

**WEST PRAIRIE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #103
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT TO SELL \$2,250,000 SCHOOL FIRE
PREVENTION AND SAFETY BONDS
West Prairie High School Cafeteria
18575 East 800th Street, Sciota, Illinois
December 17, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The West Prairie School District #103 Board of Education held a public hearing on the intent to sell School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds on December 17, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., at West Prairie High School. Board members present were: Lee Moore, Scott Vogler, Sherrie Weaver, Matt Zimmerman, Lisa Butterfield, and David Geltmacher. Members absent: Matt Mencil.

TESTIMONY BY THE PUBLIC:

President Moore read the statement of the intent to sell \$2,250,000 School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds. President Moore asked for testimony from the public the requisite three times. There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURN:

President Moore declared the hearing adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

**WEST PRAIRIE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #103
BOARD OF EDUCATION
TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING
WEST PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL
December 17, 2020
7:02 p.m.**

MINUTES

The West Prairie School District #103 Board of Education met on December 17, 2020, at 7:02 p.m., to conduct a Truth in Taxation Hearing 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.

Superintendent Gradert presented the tax levy to the board.

President Moore asked for testimony from the public. There was no testimony.

ADJOURN:

President Moore declared the hearing adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

**WEST PRAIRIE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #103
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEST PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL
December 17, 2020
7:03 p.m.**

MINUTES

The West Prairie School District #103 Board of Education met on December 17, 2020, at 7:03 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 reminded the board that in-person learning will resume January 20, 2021. There have been an uptick in COVID cases in the area. He provided an update regarding vaccines and the return dates of other local districts. Superintendent Gradert also remarked on the willingness of the staff, families and community to work together during this time.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:

Middle School Students of the Month selected by the West Prairie staff were: fifth grade, Niah and Kamara Zimmerman; sixth grade, Angel Day; seventh grade, Nora Cromwell; eighth grade, Mikey Kitch.

High School Students of the Month were freshman, Owen Torrance; sophomore, Madelyn Hood; junior, Kelsie Parks; senior, Gwendolyn Kahlke. The staff member of the month is Mrs. Jami Minter.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public.

Superintendent Gradert recognized members Matt Mencil and Lee Moore as IASB recognized Master Board Members.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Vogler moved and Weaver seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes from November 12, 2020, the bills and activity accounts, and the release of surplus technology items. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

AD Caleb Hall reported the district is still waiting for guidance for the return to sports. Coaching is allowed with one student to one coach for 15 minutes. The area Athletic Directors prefer the shortened seasons not overlap due to multi-sport athletes. He also reported that the IESA is on the verge of bankruptcy. AD Hall also presented new logo work designed by Rachel Kerns to help brand the district and provide a consistent identity across the schools.

Principal Edholm announced the Pre-K Expansion program monitoring process and that Denita Clover has been a great help providing documentation and reorganizing the environmental areas of the Pre-K classrooms. Principal Edholm is proud of the efforts of staff to tackle the needed benchmark data.

Principal Hall highlighted the work done by the paraprofessionals organizing learning labs. The faculty appreciate their efforts.

Superintendent Gradert discussed the floor plans and potential time line provided by Graham and Hyde architects. He also discussed the process of approval for 8 man football.

POLICIES FOR FIRST READING:

Policies were presented for first reading. Complete list of policies for first reading will be presented at the next meeting. Discussion only.

APPROVE THE 2020 TAX LEVY:

Mencil moved and Zimmerman seconded to approve the 2020 tax levy as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

APPROVE DISTRICT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION:

Zimmerman 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 TO ALLOW ACCESS TO VIEW BANKING DOCUMENTS:

Mencel moved and Geltmacher seconded to allow Megan Sears viewing rights to online banking documents at Colchester State Bank as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

APPROVE THE APPLICATION PROCESS WITH I8MFA FOR THE PUPOSE OF FORMING AN 8-MAN FOOTBALL TEAM:

Vogler moved and Zimmerman seconded to approve the application process with I8MFA (Illinois Eight Man Football Association) for the purposes of forming an 8-man football team beginning in the Fall of 2021. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION PROCESS:

The board discussed the superintendent evaluation process and time line. Discussion only.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Zimmerman moved and Weaver seconded to enter into executive session at 8:04 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, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

Zimmerman moved and Butterfield seconded to return to open session at 9:15 p.m. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT:

Weaver moved and Geltmacher seconded to hire Lacy Kindhart as part-time cook for the 2020-2021 school year pending all certifications and pre-employment requirements. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencel, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Weaver moved and Vogler seconded to hire Rachael Trone 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, Weaver, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: Zimmerman. The motion carried.

Zimmerman moved and Mencil seconded to hire Sam DeCounter as a middle school assistant boys basketball coach for the 2020-2021 school year. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

RESIGNATIONS:

Zimmerman moved and Weaver seconded to accept the resignation of Tanya Clark as part-time cook effective December 16, 2020 with thanks for her service to the students of West Prairie 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 Weaver seconded to adjourn at 9:19 p.m. President Moore call for a voice vote. Those members on voting “aye”: Moore, Vogler, Weaver, Zimmerman, Butterfield, Mencil, and Geltmacher. Nays: None. The motion carried.

The next scheduled monthly meeting will be January 21, 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