSC website once approved and adopted by the Board of School Trustees.

B. WLSEF Donation

Recommendation: The West Lafayette Schools Education Foundation has communicated that \$1.7 million dollars can be gifted to the corporation, given the projects at the high school, for which the funds were raised initially, have been completed and naming rights allotted accordingly, referring to the Guy Academic Wing and the Bob Kelly Performing Arts Center. After seeking further clarification, WLSEF has communicated that the funds can be transferred to the school corporation and without restriction. Dr. Greiner recommended that the Board of School Trustees accept the funds be placed in a construction fund for future projects.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees accept the \$1.7 million dollars from the West Lafayette Schools Education Foundation to be placed in a construction fund for future projects.

Motion by: Mr. Schott

Seconded by: Mr. Wang

Vote: 6 of 7

Discussion between the Board of School Trustees continued as to whether or not the funds could be placed in an account without restrictions instead of a construction account. Mrs. Cronk explained that most of the needs are in the maintenance operational realm which can be spent out of a construction fund. If the funds would need to be utilized elsewhere, a transfer resolution would be presented to the Board for a vote.

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

C. WLSEF Fundraising

Recommendation: Mrs. Cronk explained that it is believed the ground floor at the JSHS is a priority, and the WLSEF has expressed interest in beginning to fundraise for the ground floor because they believe they have people who would like to specifically donate for those purposes. In order to do so, the WLSEF Executive Board needs guidance and permission from the West Lafayette School Board of Trustees. Mrs. Cronk also noted that projects would not be authorized until the money was available. It was recommended that the Board approve the request of the WLSEF to begin their fundraising efforts.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the request of the WLSEF to begin fundraising.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mrs. Witt

Vote: 6 of 7

Discussion continued between the Board for clarification that any funds raised for a specific project would be restricted to that project. It was understood that funds would be raised in general so it could be used, and restricted, for anything on the ground floor. Other fundraising efforts for other projects (i.e. preschool, Happy Hollow building updates, etc.) may also be requested of the West Lafayette Schools Education Foundation. Another discussion ensued regarding naming rights and if the policy related to this topic could be made a priority.

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

D. Preschool Pilot Update

A preschool study and consideration of a pilot program remains a Board priority. Early child care and a preschool continue to be a community need. The WLCSC has partnered with the City of WL to better understand this through a study that is currently in process, even beyond the district lines in West Lafayette. The WLCSC and the Tippecanoe School Corporation have work collaboratively with the city to help determine the results which should be available sometime in May. Students come to kindergarten with learning gaps and varying needs, and a preschool would provide kids with the opportunity to prepare for school.

A Preschool Pilot Proposal for the 2024-25 is included in the Board packet and available on the school website, with the Board documents, which outlines information/details. This item will be included on the May Board Agenda for a vote.

Discussion continued with the Board regarding a few of the following topics/concerns: G.L.A.S.S. identified students, dining/food service, recess/playground, media center, school nurse, vaccinations, assessments, finances, staff priorities (serving staff families first), vouchers and capacity of space available at WLES.

E. Finance Update

Mrs. Cronk reported that the Objects Breakdown of the month's claims is included in the Board Packet during the period of March 5 through April 3. Two Fund Reports were also provided. The first one is

the month-end final Fund Report for February after all revenue and expenses have posted and the bank reconciled. A preliminary Fund Report for March, which is still in process of posting revenue and some expenses, was also included in the Board packet.

The State Board of Accounts annual audit for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 has been completed. The final reports have been published and are available on the Indiana State Board of Accounts website, and there were no findings in the financial portion of the audit. The audit does indicate an adverse opinion in regards to GAAP reporting because public school corporations in the state of Indiana practice cash basis accounting and not accrual accounting. Auditors must indicate this statement on all audit reports.

The federal audit resulted in two findings in internal controls on federal programs. The first was due to the special education program which is managed by the Greater Lafayette Area Special Services (G.L.A.S.S.) at Lafayette School Corporation (LSC). Since the West Lafayette Community School Corporation is a member of G.L.A.S.S., if their program receives a finding, it is also included with the WLCSC audit report. G.L.A.S.S. has corrected the issue, and the WLCSC will work closely with the LSC and the director of G.L.A.S.S. to ensure that internal controls are followed going forward. The second finding was from a grant awarded to the Wabash Valley Education Center (WVEC). It was determined that sub-grantees were not being monitored by them. The director of WVEC wrote a corrective action plan which is included in the audit report and has put a monitoring process for federal grants going forward.

