

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, September 16, 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

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

I. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS

❖ WLES

- Good Citizenship Club (*Life Skills or Superpower of Friendship*)
 - Kindergarten: Mia Roseman and Kai Smith
 - First Grade: Colt Steele and Tavia Vogt
 - Second Grade: Leo Mao and Rehab Hassan
 - Third Grade: Allen Yuan and Charlotte Irvine-Sinn
- School Highlights (*presented by Mrs. Delaney, WLES Principal*)
 - Demographics (enrollment, free/reduced lunch, special education, teacher/support staff)
 - Partnerships with Purdue, Early Learning Program and awaiting results of 2024 National Blue-Ribbon School Application
 - Data (IREAD 3, ILEARN Math and ILEARN ELA)
 - Goals
 - Continued Focus

❖ Mental Health Highlights (*presented by Ms. Alyson Smith, Mental Health Therapist*)

- Update regarding mental health
- Suicide Prevention Month (awareness and prevention)
- WLCSC was awarded the Preventing Youth Suicide Initiative Grant submitted by Mrs. Anna Roth
 - Partnership with North Central Health Services and EDC (Education Development Center)
 - Two-year Grant
 - School-based Staff Team (full-day training on September 24)

Staff attending:

Anna Roth
Ann Marie Holler
Jessica Shindley
Sasha Jones
Sarah Spears
Marah Brown
Chauncey Fry
Courtney Murtaugh
Marissa White
Molly Fordyce
Mary Russell

Tracy Smoll
Joe Tylenda
Alyson Smith

- Tippecanoe County Mental Health Roundtable was held on September 13
- Student referrals
- Classroom guidance lessons
- QPR (Question/Persuade/Refer) Suicide Prevention Training

II. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

- Amy Masson – Mrs. Mumford’s commentary and disclosure of personal information

Mrs. Mumford made a Point of Order. She said that Policy 0167.3 states that comments from the audience must be about school programs, policies or procedures and that it is the responsibility of the Board President to ensure that comments from the audience follow this policy.

- Doug Masson – Mrs. Mumford’s commentary and disclosure of personal information
- Annie Dooley – Teacher Evaluation Process
- Gale Charlotte – Mrs. Mumford’s commentary and disclosure of personal information

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- **Agenda for the September 16, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees.**
 - This was pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion and separate vote.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt Seconded by: Mr. Wang Vote: 6 of 7

Mrs. Witt stated, that according to the bylaws, it is important for the Board to listen to the community and respond. In doing so, Mrs. Mumford is out of compliance with Policy A350, Civility and Decorum, based on her personal website and postings on Facebook. In addition, this is not in alignment with Board Policy 144.2, Board Member Ethics. For these reasons, Mrs. Witt requested the Board Chair utilize Policy 167.0, Conduct. The Policy reads: *School Board members shall follow all applicable state and federal laws, and shall follow School Board policy. If a School Board member is alleged to have violated any law and/or School Board policy, he/she shall meet with the Board President and School Corporation Attorney. If continued violations occur after the executive meeting, the School Board attorney will advise the remaining School Board members as to the actions they can consider including but not limited to censure of the School Board member at a public meeting.* Mrs. Witt said that she is not alleging that Mrs. Mumford’s activities are illegal, but alleging that they are in violation of School Board Policy and requesting initiation of this review process.

Mr. Wang, who seconded the motion, believes the information that Mrs. Mumford shares is true, and from his personal experience, if something needs corrected, he sends an email to Mrs. Mumford for correction. He believes this is her First Amendment right to share her own opinions. He expressed appreciation for Mrs. Witt’s concerns as well.

Mrs. Austin asked to meet with Mrs. Mumford and the school’s legal counsel. Mrs. Mumford agreed to a meeting as long as legal counsel is present.

Mrs. Mumford explained how she made a Public Records Request with the Election Board for a list of the candidates and the names of those who signed the petitions. Mrs. Mumford apologized for posting birthdates, addresses and signatures on the petitions.

