

# 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 9, 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

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

## **I. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ West Lafayette Elementary Blue-Ribbon Ceremony (*presented by Mrs. Sara Delaney, Principal*)
  - February 2024: WLES was nominated by delegates for the National Blue-Ribbon Award
  - April 2024: the application process was completed
  - June 2024: application in final stages of review
  - September 2024: received unofficial word to watch Dr. Cardona's presentation
  - September 27, 2024: celebrated with the entire school the nomination
  - November 6, 2024: Mrs. Delaney, Mrs. Benhart and Dr. Greiner left for Washington, D.C.
  - November 7-8, 2024: the U.S. Department of Education formally recognized the schools at the ceremony
- ❖ Technology Highlights (*presented by Mr. Brandon Hamilton, Technology Director*)
  - The technology department installs/manages most all devices that have an IP address
  - Automated attendance notifications (absences, school messenger and calls/emails)
  - Student Chromebooks
  - Central Office (installed a modernized network infrastructure)
  - Migrating to Cisco WebEx (directory installed/configured, syncs users & groups)
  - Hybrid configuration during installation
  - E-Rate Project (wireless network upgrades)

## **II. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE - None**

## **III. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- **Agenda for the December 9, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees.**
- **Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held on November 11, 2024.**
- **Personnel Report**
- **Accounts Payable**
  - Corporation Claims - \$2,181,780.76
  - WVEC Claims - \$36,373.81

- Total Claims - \$2,218,154.57

*A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve all items listed in the Consent Agenda.*

*Motion by: Mr. Wang*

*Seconded by: Mrs. Witt*

*A motion was made to remove Accounts Payable from the Consent Agenda.*

*Motion by: Dr. Yin*

*Seconded by: Mrs. Mumford*

*Returned to the final vote of all remaining items in the Consent Agenda. Vote: 6 of 6*

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

Discussion regarding Accounts Payable ensued. Clarification was requested for the payment to CCHA and details of the charges.

*Following the discussion, a motion was made to approve Accounts Payable.*

*Motion by: Mrs. Witt*

*Seconded by: Mr. Schott*

*Vote: 6 of 6*

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

#### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Scheduling and Summer School Updates**

Mr. Rodgers spoke to the Board and told them that summer school would be the same process that was done last year and contracts will be available in January.

Discussion ensued for further clarification. Mr. Rodgers explained that the summer school process has changed because of funding issues. WLCSC teachers will not be teaching summer school courses. Students may enroll through Indiana Online and Ivy Tech, to name a few.

##### **B. Tennis Court MOU**

*Recommendation:* A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was presented to the Board of School Trustees for discussion only during the November Board of School Trustees Regular Meeting. The MOU would be among the West Lafayette Community School Corporation, the City of West Lafayette (City), the City of West Lafayette Parks and Recreation (Park Board), and the City of West Lafayette Redevelopment Commission (RDC) for the ongoing public access and use of the redeveloped Cumberland Tennis Courts. The WLCSC, City, Park Board and RDC would agree to redevelop the Tennis Courts, including complete reinstallation of surfaces and sub-surfaces, restriping, including dual-stripping of up to four courts for both pickleball and tennis use, installation of new lighting and fencing.

A few minor changes/updates were made to the initial MOU. The revised MOU reads that the lines for the four pickleball courts will not intersect with the tennis court lines, and the pickleball storage bins will be located off the tennis courts.

The estimated total cost of the redevelopment project will be between \$1.8 and \$2 million of which the RDC would provide \$750,000 in redevelopment construction support funding.

*A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the Tennis Court MOU between the West Lafayette Community School Corporation and the City of West Lafayette.*

*Motion by: Mr. Schott*

*Seconded by: Mrs. Witt*

*A motion was made to table approval of the Tennis Court MOU.*

*Motion by: Dr. Yin*

Mrs. Mumford requested some rationale behind Dr. Yin's request to table the approval and vote of the MOU. Even though the MOU has been updated, removing the pickleball lines away from the tennis lines, there are some concerns involving location of the court lines, noise, parking, WLCSC students having first priority to the tennis courts for athletic purposes, if donations could be accepted in lieu of accepting the money from the City of West Lafayette and receiving input from pickleball players.

