

**WEST PRAIRIE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #103
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEST PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL
January 21, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The West Prairie School District #103 Board of Education met on January 21, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in a regularly scheduled meeting, at West Prairie High School. Board members present were: Lee Moore, Scott Vogler, Sherrie Weaver, Matt Zimmerman, Lisa Butterfield, Matt Mencil, 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 students have started back to school. Immunization of West Prairie staff has begun. 79% of the staff are expected to be inoculated.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:

Middle School Students of the Month selected by the West Prairie staff were: fifth grade, Tyson Churchill; sixth grade, Audrina Hoke; seventh grade, Ethan Welsh; eighth grade, Addisyn Winking.

High School Students of the Month were freshman, Cole Cordell; sophomore, Lauren Bell; junior, Cydni Thrapp; senior, John Burton. The staff member of the month is Mrs. Susan Hobby.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Zimmerman moved and Weaver seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes from December 17, 2020 and the bills and activity accounts. Those members on roll call voting "aye": Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Superintendent Gradert reported that there has been a regional dip in enrollment numbers. Some students have not been accounted for during the pandemic.

AD Caleb Hall announced that practice for middle school volleyball starts Monday. Boys basketball will start practice next week with scrimmages only. Both the IHSA and IESA will be meeting about scheduling. Hall also announced that West Prairie was accepted into the Eight Man football association, received Conference acceptance, and will begin play next school year. West Prairie has also reached a positive agreement with Southeastern to Coop for Eight Man football.

Principal Edholm reported that the staff had a productive in-service session. The Staff are happy to have students back. She is thankful for the vaccine.

Principal Watson reported that the professional development on curriculum mapping was productive, there has been an adjustment in remote learning numbers, and several teachers participated in the Remote Learning Conference and learned a lot.

Principal Hall announced that it's great to have kids back. The teachers have worked hard and the students are excited to be in school. Most all students are back.

Principal Cox reported that the motivational speaker did well. The staff welcomed students back and it felt like a school again. He highlighted maintenance work done by Mr. Klinedinst and Mr. Wyatt. It was much appreciated.

Superintendent Gradert discussed the Administrative Team meeting discussion on building realignment, the acceptance of Eight-Man draft agreement to form Cooperative with Southeastern #337. Superintendent Gradert highlighted the Larry Carson memorial donation for West Prairie baseball. He also announced the presentation by Graham & Hyde regarding the middle school renovation and discussed the potential new Federal CARES money.

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY BONDS:

Weaver moved and Mencil seconded to approve the Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$2,115,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2021, of the District for the purpose of altering and reconstructing school buildings and purchasing and installing equipment therein for fire prevention and safety, energy conservation and school security purposes, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the execution of a Bond Purchase Agreement with Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated, in connection with the sale of said bonds as presented. Those members on roll call voting "aye": Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION BY GRAHAM AND HYDE OF THE WEST PRAIRIE MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATION PLAN:

Architects David Leggans and Jamie Cosgriff presented plans for the renovation of the middle school. Discussion only.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR GRAHAM AND HYDE TO SEEK BIDS FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE WEST PRAIRIE MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Zimmerman moved and Mencil seconded to approve the agreement for Graham and Hyde to seek bids for the renovation of the West Prairie Middle School as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL TO RENOVATE INTERIOR WALLS AT NORTH ELEMENTARY:

The board discussed a proposal to renovate interior walls at North Elementary. Proposal included materials for adding classroom walls, materials and pricing. Discussion only.

POLICIES FOR FIRST READING:

Policies 3:40, 4:10, 4:55, 4:80, 4:90, 4:150, 4:175, 5:30, 5:190, 5:270, 6:15, 6:20, 6:40, 6:280, 6:300, 6:310, 6:315, 6:320, 6:340, 7:100, 7:140, 7:300, 7:325 were placed on first reading. Discussion only.

APPROVE ELECTIVE COURSE ADDITIONS TO HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM:

Zimmerman moved and Geltmacher seconded to approve the addition of Creative Writing, Drama Arts, and Film Production courses to the high school curriculum as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

APPROVE 71 PASSENGER BUS LEASE/PURCHASE:

Weaver moved and Butterfield seconded to approve the District Account Authorization list as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. Abstain: Vogler. The motion carried.

APPROVE THE PROPOSAL OF AUDITING SERVICES:

Vogler moved and Mencil seconded to approve the proposal of the WIPFLi Agency for auditing services as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried. Board member Sherrie Weaver left at 8:20 p.m.

APPROVE TO SET 2021 GRADUATION AND PROMOTION DATES:

Vogler moved and Zimmerman seconded to set the 2021 High School Graduation date for May 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at West Prairie High School and May 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at West Prairie Middle School pending mitigation of COVID-19 protocols. Those

members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

APPROVE THE CREATION OF EIGHT-MAN FOOTBALL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM:

Mencil moved and Geltmacher seconded to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Southeastern CUSD 337 for Eight-Man Football as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION:

The board discussed the superintendent evaluation process. Discussion only.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Zimmerman moved and Geltmacher seconded to enter into executive session at 8:37 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).

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

Zimmerman moved and Butterfield seconded to return to open session at 9:25 p.m. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

NOMINATION OF SECRETARY PRO TEM:

Vogler moved and Zimmerman seconded to nominate Lisa Butterfield as Secretary *pro tem* as no other nominations were offered, Lisa Butterfield was appointed by acclamation.

EMPLOYMENT:

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

Mencel moved and Geltmacher seconded to hire Richard Musser as a long-term substitute teacher at West Prairie High School for the 2nd semester of the 2020-2021 school year. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: Zimmerman. The motion carried.

Zimmerman moved and Geltmacher seconded to hire Jessica Kitch as a substitute cook pending all certifications and pre-employment requirements. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Butterfield moved and Vogler seconded to hire Patti Clark as WPMS Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Mencel moved and Butterfield seconded to hire Adam Kerns as High School Scholastic Bowl Coach for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Zimmerman, Butterfield, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. Abstain: Mencel. The motion carried.

Vogler moved and Zimmerman seconded to hire Drew Snyder as WPMS Head Volleyball Coach for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Mencel moved and Butterfield seconded to appoint Caleb Hall as WPHS Volunteer Volleyball Coach for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: Vogler. The motion carried.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mencel moved and Zimmerman seconded to accept the resignation of Bethany Morath as long-term substitute teacher, effective January 21, 2021 as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Zimmerman moved and Mencel seconded to accept the resignation of Courtney McCarty as full-time cook effective January 15, 2021 as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

LEAVES:

Vogler moved and Mencel seconded to approve the FMLA request of Joan Biswell beginning January 19, 2021 through April 13, 2021 as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Butterfield moved and Mencel seconded to approve the extended medical leave of absence of Hind Ali beginning February 5, 2021 as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

ADJOURN:

Zimmerman moved and Butterfield seconded to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. President Moore call for a voice vote. Those members on voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

The next scheduled monthly meeting will be February 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at West Prairie High School.

**APPROVED BY RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
WEST PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT #103
McDonough, Hancock, Henderson Counties, Illinois on _____**

President

Secretary