A vote took place to initiate Policy 167 which will require Mrs. Mumford and Mrs. Austin to

meet with legal counsel.

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Wang; Abstention: Mumford; The motion passed.

- **Minutes of the Work Session of the Board of School Trustees held on August 12, 2024.**
 - This remained in the consent Agenda.
- **Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held on August 12, 2024.**
 - This remained in the Consent Agenda.
- **Minutes of the Work Session of the Board of School Trustees held on August 26, 2024.**
 - This remained in the Consent Agenda.
- **Minutes of the Executive Session of the Board of School Trustees held on September 10, 2024.**
 - This remained in the Consent Agenda.
- **Personnel Report**
 - This remained in the Consent Agenda.
- **Accounts Payable**
 - This remained in the Consent Agenda.
 - Corporation Claims - \$3,276,512.29
 - WVEC Claims - \$183,666.45
 - Total Claims - \$3,460,178.74

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve all items remaining in the Consent Agenda as noted above.

Motion by: Mr. Schott

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board Policy G350 – Audio Video and Digital Recordings on School Property and of School Meetings

Recommendation: It was recommended that Policy G350 – Audio Video and Digital Recordings on School Property and of School Meetings be approved as presented in the Board packet.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve Policy G350 as revised by legal counsel.

Motion by: Mr. Schott

Seconded by: Mrs. Mumford

Vote: 7 of 7

Discussion ensued with clarification that this policy reads parents will provide twenty-fours notice if they plan to record a meeting, and the removal of the wording that states visitors who violate the policy may be removed and subject to a trespassing violation.

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

B. Board Policy C200 – Bullying

Recommendation: It was recommended that Policy C200 – Bullying be approved as written by legal counsel and presented in the Board packet.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve Policy C200 as recommended by legal counsel.

Due to lack of a motion, the recommendation to pass Policy C200 failed.

C. Board Policy A125 – Nepotism, Conflict of Interest, Gifts and Use of Corporation Resources

Recommendation: It was recommended that Policy A125 – Nepotism, Conflict of Interest, Gifts and Use of Corporation Resources be approved as presented in the Board packet.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve Policy A125 as recommended by legal counsel.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt Seconded by: Mr. Marley Vote: no vote

During discussion it was noted that several revisions have been provided and have not yet been discussed by the Board.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees table the vote regarding Policy A125.

Motion by: Mr. Wang Seconded by: Mrs. Witt Vote: 5 of 7

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

Due to a majority vote, the recommendation to pass Policy A125 was tabled.

D. Board Policy A175 – Whistleblower Protection

Recommendation: It was recommended that Policy A175 – Whistleblower Protection be approved as presented in the Board packet.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve Policy A175 as recommended by legal counsel.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt Seconded by: Dr. Yin Vote: 7 of 7

Discussion ensued noting that during previous Work Sessions, these policies were presented for first readings, and are now ready for their second readings.

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

E. Board Policy A200 – Firearms, Weapons and Destructive Devices

Recommendation: It was recommended that Policy A200 – Firearms, Weapons and Destructive Devices be approved as presented in the Board packet.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve Policy A200 as recommended by legal counsel.

Mrs. Austin held the motion for discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding suggested revisions submitted for Policy A200 Firearms, Weapons and Destructive Devices.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees table Policy A200 for further review and discussion.

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

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

F. Board Policy A225 – Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

Recommendation: It was recommended that Policy A225 – Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect be tabled due to multiple suggested revisions regarding the Policy.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees table Policy A225 as presented by legal counsel.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

G. Board Policy A250 – No Tobacco

Recommendation: It was recommended that Policy A250 – No Tobacco be approved as presented in the Board packet.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve Policy A250 as recommended by legal counsel and with one additional revision.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mrs. Mumford

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

H. Board Policy A325 – Communicable Diseases

Recommendation: It was recommended that Policy A325-Communicable Diseases be approved as presented in the Board packet.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve Policy A325 as recommended by legal counsel.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Schott

Vote: 6 of 7

Mrs. Mumford shared that she will vote no because there has been no discussion of the revised version.

