

**WEST PRAIRIE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #103
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEST PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL
April 15, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The West Prairie School District #103 Board of Education met on April, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in a regularly scheduled meeting, at West Prairie High School. Board members present were: Lee Moore, Scott Vogler, Matt Zimmerman, Lisa Butterfield, and Matt Mencel. Members participating via Zoom: Sherrie Weaver and David Geltmacher. Members absent: none.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Board and audience stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Superintendent Gradert announced that the high school is going to remote learning from April 16, 2021 to April 20, 2021. Approximately 75-80 students were absent due to COVID illness or required quarantine. The McDonough County Health Department noted that the district made a good decision. Gradert also announced that a vaccine clinic will be held at West Prairie High School on April 26, 2021 to allow for students ages 16 and up to receive the vaccine with parental permission.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:

Middle School Students of the Month selected by the West Prairie staff were: fifth grade, Logan Brown; sixth grade, Eli DeCounter; seventh grade, Macy Branch; eighth grade, Alex Cheesman.

High School Students of the Month were freshman, Joshua Watters; sophomore, Braydon DeCounter; junior, Brandon Clark; senior, Madison Calvert. The staff member of the month is Mr. Sam DeCounter.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public.

Lee Moore extended sympathies to the family of Dwight Haines, a former custodian of West Prairie.

Matt Zimmerman was nominated for Secretary Pro Tem. As no other nominees were given, Matt Zimmerman was declared Secretary Pro Tem by acclamation.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Vogler moved and Butterfield seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes from March 18, 2021, the bills and activity accounts, and the liquidation of district surplus items. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Principal/AD Hall reported that quarantines in volleyball and football will cancel the remainder of those seasons. Track, baseball and softball are able to begin practicing, but with the low number of non-quarantine members for baseball and softball may postpone the start of these sports. He also discussed the assessments that IHSA will be doing to make up for the loss of revenue due to COVID restrictions. Hall announced that the State Track meet has been canceled while the post season for both baseball and softball is on for now.

Principal Edholm reported that the South Elementary is preparing for Summer Learning. Currently they have 27 in person participants and have prepared 93 packets. The teachers allowed the older students to help select the reading material. She also announced that the PreK playground project will be completed soon.

Principal Cox announced that Mr. Musser has been bringing in several items for biology for the students including caterpillars. He highlighted that Bret Powell, once again, donated 84 cases of water from Country Financial. The high school is very grateful.

Principal Watson discussed the summer learning program in order to provide those students with the necessary skills to move to the next grade level. She also discussed student-led conferences this spring. Restrictions prevented the parents from coming into the school on the specific day. The students prepared, practiced, and delivered presentations at home, but the students were asked to introduce their parents in a flipgrid video. The teachers helped the students with a reflection of the process afterward and 100 parents completed the survey.

Superintendent Gradert discussed the plan for the summer learning program of twelve days during the month of June for solid instruction and to allow high school students to obtain the necessary credits. The district has been allotted \$160,000 in CARES funds, \$850,000 in ESSER II funds, and \$1.9 million in ESSER III funds. The district is applying for the REAP grant to purchase science lab equipment. He also announced the start of the implementation of Skyward. Technology Director Leckrone is working toward a smooth transition to the new student information software. Gradert reviewed the Facilities Committee meeting where they discussed the North Elementary renovations, asbestos removal, flooring options, and kitchen equipment at the middle school. The committee also discussed storage options and the district office. Logistics and timelines for moving equipment and furniture were also discussed. Superintendent Gradert reported on the school board election results and the new requirement for putting At-Large voting for District 7 on the next general election ballot. He also highlighted the recent gas bill which reflected recent issues with gas supply and delivery.

APPROVE THE INCREASE OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHER PAY FOR 2021-2022:

Mencel moved and Butterfield seconded approve the increase of substitute teacher pay for the 2021-2022 school year to \$14 per hour as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

APPROVE THE UPDATED EQUIPMENT LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE COLCHESTER LIONS CLUB FOR SPRING SEMESTER:

Vogler moved and Zimmerman seconded to approve the updated Equipment Lease Agreement with the Colchester Lions Club for spring semester as presented with many thanks for its support of West Prairie Schools. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION TO FILL SCHOOL BOARD VACANCIES:

The board discussed the need to fill the vacancy of school board seats. Discussion only.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Zimmerman moved and Mencel seconded to enter into executive session at 7:54 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1).

Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meeting Act, whether for the purpose of approval by the body of minutes or semi-annual review of minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILSC 120/2 (c)(16).

Those members voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

Butterfield moved and Mencel seconded to return to open session at 9:06 p.m. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT:

Vogler moved and Butterfield seconded to hire Kelly Murfin as full-time mechanic pending all certifications and pre-employment requirements. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Vogler moved and Zimmerman seconded to hire John McCormick as West Prairie/Southeastern 8-Man Football head coach as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Butterfield moved and Mencil seconded to hire Ian Conkling as West Prairie/Southeastern 8-Man Football assistant coach as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Zimmerman moved and Geltmacher seconded to hire Connor Sullivan as 6th grade middle school literature/language arts substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, effective May 3, 2021 as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Vogler moved and Mencil seconded to hire Jessica Ellefritz as School Social Worker pending licensure paperwork as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Zimmerman moved and Mencil seconded to reassign Chad Cox to West Prairie Jr. Sr. High School Assistant Principal/AD for the 2021-2022 school year as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Butterfield moved and Weaver seconded to approve a three year contract with Caitlin Watson as West Prairie Jr. Sr. High School Principal as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Mencil moved and Zimmerman seconded to approve a three year contract with Caleb Hall as West Prairie North Elementary Principal as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Zimmerman moved and Mencil seconded to approve 2% pay increase in the final year of the contract of Jennifer Edholm as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

RETIREMENT:

Vogler moved and Butterfield seconded to accept the retirement letter from Marita Rochelle as bus driver with thanks for her many years of service to the students of West Prairie, effective May 28, 2021 as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINTUES:

Vogler moved and Zimmerman seconded to approve the release of recommended Executive Session minutes as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

ADJOURN:

Butterfield moved and Zimmerman seconded to adjourn at 9:19 p.m. President Moore call for a voice vote. Those members voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

The next scheduled monthly meeting will be April 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at West Prairie Middle School.

**APPROVED BY RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
WEST PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT #103**

McDonough, Hancock, Henderson Counties, Illinois on _____

President

Secretary