

Board Minutes

July 24, 2023

The regular meeting of the Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools Board of Trustees was held at the Jasper High School Community Room on July 24, at 7:00 p.m. President Greg Eckerle called the meeting to order. Mr. DeMotte was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by everyone in attendance.

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Eckerle asked members if any of the consent agenda items needed to be discussed.

No other items were asked to be discussed.

A motion by Arlet Jackle, second by Steve Lukemeyer, to approve the consent agenda, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes, claims and bank reconciliations
- Consideration of Request for Leave
 - None
- Resignations/Retirements
 - Kathy Eckerle-English Teacher-JMS-Retirement
 - Andrew Helming-Agriculture Teacher-JHS
 - LaDonna Werner-Cafeteria Manager-Retirement
 - Breann Hildenbrant-28-Hour Title I Instructional Assistant and ½ Cafeteria Stipend-JES
 - Jasmine Helming-35-Hour Title I Instructional Assistant-JES
 - Jana Bennett-30-Hour EL Instructional Assistant-JES
 - Kendra Hasenour-Cafeteria-JES
 - Erin Jochum-Varsity Assistant Track Coach-JHS
 - Andre Hartings-School Psychologist-DSP Co-op
 - Halee Rugenstein-Behavior Consultant-DSP Co-op
- Staff Recommendations
 - Erika Boechman-English Language Arts Teacher-JMS
 - Hannah Mehringer-Agriculture Teacher-JHS
 - Ashlyn Hoffman-Little Wildcats Lead Teacher-JHS
 - Megan McDonald-Little Wildcats Associate Teacher-JHS
 - Wanda Miller-Little Wildcats Associate Teacher-JHS
 - Tina Wahl-Home School Advisor-GJCS
 - Emma Stenftenagel-Move from 28-Hour to 35-Hour Title I Instructional Assistant-JES
 - JHS Speech and Debate Stipend-Split Between Ross Polen and Daniel Otto
 - Candy Wilkerson-Student Services Coordinator
 - Joann Benjamin, Diagnostician-Co-op
 - Jana Bennett-Diagnostician-Co-op
- Incentive Program Completion/Increase-adds \$3,000 to Base Salary
 - None
- Field Trip Requests

- None
- Other
 - Approval of revised wages and benefits for Little Wildcats childcare staff
 - Approval of wages for Home School Advisor

Wildcat Spotlight-None

Building & Maintenance Update—Scott Stenftenagel-Todd Hopf-Sandy Butler

Schmidt Associates gave a presentation on updates for Ruxer Field and JHS Softball Field. They informed the Board there will be two projects but one contractor. The Turf will be one project by itself. The Turf Company is a separate company. The Softball field will get a new scoreboard and new bleachers. The old bleachers will be moved to the JV field. The baseball field at Ruxer will also get a new scoreboard. Mr. Lukemeyer asked about the safety nets at Ruxer Field.

Schmidt Associates described how they will be installed.

Mr. Lukemeyer asked about the video scoreboard at Ruxer and if it can do replays.

Mr. Gobert said they will use it more if a kid hits a homerun. They can also use it as a promotional feature to earn revenue.

Mr. Elrod's class at the high school will take ownership of the scoreboard in the future.

Schmidt Associates said there will be two new entrances to Ruxer Field.

Mr. Lukemeyer asked if there was a plan for a turf wiffle ball area.

Mr. Gobert said it is not being talked about right now.

Mr. Lukemeyer said the wiffle ball area has been a success.

Mr. Stenftenagel asked approval to advertise for bids for the Ruxer Field and JHS Softball Field improvements.

A motion by Arlet Jackle, second by Steve Lukemeyer, to approve the advertisement for bids for Ruxer Field and the JHS Softball Field, were unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Stenftenagel asked permission to purchase furniture and loose equipment from Lee Company. The project is funded by the remaining bond issue funds from the Ireland classroom addition. The cost of the project is approximately \$427,369.63. The completion date for the project is June 2024.

A motion by Arlet Jackle, second by Dr. Englert, to approve the purchase of loose equipment for Ireland Elementary School, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Curriculum Update—Mrs. Fawks

Mrs. Fawks shared information regarding the 2023 ILEARN assessment results. She stated they look at many data points. GJCS students performed well above the state average in every content area. She stated they have three years of ILEARN data now. Mrs. Fawks stated ILEARN is being redesigned for 23-24 school year. The corporation will realign to the new standards for the 24-25 school year and structure the program accordingly.

Mrs. Jackle asked how often does the corporation change the baseline.

Mrs. Fawks stated every 6 years.

Mrs. Jackle stated it seems like the testing is changing all the time.

Mrs. Fawks said she is encouraged by the IDOE support now that wasn't there in the past.

Mrs. Jackle commended teachers and staff for the great job they do.

Mrs. Jackle stated there are not enough subs in the corporation to help out in the classrooms.

Mrs. Fawks stated Indiana is trying to look at more than test scores. She stated the results will be used to help make decision but they aren't going to access us on the corporation's performance.

The corporation and IDOE is looking at absent rates—graduation rates—SAT Scores—Kids who participate in dual credit courses.

Mrs. Fawks stated teacher teams work collaboratively every year to explore ILEARN data, alongside other data points, to identify priorities for instruction and professional development if needed.