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

I. Board Policy B100 – Powers and Philosophy

Recommendation: It was recommended that Policy B100 – Powers and Philosophy be approved as presented in the Board packet.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees table Policy B100 for further review and discussion.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Wang

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

*Mrs. Witt requested permission for a five-minute recess at 7:29 p.m.

*President Austin recalled the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. SkyBound – Strategic Planning

Dr. Greiner introduced Mr. Adam Jones, with SkyBound Education, who presented information regarding the Strategic Planning process and strategies. During Mr. Jones' presentation he discussed the following:

❖ AGENDA

- Role of surveys in strategic planning
- Survey development
- Administering surveys and analyzing results

❖ FEEDBACK

- Feedback from students, staff, families and community members

❖ SURVEY GOALS

- Gather honest feedback
 - Identify relative strengths and weaknesses
 - Collect and curate language that can be used when writing and refining goals and strategies
 - Inform follow-up questions for focus groups
- ❖ SURVEY DEVELOPMENT
 - Draft question sets, provided by SkyBound, to the West Lafayette Leadership Team
 - Leadership Team added, removed and revised questions
 - ❖ ADMINISTERING SURVEYS & ANALYZING RESULTS
 - West Lafayette will administer surveys using Google Forms (*surveys are confidential*)
 - West Lafayette owns and holds all data
 - SkyBound, in collaboration with the West Lafayette Leadership Team, will develop upcoming focus group questions

The Leadership Team includes Dr. Greiner, Mrs. Roth, Mrs. Cronk, Mr. Rodgers, Mrs. Psarros and Mrs. Delaney.

Discussion ensued if Board members would be permitted to provide survey input and have access to the information. Mr. Jones reiterated that West Lafayette Community School Corporation owns and holds all data.

B. Budget and Workshop Hearing

Mrs. Cronk presented the Budget and Workshop Hearing with a packet of information which included:

- ❖ PowerPoint Presentation
 - Budget Adoption Calendar
 - Realities: state funding, assessed values, teacher compensation and tuition support
 - Education Fund (101)
 - Education Fund Revenue Budget: total revenue budget \$19,560,995
 - Education Fund Budgeted Expenses: total expenses \$18,975,200
 - Debt Service Fund (200)
 - Debt Service Revenue and Expenses: total revenue \$10,396,715 and total expenses \$9,640,995
 - Operations Fund (300)
 - Operations Fund Revenue Budget: total revenue budget \$4,849,329
 - Operations Fund Budgeted Expenses: total program and object expenses \$5,764,000 each
 - Operating Referendum Fund (160)
 - Operations Referendum Revenue Budget: total revenue budget \$11,532,558
 - Operations Referendum Fund Budgeted Expenses: total program and object expenses \$9,725,900 each
 - Rainy Day Fund (610): current balance \$1,077,825
 - Rainy Day Budgeted Expenses: total program and object expenses \$800,000 each
 - Final Comments
- ❖ ADM Funding (*history: back to 2008-09*)
- ❖ Forecast 5 Graph (*certified tax rates*)
- ❖ Circuit Breaker Analysis Graph (*property tax caps*)

Recommendation: It was recommended to open a Budget Hearing to hear public comment on the Budgeted Funds, the Capital Expenditures Plan and the Bus Replacement Plan. *No public comments were received and the Budget Hearing was concluded.*

C. GO BOND – Preliminary Determination Hearing

Recommendation: It was recommended for the Board to hold a preliminary hearing on the proposed construction project for a General Obligation Bond.

Pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.1, whenever a school corporation proposes to issue bonds for the construction or renovation of a school building or buildings resulting in total costs in excess of certain thresholds,

or if a school corporation has a Debt Service tax rate above a certain amount, the school corporation is required to hold two public hearings on its preliminary determination to issue such bonds. The first hearing was held on September 16, 2024, and the second hearing will be held on October 7, 2024.