*Motion failed for lack of a second.*

Returned to discussion regarding the MOU as written. Topics included appreciation to the City of West Lafayette for their partnership, the flexibility the West Lafayette Community School Corporation has with hiring the contractor and collaborating with them regarding the design/location/layout, and placing the well-being of the students first.

*Returned to the final vote of the Tennis Court MOU between the West Lafayette Community School Corporation and the City of West Lafayette.*

*Vote: 6 of 6*

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

**C. Bus Purchase**

**Recommendation:** The Transportation Department has requested the purchase of a 78-passenger gas conventional bus for budget year 2025. Bids were obtained from the Central Indiana Educational Service Center. The bus is not expected to be delivered until the latter part of 2025 due to supply issues. Of the two bids, Blue Bird was the lowest with a base price of \$141,351 and a built-out price of \$169,278.

*A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the Bus Purchase with Blue Bird as submitted.*

*Motion by: Mr. Wang*

*Seconded by: Mr. Schott*

*Vote: 6 of 6*

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

**D. Property Insurance Renewal**

**Recommendation:** The West Lafayette Community School Corporation has worked with the Henriott Group for its insurance needs for many years. Representatives met with the Business Office to discuss the upcoming renewal of property/casualty/liability, cyber and workers compensation insurance. The extenuating factor for the increase in property insurance rates is due to the increase in property values as well as a small increase in employees.

Henriott recommended the following:

- Property/Casualty/Liability Insurance renewal with the ASTRA Program under Great American at a total package cost of \$239,108 (a 16.2% increase from the 2024 premium).
- Henriott's flat rate service fee will remain at \$22,000 for calendar year 2025.
- Worker's compensation will remain with Accident Fund at a total premium cost of \$51,522 (9.5% lower than the 2024 even though wages have increased).
- Cyber liability with CFC for 2025 which offers a lower deductible and slight increase in cost with a premium of \$15,270 for a \$1 million limit and a deductible of \$15,000 versus the \$25,000 deductible with the current provider.

Considering all three products, there will be a total increase of 9.4% compared to 2024.

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the renewal of the West Lafayette Community School Corporation property insurance as presented.***

***Motion by: Mrs. Witt***

***Seconded by: Mr. Wang***

***Vote: 6 of 6***

Discussion topic included law enforcement liability. Every officer, regardless of their schedule, needs to be included in the coverage, which resulted in a premium increase.

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

## **VI. SUPERINTENDENT AND CFO REPORTS**

**Dr. Greiner** (*Superintendent*)

### ❖ **Strategic Planning**

Progress continues in the Strategic Planning Process

- Mr. Jones, with SkyBound, facilitated two virtual community focus group meetings
- While attendance was lower than anticipated, the discussions were productive, and the input received was valuable.
- Another virtual session has been added in January to encourage greater participation.
- The stakeholder survey has been highly successful with nearly 2,000 responses received.
- The responses will be analyzed by Mr. Jones and his team.
- Mr. Jones will share key themes and insights accordingly.

Upcoming events in the strategic planning process

- Building Focus Groups (Faculty and Students)
    - December 11- WLIS
    - December 12 - JSHS
    - December 13 - WLES
  - Community/Family In-Person Meeting
    - December 20 at 10:30 a.m.
  - Additional Virtual Meeting
    - January 15 at 1 p.m.
  - Strategic Planning GPS Leadership Workshop for Administrators
    - February 21 from Noon-4 p.m. (facilitated by Mr. Jones)
- ❖ Wishes to all for rest and quality family time over winter break.
- ❖ Thank you to Mr. Schott and Mr. Marley for their committed efforts serving on the Board. It has been a privilege to serve with you.
- ❖ Welcome to Dr. Purpura and Mr. Lyle to the Board beginning in January.

