

## **WWG School Board Meeting**

**March 20, 2023**

**Westbrook 7:00 PM**

Members present: Maas, Hemp, Warner, Kleven, Foster, Superintendent Woelber, Principal Woitalewicz, Derrick Jenniges also present were Abby Klumper, Mandy Dibble, Courtney Locke and Tom Merchant. Absent – Madson, Kuehl

Maas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion made by Hemp and seconded by Warner to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried

Motion made by Hemp and seconded by Kleven to approve the February 23, 2023. Motion Carried

Motion made by Kleven seconded by Foster to approve the claims, account balances, treasurer reports and vendor payments. Motion Carried

### **Visitor reports –**

### **Old Business –**

- Day Care updates – are officially accepting families, currently have around 61 kids interested. Can take up to 72. Sent out notice that we are accepting applications for workers. Looking for Full Time and Part time employees. Looking at options for playground for the daycare. Hoping to be open by June.
- Motion made by Kleven and seconded by Maas to move forward with the full project as presented for the Playground expansion in the amount of \$302,336. Motion Carried
- Abandoned property in Walnut Grove for sale and possible parking lot. Current owners are willing to sell for \$5000. There would be additional costs for removal of the house on the property.

### **Administrative Reports**

AD Theisen – Congratulations to the basketball teams on very successful winter seasons. The Cheerleaders were also great this winter. Music large groups both got Superiors at their region event. Small group music regions are on May 6<sup>th</sup> at Mountain Lake. Speech subsections are March 28 at Windom and Speech Regions are at Redwood Falls on April 15. All varsity Baseball games will be played in Westbrook this year. JH baseball practice will be at WG starting Wednesday – with games in Westbrook or Walnut Grove. The April 29<sup>th</sup> varsity softball tournament will be held at Plum Creek Park this year. Currently we will only have a JV Softball team (7-9) and Varsity. Not enough JH players for a team. Tim Orth benefit basketball game will be held at Winthrop on March 31 at 5:30. Varsity Track has three early season indoor track meets at Mankato on March 25/27 and SDSU on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Coaches needed for next year – JH Volleyball, JH Football, and Asst. Golf. Thanks to Jeff Farber for donating his pay back to the school for working the Girls basketball scorebook.

#### Mr. Jenniges Lake Shetek trip for 5-8th

- Many positive comments from students and staff
- Kids Heart Challenge has wrapped up - \$5,564 total donations (Joseph Albertson top fundraiser). Total over the lifetime of event is \$133,074 (an estimated 2664 lives)
- Spelling Bee winners
  - Kimberly Fernandez (1st) Elysa Kopperud (2nd) Britton Maas (3rd)
- Cory Greenwood speaker on March 13 - Positive student interactions, comments from staff and students. Thank you Macie Christians!
- P/T Conferences
  - One night done, one rescheduled for Tuesday
- Spring book fair will finish up on Tuesday
- Winston - therapy dog - has made a couple visits and students have responded positively
- Upcoming Charger Pals next Friday - Welcome to Spring project
- Exploring a slightly different method for gathering teacher orders this spring
- Summer lunch program
- Thoughts on slight increase to Preschool fees \$750 / \$500

#### Principal Woitalewicz –

- HS teachers are filling out budget requests. These will be sent to you before the April board meeting for approval.
  - I have a few teachers making Remick Foundation requests as well.
- Shetek Environmental Day a success
- 7th and 8th grade students didn't seem to want to go along, but most of those that went had a fun day. Unfortunately, over 8 students called in sick on this day and our reschedule caused a conflict with junior high band ensembles, so many of our 7th and 8th grade students missed out.
- In talks with Katie Chapman at Lake Shetek to possibly move our 5th grade environmental trip out there instead of up north. Our Lake Carlos trip has had to be cancelled for the last few years, so this might be a good alternative.
- Cory Greenwood, a speaker, came to elementary and high school on March 13. Also held an evening session for the community in Westbrook. It was amazing to see how Macie Christians put this together and how much confidence she now has to tell her own story. Overall, our school and community really benefitted from this experience.
- 20+ students took their ACT test on March 7th. Will wait on results. We have been using John Baylor ACT prep materials, but are possibly looking into ACT prep through IXL, a program we have used specifically for math in the past.
- We have purchased an IXL trial for \$1 per student this spring and are testing it out in our math classrooms. Mrs. Dibble is also looking into the program IXL has for ACT prep this spring.
- Spring sports are starting and also Spring Play.
- Spring play practice begins March 27 and performances are scheduled for the weekend of May 12th.
  - The Foreigner by Larry Shue. It's about an awkward man who pretends to not know English to avoid having small talk with people only to stumble upon a conspiracy involving the KKK which he must stop while still pretending to be a foreigner.
- Congratulations to our senior high Band and Choir programs for receiving superior ratings at Large Group contest. Luke Nelson and Tasha Cuff do an amazing job with our band and choir programs, and it shows every time we attend large group contest.
- Teachers in HS talking through PASS Screener results.