Lastly, retirement sessions have been held over the past few months for staff to provide them with assistance in planning for retirement.

VI. INFORMATION TO THE BOARD

Mrs. Austin

Waiting to hear from the Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA) regarding Board training. Once a date and time are confirmed, a meeting will be scheduled.

Enjoyed judging at the Rube Goldberg contest, which was held at Purdue.

Attended the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) contest and congratulated the JRHS choirs on receiving three golds. The mixed chorus and the girls' choir received gold with distinction. Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Letcher did a wonderful job of preparing the students and making the choirs look polished and professional.

The baseball team won its first home game of the year against Delphi. Way to go!

VII. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Dr. Greiner - Superintendent

Thanked Mrs. Austin for judging at the Rube Goldberg contest.

Attended the Robotics competition and enjoyed listening to the students explain how they put together their robots and how they would work.

Strategic Planning and consideration for consultative services: a spreadsheet is available with vendor information and interviews are being conducted to gather information for the Board. The next step will be a Board discussion, sometime in May, reviewing their expectations. The goal is Board consensus to move forward with a firm to lead the community through the Strategic Planning process focusing on excellence.

Mrs. Mumford – Public Schools Foundation of Tippecanoe County

The next meeting will be held April 9.

Mr. Wang – Parks and Recreation

The Farmers Market will open May 1.

Tapawingo Park and Wabash Heritage Trail will be closed to allow Duke Energy to upgrade the area’s electric grid.

The Riverside Skating Center had a very good season with over 10,000 admissions.

The Wellness Center continues seeking instructors to teach dance, music and acting for the fall and winter programs.

Park Board President, Dr. David Purpura, continues working with all stakeholders of the community to eliminate any waiting list for the after-school program and summer camp.

Mrs. Witt – Board/Teacher Discussion

Noted that an excellent, comprehensive research for anyone considering a run for School Board should be through the Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA) which includes election procedures, a candidate guide, FAQ, Board and Superintendent roles and responsibilities as well as free options for a candidate 101 virtual webinar.

The WLEA/Board-Teacher discussion was held on March 21. Staff representation discussed teacher evaluations; bullying, the policies, Indiana law and systems for reporting.

Acknowledged the high school counseling team for assisting, communicating and encouraging parents, of graduating seniors, with information regarding FAFSA and the change to the new program.

Dr. Yin – G.L.A.S.S.

Attended the zoning meeting where many residents spoke in opposition of an Airbnb request.

Organized an information session for School Board election with Mr. Mike Smith, from the election office, facilitating the meeting on Saturday from 9:30-11 a.m. in the Fresh Thyme community room.

Mr. Schott – WLSEF and Community Council

WLSEF

- The 2024 Wall of Pride festivities are Thursday and Friday, April 11 and 12. These are always inspiring.
- The Scarlet & Gray Dinner and Auction is April 19. Visit the wlsef.org website for more information and to purchase tickets.

Community Council

- Next meeting is April 22.

Mr. Marley – Redevelopment Commission

Absent – no report

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

Friday, May 10, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. – Work Session (IF NEEDED), Happy Hollow Building, LGI Room

Monday, May 13, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. – Work Session, Happy Hollow Building, LGI Room

Monday, May 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting, Happy Hollow Building, LGI Room

IX. UPCOMING DATES of INTEREST

Friday, April 26, 2024 – No school (school makeup day #2)

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 – Last day of school / End of 4th 9-week grading period

Friday, May 24, 2024 - Graduation

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.

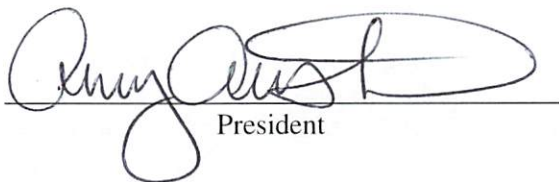
XI. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mrs. Witt

Vote: 6 of 7

Yes: Austin, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; Absent: Marley; 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>