The General Obligation (GO) Bond will be used for renovations and improvements to facilities throughout the school corporation, including site and athletic improvements, demolition work and the purchase of equipment, technology and buses.

The following steps for a public hearing are:

- ❖ Ice Miller representatives explain the purpose of the hearing
 - Discussion ensued regarding the tax revenue calculation.
- ❖ Dr. Greiner and Mrs. Cronk shared the need for the Project as well as a list of possible projects
- ❖ Baker Tilly representatives explain the financial impact of the project
 - Existing Debt Service Payments
 - Schedule of Existing Debt Service
 - Calculation of General Obligation Debt Capacity
 - Summary of Proposed Financing
 - Existing and Proposed Debt Service/Lease Rental Payments
 - Estimated Taxpayer Impact
- ❖ The Board President open the public hearing for comment from interested patrons

Recommendation: It was recommended to open the public hearing on the General Obligation Bond. *No public comments were received and the hearing was concluded. Please note this is the first step in the legal process and no Board action was legally required at this time.*

D. Finance Update

Mrs. Cronk reported that the Objects Breakdown of the month's claims is included in the Board Packet during the period of August 8 through September 11. Two Fund Reports were also provided. The first one is the month-end final Fund Report for July after all revenue and expenses have been posted and the bank reconciled. A preliminary Fund Report for August, which is still in the process of posting revenue and some expenses, was also included in the Board packet.

VI. INFORMATION TO THE BOARD

Mrs. Austin

- Attending Hoosier Women Forward 2024 Annual Luncheon on Wednesday, September 25, in Indianapolis with Representative Chris Campbell.

VII. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Dr. Greiner

Appreciate the Partnership with the City of West Lafayette

- I would like to take an opportunity to thank Mayor Easter and the City of West Lafayette representatives.
- We had a productive meeting with Mr. Larry Oates about a potential partnership to address preventative maintenance needs for our tennis courts.
- The city recognizes that the courts are used by both students and the community and is interested in expanding recreational opportunities, such as pickleball.
- Mr. Oates has offered substantial funding support for renovations if we include pickleball striping for community use when not in school use.
- Mr. Oates will take a proposal to his Board proposing to partner with us by contributing financial support to help address our courts should we move forward with the GO Bond and address the courts in the near future.

Appreciate the Partnership with WLSEF

- I would also like to stress my appreciation for our partnership with the West Lafayette Schools Education Foundation (WLSEF).

- We are working on a Memorandum of Understanding to allow WLSEF to begin fundraising for renovations to the JSJS ground floor, including locker rooms and PE areas.
- The agreement will cover expectations for fundraising, timelines, contributions from WLCSC, cash flow, fund transfers, and naming rights.
- We'll keep the board updated as the partnership progresses to address these renovation needs.

Parent Council Meetings

- I would also like to report that over the past few weeks, I had the pleasure of attending two parent council meetings with Mrs. Cronk and Mrs. Roth.
- We're committed to strengthening connections and supporting our amazing parent volunteers, and we look forward to visiting again in the second semester.
- Beyond these scheduled meetings, we're always happy to attend when requested by the parent councils.
- I want to personally thank all our families for their continued volunteer support, which plays a vital role in the success of our learning environment for all students here at West Side!

Appreciation to Our Current Board Members and Prospective Board Members

- Finally, some of you may be aware there has been some discussion about the upcoming school board election, including petitions for candidates and signatures of support.
- Recently petitions were posted on the website and you may have seen my support posted along with many others.
- I would like to publicly share what I shared with our Board most recently.
- I signed a petition for Mrs. Amy Austin, upon her request, in appreciation and support of her service and willingness to run again.
- While there seems to be some controversy around petition signatures, I want to clarify that I would have signed for any candidate running, whether current or prospective board members.
- I would not deny a signature when requested (assuming they meet qualifications to run).
- I was not asked by anyone else to sign a petition.
- I appreciate those willing to serve on the school board.
- While it may sometimes feel like a thankless responsibility, it is a vital role in ensuring the success of our schools and students.
- Thank you to all current and future candidates for your dedication.