Student Support Services and Transportation Update—Mr. Buechlein

Mr. Buechlein asked the Board to approve the purchase of three new school buses from the Rainy Day Fund. One is an 84 passenger bus and 2 are 81 passenger buses. The total cost of the buses is \$425,895.00. He stated if we order the buses now, they hope to have them by the 2024-2025 school year. He stated the current spare buses are old and have high mileage. He said in looking to the future the corporation may have to assume routes in the next bid process.

A motion by Dr. Englert, second by Steve Lukemeyer, to approve the purchase of three new buses, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Buechlein said the transportation building open house that was held July 10th was a success. He anticipates two new people wanting to become bus drivers. He stated with the Auntie Sam advertisements along with Officer Knies and Mr. Flamion doing some advertising they are hoping to get a few more people interested in becoming bus drivers.

Mrs. Jackle said the advertising is great and to keep it up.

Dr. Lorey asked the Board to authorize her to publish on the GJCS website the CPF and Bus Replacement Plan. The Board received the proposed FY 24 Budget summary, CPF Plan and Bus Replacement Plan.

The 2024 advertised tax rate is \$1.9207. This is significantly inflated the advertised tax rate to ensure to capture the maximum levy in the Operation Fund. The actual tax rate will be determined by the DLGF and will depend upon the certified AV for 2024, property tax caps and the corporation assessment of the rate against the budgetary needs. The rate will be much lower than the advertised rate. Last year the advertised tax rate was \$2.0125 and the actual rate was \$1.0217. The tax rate last year was exceptionally low due to the dramatic increase in the Assessed Valuation. The corporation anticipates the FY 24 tax rate to be somewhere in the range of \$1.1100 which aligns with the rates for the past several years.

Dr. Lorey asked the Board to approve permission to advertise the proposed 2024 Budget Form 3 on Gateway and post the CPF and Bus Replacement plans on the district website, as well as uploading these to Gateway.

A motion by Arlet Jackle, second by Dr. Englert, to approve the publishing of the CPF and Bus Replacement Plan on the school website, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Lorey informed the Board a Public Hearing on the Budgets will be at the August 28th Board Meeting. The Budget Adoption Meeting will be at the September 18th Board Meeting.

Dr. Lorey asked permission to advertise a public hearing for an increase to the approved appropriations in the Education Fund. The current approved appropriations in the Education Fund per the FY2 1782 Notice is \$20,192,894. Midyear the corporation has spent 53% of the appropriations. She stated she is concerned this appropriation may not be enough to cover expenses from the Education Fund. She stated appropriations define the amount permitted to expend by the DLGF. She stated the corporation is on track to receive approximately \$24,188,001. She is seeking an additional permission to spend \$1,500,000. This would allow the corporation to manage the remaining expenditures from the Education Fund for the remainder of the calendar year. As part of the process, a public hearing will be

held at the August Board Meeting. She asked the Boards permission to advertise the necessary notice to Taxpayers regarding the Additional Appropriation and Public Hearing. A motion by Steve Lukemeyer, second by Arlet Jackle, to approve the advertisement regarding the Additional Appropriation, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Other Business:

Dr. Lorey asked the Board to amend the 2023-2024 school calendar to dismiss all students at 1:00 p.m. on April 8, 2024, due to the complete solar eclipse activities in the area. A motion by Arlet Jackle, second by Steve Lukemeyer, to approve the amendment of the 2023-2024 school calendar, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Lorey asked the approval of a Board Member appointment to the Redevelopment Commission. Mrs. Jackle made a motion to appoint Mr. Lukemeyer to the Redevelopment Commission, second by Dr. Englert, Mr. Lukemeyer abstained from voting.

Dr. Lorey asked approval of the legal retainer for Tim DeMotte. The amount for August through December is \$2,500.00 This is a prorated amount that matches Mr. Nordhoff's current retainer. A motion by Dr. Englert, second by Steve Lukemeyer, to approve the retainer for Mr. DeMotte, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Lorey made the following announcements:

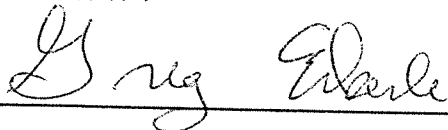
- The first day of school for all teachers will be Tuesday, August 8 and the first day for students is Wednesday, August 9
- August 28th-Regular Board Meeting-JHS Community Room-7:00 p.m.
- IAPSS/ISBA Fall Conference-September 25-26, 2023

Mr. Eckerle presented Mr. Nordhoff with a clock for all his years of service with the Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools. Mr. Nordhoff has served as the school attorney for over 54 years and has attended a lot of Board Meetings. Mr. Eckerle checked on the national school attorney site and Mr. Nordhoff may have the record for the longest school attorney in the country. He stated Dr. Vandeventer the previous superintendent always asks him how Mr. Nordhoff was doing. Mr. Nordhoff said it was a pleasure to serve the School Board for all these years. He stated he thinks he did a little bit of good for the school corporation. He stated his successor will be equally good. He thanked the Board for the clock.

There being no further business to conduct and upon a motion by Arlet Jackle, second by Dr. Englert, the Board voted to adjourn at 8:19 p.m.

An Executive Session was held before the regular meeting.

I.C.5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(6)(B) Personnel



President

Vice-President

Sara Schmidt Secretary member

Jul Engel Member

[Signature] Member