**Mrs. Cronk** (*CFO*)

Mrs. Cronk reported that the Objects Breakdown of the month's claims is included in the Board Packet during the period of November 7 through December 4. Two Fund Reports were also provided. The first one is the month-end final Fund Report for October after all revenue and expenses have been posted and the bank reconciled. A preliminary Fund Report for November, which is still in the process of posting revenue and some expenses, was also included in the Board packet. Please note: a separate docket for the November 5 payroll was included as the last docket may not have picked-up all of the benefits because they may have posted later.

## **VII. BOARD REPORTS**

**Mrs. Austin** (*Legislative Liaison*)

- ❖ Congratulations to Rachel Witt on being selected as the ISBA Region IV Director.

- ❖ A meeting was held with Mrs. Austin, Mrs. Mumford and the corporation lawyer regarding Mrs. Mumford's online statements about community members and in her meeting summaries. It was asked that Mrs. Mumford refrain from using community member's names in her publication, which was refused. Mrs. Mumford did agree to avoid releasing addresses, signatures, birthdates and other sensitive information in the future.
- ❖ There was a correspondence with Public Access Counselor, Luke Britt, as to whether or not the ad hoc Policy Committee needs to treat their meetings as open public meetings or if it is more "doing the work of the Board." He advised that the meeting should be public, have minutes prepared and publicly available, be advertised and posted, but public comment is not necessary.

It was also noted that if a member of the public were to make a comment during the Policy Committee meeting, only the committee members would hear the comment(s). Mr. Britt agreed that all voting Board members should hear comments from the public during regular meetings. Policy Committee meetings will be posted and advertised the same as regular meetings. Minutes will be prepared and posted.

- ❖ Finally, gratitude to Tom Schott for his many (12) years of selfless service to the school district. He will be deeply missed.

**Mrs. Mumford** (*Public Schools Foundation of Tippecanoe County*)

The Public Schools Foundation held their grant reception on November 21. Mr. Roe was recognized for the grant he was awarded titled Stem Coding with TinkRWorks.

**Mr. Wang** (*Parks and Recreation and Policy Committee*)

- A Farmer's Market to end the season was held before Thanksgiving.
- The Riverside Skating Center opened after Thanksgiving.
- After-school program is fully enrolled and is going well.
- Plans for spring and summer breaks are in process.
- Cason Family Park should be completed by the end of May.
- ❖ Attended the IASBO School Finance Seminar on December 5 and submitted/shared a summary report.
- ❖ Appreciation to Tom Schott for his service and an honor/pleasure working together.
- ❖ Welcome to Dr. Purpura and Mr. Lyle to the Board.

**Mrs. Witt** (*Board/Teacher Discussion and Policy Committee*)

- WLEA met for Board-Teacher discussion on Thursday, November 21, with discussion topics:
  - Early release on the PSAT day and the parent-teacher conferences with positive feedback
  - End of the year updates from the business office
  - Support staffing
  - Summer school hours
- ❖ Policy Committee updates
  - Changes were already made regarding the Policy Committee meetings with the exception of the Minutes, which will look similar to those from Executive Board meetings because decisions are not made in policy.
  - Requested that further work on policies not continue until after the January Organizational/Regular/Finance meeting.

**Dr. Yin** (*G.L.A.S.S.*)

The most recent meeting was held in November and one issue that was discussed was the shortage of language speech pathologists and possibly pulling them out of the general contract in order to offer a more competitive salary. The next meeting will be held on February 18 at 2 p.m.

- ❖ Thank you, Tom, for your service and contribution to the district, and welcome to David and George.