Mr. Schott

WLSEF Report

- The Foundation and the West Lafayette Alumni Association are hosting an alumni tailgate this Friday, Sept. 20, prior to the Homecoming football game. Details are available on the wlsef.org website.
- The Class of 1974 will be celebrating its 50th reunion this weekend, Sept. 20-22. They have many activities planned, including a tour of the Jr./Sr. High School.
- The Wall of Pride Class of 2025 will be announced in conjunction with Homecoming on Sept. 20. This will be the seventh class to be inducted into the Wall of Pride.
- The Foundation will be hosting a luncheon for retired staff on Oct. 22. Last year's lunch was a lot of fun, and they are looking forward to another enjoyable day together at the Whittaker Inn.
- The Scarlet & Gray Dinner and Auction will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at the Beck Agricultural Center. Save the date and plan to attend.
- The first Community Council meeting is set for Nov. 4.

Comment:

At our August meeting, Don Coller spoke about the negativity of Mrs. Mumford's monthly commentary. After the meeting, there was an assertion by Mrs. Mumford that Mrs. Austin, our board president, and Mr. Coller are neighbors and in turn Mr. Coller was allowed to speak longer than the stated allotted three minutes. I reached out to Mr. Coller about this assertion, and he responded as follows (and gave me his OK – some might use the word consent – to share this):

“No collusion or conspiracy. I had never met Amy, do not know where she lives; spoke to her for the first time after the meeting that night. Everything that I said is exactly my impression and opinion of the current situation. As I said, there was no conspiracy or collusion on Amy's part. No one put me up to it. My reaction to what I read is my reaction only.”

Mr. Marley

The Redevelopment Commission meeting was held on August 21, at 8:30 a.m. Highlights included the following:

- First reading of the TIF District allocations.
- There are seven TIF Districts now:
 - Sagamore is almost \$1 million
 - KCB is \$5.9 million
 - Levy Village is \$14.8 million
 - 231 North is \$648,000
 - 231 Purdue is \$6.1 millionTotaling \$28.448 million, per year, that can be utilized for capital projects in the city of West Lafayette.
- Cason Family Park is still under construction.
- A new Public Safety Center is being planned with a rough budget of approximately 60 million plus.
- Exploratory work on a new Pre-K Center.

Dr. Yin

- G.L.A.S.S. will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, September 17. *Dr. Greiner noted that the meeting might not be held on the 17th.*

Comments:

Extended gratitude to those prospective Board members who are running to serve the West Lafayette Community School Corporation.

Regarding Policies, would like to see a committee with sub-committees formed to discuss and review the Board Policies.

Mrs. Witt

- Board-Teacher discussion did not meet in August due to a lack of Agenda items. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 19.
- Attending the Fall ISBA Meeting on September 23 and 24 and representing the region for the awards committee as well as the 2024 delegate assembly to the ISBA.

Comment:

Noticed that the Band dismissed practice in complete darkness, therefore, field lighting is extremely important for staff and students.

Mr. Wang

Parks and Recreation Report

- Municipal pool season ended on August 4, serving more than 8,000 swimmers and 500 group lessons.
- The after-school program is running well with 40 enrolled students.
- Working through training staff to drive school buses to transport students.
- Preschool program's enrollment is a bit low at this time.
- Cason Family Park construction is going well and on schedule and tours will be available on Tuesday, September 17 for anyone interested. The grand opening is planned for May 22, 2025.
- West Lafayette Parks and Recreation has their own foundation and recently updated their bylaws.

Comments:

Extended appreciation for the Pre-K classroom program.

Appreciates Dr. Greiner's email updates regarding Key Initiatives, GO Bond, Strategic Planning and Board Policies .

Mrs. Mumford

