

**WEST PRAIRIE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #103
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEST PRAIRIE MIDDLE SCHOOL
October 15, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

The West Prairie School District #103 Board of Education met on October 15, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., in a regularly scheduled meeting, at West Prairie Middle School. Board members present were: Lee Moore, Sherrie Weaver, Lisa Butterfield, and Matt Mencil. Members absent: Scott Vogler, Matt Zimmerman, and David Geltmacher.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Superintendent Gradert announced that IDPH is sponsoring free COVID testing at surroundings locations. Work on the Middle School roof has begun. He also reported on the area districts that temporarily have gone to full remote learning due to outbreaks of the virus. Parent Teacher conferences will be held remotely this semester. West Prairie schools will be closed on November 3, 2020 for Election Day and November 11, 2020 for Veterans Day. Superintendent Gradert also thanked Roger Hodges and the Colchester Lions Club for the efforts made and assistance given by the group.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:

Principal Watson announced the Middle School Students of the Month as follows: Fifth Grade – Lillian Sheffler; Sixth Grade – Maya Hofmeister; Seventh Grade – Abby Starbuck; Eighth Grade – Nate Chapdelaine.

Principal Cox announced the High School Students of the Month as follows: Ninth Grade – Allee Bunnell; Tenth Grade – Ava Kilburn; Eleventh Grade – Ella Wayne; Twelfth Grade – Kutler Kitch. The High School Staff Member of the Month is Mrs. Angela Hepner.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Butterfield moved and Weaver seconded to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2020 regular meeting, the bills and activity accounts, and the liquidation of excess assets. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Weaver, Butterfield, and Mencil. Nays: None. The motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

The principals announced that school is going well and that several students will be rejoining in-person learning after fall break. Students and parents are finding that remote learning is hard and the schools are doing well with safety procedures. Principal Watson explained benchmark data for the middle school. Principal Cox announced that US Representative Darin LaHood participated in the Principal for a Day at West Prairie High School. He was hosted by Mrs. Gravina's class and the students were able to converse with Representative LaHood and ask several interesting questions. Principal Cox also thanked Mr. Bret Powell from Country Financial who donated 84 cases of bottled water for the students.

Superintendent Gradert discussed the City of Colchester's TIF meeting. The TIF will continue until 2034. The ROE will conduct the annual Health Life Safety Inspection on October 19, 2020. The district's auditors returned the FY2019 AFR. Next year the district will probably need to file a Single Audit. The current audit firm is no longer doing those types of audits. The district will need to find another firm going forward.

PLACE POLICIES ON SECOND READING AND ADOPT:

Weaver moved and Mencil seconded to place policies 2:150-AP, 2:250-E2, 2:260, 2:260-AP1, 2:260-AP2, 2:265, 2:265-AP1, 2:265-AP2, 2:265-E, 4:180-AP1, 4:180-AP2, 5:10, 5:20, 5:90-AP, 5:100, 5:200, 5:220, 5:330, 7:20, 7:20-AP, 7:180, 7:185, 7:190-E2, 7:345-AP on second reading and adopt. Those members on roll call voting "aye": Moore, Weaver, Butterfield, and Mencil. Nays: None. The motion carried.

APPROVE RESOLUTION ABATING THE TAXES HERETOFORE LEVIED FOR THE YEAR 2021 TO PAY DEBT SERVICE:

Weaver moved and Mencil seconded to approved the Resolution abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2021 to pay debt service on the General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2020, of Community Unit School District Number 103, McDonough, Hancock and Henderson Counties, Illinois as presented. Those members on roll call voting "aye": Moore, Weaver, Butterfield, and Mencil. Nays: None. The motion carried.

BOARD OF EDUCATION STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

The board discussed possible qualifications and duties of a student representative. Discussion only.

FACILITY COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Facility Committee reported that work is underway on the Middle School gym roof. The next phase of the repair looks to the rest of the roof. The committee members asked the board to consider what will happen in the building in the future, where to house

students while repairs are made, and the relocation of the unit office. The South Elementary Pre-K playground project was also discussed. Discussion only.

ISSUANCE OF HEALTH LIFE SAFETY BONDS:

The board discussed the issuance of Health Life Safety Bonds for designated repairs to the middle school. Discussion only.

DISCUSSION OF IASB EVENTS:

The board discussed IASB events. Discussion only.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mencel moved and Butterfield seconded to enter into executive session at 8:17 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 the Act. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1).

Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Weaver, Butterfield, and Mencel. Nays: None. The motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

Weaver moved and Mencel seconded to return to open session at 9:38 p.m. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Weaver, Butterfield, and Mencel. Nays: None. The motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT:

Mencel moved and Butterfield seconded to approve Bethany Morath as high school Scholastic Bowl Coach for the 2020-2021 school year. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Weaver, Butterfield, and Mencel. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Weaver moved and Mencel seconded to approve the employment of Lacy Kindhart as substitute cook pending all background checks and required paperwork. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Weaver, Butterfield, and Mencel. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Weaver moved and Geltmacher seconded to approve the employment of Gage Bowen as full-time custodian pending all background checks and required paperwork. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Weaver, Butterfield, and Mencel. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Mencel moved and Weaver seconded to approve the employment of Megan Sears as district bookkeeper pending all background checks and required paperwork. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Weaver, Butterfield, and Mencel. Nays: None. The motion carried.

RESIGNATIONS:

Butterfield moved and Mencel seconded to approve the resignation of Agnes Pillay-Morris as high school Science Teacher effective January 2, 2021 with thanks for her service to the students of West Prairie as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Weaver, Butterfield, and Mencel. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Weaver moved and Butterfield seconded to approve the resignation of Drew Snyder as middle school Track Coach as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Weaver, Butterfield, and Mencel. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Mencel moved and Weaver seconded to approve the resignation of Dalton Deeter as middle school boys Assistant Basketball Coach as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Weaver, Butterfield, and Mencel. Nays: None. The motion carried.

ADJOURN:

Mencel moved and Butterfield seconded to adjourn at 9:41 p.m. Those members voting “aye”: Moore, Weaver, Butterfield, and Mencel. Nays: None. The motion carried.

The next scheduled monthly meeting will be November 12, 2020 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