**Mr. Schott** (*WLSEF and Community Council*)

- The West Lafayette Schools Education Foundation had a great turnout for the scholarship information night on Dec. 2, despite the weather. The application site is open for students to apply for WLSEF scholarships. Information was mailed to all seniors on Dec. 3.
- The Foundation is grateful to the high school counseling team, especially Allyse Gruss, for another outstanding Career and Trades Expo. Thank you to Greg Tudor and Excel Group, which provided bags for the students to collect all the giveaways. Thank you, also, to foundation board members who provided gift cards to be used as prizes for the students who completed their Expo bingo cards.
- The winter edition of the Devil's Advocate alumni newsletter will be mailed this month.
- Seven teachers received WLSEF Teacher Grants this semester totaling \$6,760. We also had two teachers receive grants this fall from other sources: Patrick Roe with the Public Schools Foundation of Tippecanoe County and Courtney Murtaugh from the Big Ten Football Championship Game Classroom Resource Grant program. Congratulations to all these educators.

As this is my last meeting as a member of the West Lafayette School Board, I would like to make a few farewell comments.

- ❖ First and foremost – thank you to my home team: Jane, August and Sam. Your love and support mean everything to me. I want to take a moment to acknowledge Jane, whose departure from the Jr./Sr. High School last summer after 17 years as a teacher, coach and administrator pretty much flew under the radar. As so many will attest, she poured her heart and soul into the West Lafayette Community School Corporation.
- ❖ To Alan Karpick, Rachel and Amy – thank you for being great board presidents and even greater colleagues and people. I also want to acknowledge a few other fellow board members through the years – Dianne Sautter, Karen Springer, Brian Bittner and Brad – who were tremendous mentors, role models and teammates.
- ❖ To the West Lafayette Schools Education Foundation – former president Doug Masson, current president Brad Cohen, executive director Wendi Ailor and the rest of the board – you are such a vital partner for our schools. I truly value your enthusiasm to enhance educational opportunities, ensure that every student has the resources needed to thrive and strengthen alumni ties – as well as your professionalism and teamwork.
- ❖ To Rocky Killion – it was a joy working with you because your excitement and compassion were so contagious. You built the foundation on which our current success sits, and our school district will always be indebted to you.
- ❖ To Roberta – thank you for your joy, your patience and, of course, your treats. Your tolerance in reinventing how meeting minutes are kept – more than once – is appreciated, as is your dealing with my nick-picky edits – always happily doing so.
- ❖ To Dr. Greiner – thank you for accepting our offer to become superintendent and for building an incredibly talented and devoted team with Mrs. Roth and Mrs. Cronk. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our students, teachers, staff and community. The three of you are rock stars in a challenging environment, too often made more so by some who seek to micromanage. I hope the new members, George and David, will help change the contentious culture of the board and, in turn, make your professional lives more pleasant. You deserve that. Our community is so fortunate to have you.

- ❖ To our teachers and staff – thank you for your passion and for teaching our students how to learn, how to think and how-to problem solve, preparing them for their future.
- ❖ And finally, to our community – thank you for entrusting me as a board member for the last 12 years. It has been my honor and privilege to serve, and I have tried to do so with a calm and common-sense approach. It was never about me, or my friends and acquaintances. It was always about our school district and community at large. I am hopeful that any difference I might have made helped reinforce West Lafayette as the state of Indiana’s top school district – one that our students, alumni, faculty and staff are proud to call their school. West Side was a special place when I joined the board in 2013 and remains a special place today. RDP

**Mr. Marley** (*Redevelopment Commission*)

Absent – no report

**VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Regular, Organizational and Finance Board Meetings: Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6 p.m. – Location TBD

**IX. UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST**

1<sup>st</sup> Semester Ends: Friday, December 20, 2024

Winter Break: Monday, December 23, 2024 – Friday, January 3, 2025

School Resumes: Monday, January 6, 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Begins: Monday, January 6, 2025

Martin Luther King Day: Monday, January 20, 2025 – 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 7:19 p.m.

*Motion by: Mr. Wang*

*Seconded by: Mrs. Mumford*

*Vote: 6 of 6*

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

  
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President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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Documents are available on the WLCSC website - <https://www.wl.k12.in.us/board/meetings-info>