- Results show how we can help students overcome some social-emotional barriers to learning that they might have.
- One barrier we see in particular is low student self-regard. We have many students who do not think they are capable learners.
- Teachers are choosing strategies to help students improve their self regard and employing those strategies during the school day.
  - One example is to teach positive self-talk. Another is to have teachers learn how to use effective, concise praise.
  - Mindset is hugely important. One of the main things a focus on PASS Screener results and their impact on our student body will do is help teachers begin to focus on creating a growth mindset in our students.
- Students will be given the PASS Screener survey again in late spring to see if our efforts are helping.
- Starting a Tier II program at HS
  - McKenna McFarlin will become our Tier II coordinator and also high school librarian.
  - This program is an attempt to offer extra supports for our students who are struggling in school but are not in special education. These students “fall through the cracks” and are at greater risk of not graduating, so we are trying to make sure they have additional supports needed to achieve success in school.
- Senior class trip coming up April 5-10. Seniors are excited to go.
- Many thanks to our sports boosters for donating money to purchase an updated tablecloth with our school logo on it along with a tension fabric display to go behind the table.
  - We will use these supplies to honor our student-athletes who choose to continue their athletics career into college.
  - We will also honor students who receive specific awards from local or state organizations in this way.
- Congratulations to Ella Knakmuhs on being selected as our local winner for the MSHSL Excel Award.
- Congratulations to Olivia Anderson and Elijah Merrick on being selected as our local MSHSL AAA award winners.
- New tension fabric display behind is in the library.
  - We are making plans to honor our students and families who make a college or career choice.
  - As well as Student achievements throughout the year
  - We are trying to promote the idea that our seniors are on their way towards becoming productive members of society upon graduation from our school. Recognizing students when they make a choice for their future will help.
- Daycare Center
  - Daycare Center planning continues.
  - We’ve officially started taking reservations for kids to be enrolled in the daycare center.
  - We will take the list of enrollments and use it to hire people enough to fully meet our needs.
  - We have many families with infants who are in need of services. We are hoping to find enough staff members to meet the need.
- Requesting approval of 24-26 Achievement & Integration Plan
  - 3 goals this round instead of the 5 we used to have. Trying to simplify the plan and make goals meaningful and achievable.

- **Goal #1:** Over 50% of qualifying FRLP students will achieve at the Tier 1 level of Walnut Grove Elementary’s MTSS reading system by the spring of their 3rd grade year.
    - This will involve funding for our elementary reading specialist.
  - **Goal #2:** 100% of students attending the annual environmental science camp will display an improved ability to work with people of different backgrounds and from different schools as measured by environmental camp exit surveys.
    - This will involve funding our yearly 5th grade environmental science camp.
  - **Goal #3:** To maintain an average above 8 years teaching in the district, 100% of WWG teachers will complete a teacher satisfaction survey to guide professional development and mentoring opportunities each year.
    - This will fund a new initiative focused on teacher retention and happiness.
- Locker installation has been mostly completed waiting on a few items to finish.

Superintendent Woelber –

- Transportation (new handicap bus is in MN.....) Winter 22-23 tractor for WG has arrived. WG winter of 23-24 tractor will be here in the next few months.
- Food Service (summer lunch planning in the works)
- Administrative updates
  - April agenda for Supt sharing.
  - Survey of staff for Principals looked really good.
- Shared Services
- ESSER will be used up June of 2024
- Enrollments
  - PreK- 59 (3’s and 4’s), K-46,
  - 1st-42, 2nd-40, 3rd-37,
  - 4th-40, 5th-36, 6th-25, WG Bldg K-6 266 + 59 PrK
  - 7th-29, 8th-39, 9th-39
  - 10th-25, 11th-25, 12th-23; WB Bldg 180
- Updating Strategic Plan (MSBA or Cliff Carmody) I really like our mission and vision statements. What’s next?
- Empty houses in WG and parking
- Legislation Compensatory 140k and safe schools 120k?? Many other mandates that would hurt us.
- Advertising for special education, industrial arts, FACS and math. Planning for Title interventionist.
- Insurance bids to be opened in the next couple weeks.
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Motion made by Foster and seconded by Hemp to approve the recognition of the following donors/Supporters’ Motion Carried

- Jeff Farber for donating his wages from working Girls Basketball game book.
- Macie Christians for her work in the Cory Greenwood presentations.

- Beth Kleven for her help in the Spelling Bee.

#### New Business

Snow days update, discussion, and action.

- 6 no school
- 5 flexible learning
- 8 late starts
- 2 (possibly 3) early outs
- Make up days on Monday February 20th, Monday April 10th, Tuesday May 30th - Thursday June 1st.
- 1 day online / packet day to be subtracted from student contact days.
- Friday March 17<sup>th</sup> – Motion made by Warner and seconded by Kleven to approve the amendment of the calendar to include one less calendar day and staff will make up the day in coordination with administration guidance and curriculum needs. Motion Carried
- Next Missed day – Motion made by Maas and seconded by Warner to have the next missed school day to have an online learning day. Motion Carried

Motion made by Kleven and seconded by Hemp to approve Tyson Crosby for junior high baseball. Motion Carried

Motion made by Foster and seconded by Hemp for the Approval of Achievement and Integration plan (Mr. Woitalewicz). Motion Carried

Motion made by Warner and seconded by Kleven for the Resignation and many thanks to Jen Guertin for math instruction. Motion Carried

Motion made by Hemp and seconded by Kleven for the Approval of FY24 calendar as presented with moving Graduation to June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion Carried

Woodstock telephone information regarding desired switch. (Courtney Locke)

Looking ahead to projects summer of 2023 and beyond

- Walnut Grove playground (20 volunteers for 3 days)
- Walnut Grove Elementary Library facelift. (carpet)
- Walnut Grove Classroom A/C
- Westbrook parking lot next couple years? Bond?
- Westbrook replace some galvanized pipe in Tech campus
- Westbrook Tech campus parking lot (concrete or rock)
- Westbrook Gym ridge cap and east entry roof / walkway

Motion made by Hemp and seconded by Foster for the approval to move the greenhouse and yearbook accounts from the student activities fund to the district account. Motion Carried

Motion made by Warner and seconded by Hemp to approve Cody Claussen for part time van driver for this spring. Motion Carried

Next meeting Monday April 17th, 7 p.m. in Walnut Grove

Adjourned at 8:53 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Foster  
Board Clerk