

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WABASH COUNTY

A meeting of the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Metropolitan School District of Wabash County, Indiana ("School District"), was held at the Administration Building, 204 N. 300 W., Wabash, IN, on September 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. (EST), pursuant to notice duly given to all members in accordance with I.C. 20-26-4-1, I.C. 20-26-4-3, I.C. 5-14-1.5 and the rules of the Board.

MSDWC School Board met in regular session on September 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Office. We will continue to livestream the meeting on Facebook Live.

Kevin Bowman, President, called the meeting to order. Mike Keaffaber, Superintendent and Chris Kuhn, Assistant Superintendent were present. Absent was Tim Drake, Chief Academic Officer. A roll call of members on the Board were shown to be present as follows: Scott Haupert, Jeff Porter, Matt Driscoll, and Christian Rosen. Also present was Josh Petruniw, Cheryl Ridgeway, Amber Lewis, Mike McDivitt, Jay Snyder, Gary Dawson, Frankie Dawson, Melissa Ball, Kyle Highley, and Kim Highley.

The pledge to the flag was recited.

Future Board meetings are scheduled for September 26, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, at the Administration Building, October 10, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, at the Administration Building, and November 14, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, at the Administration Building.

Public Recognition:

The recommendation to approve the \$1,200.00 donation from CIE, LLC for Southwood Ag Department was approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Scott Haupert, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the \$3,100.00 donation from: \$3,000.00-Bingo Charity Gaming Wabash Elks and \$100.00-Jerry Shenefield for Northfield Wrestling was approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Scott Haupert, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the \$400.00 donation from Rich Valley United Methodist Church for Northfield Robotics was approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Scott Haupert, and unanimously carried.

Staff Recognition:

Melissa Ball nominated Kyle Highley, Bus Mechanic. Mrs. Ball shared with the Board that 13 staff members nominated Mr. Highley for the "Garage Star" in the *STN Magazine*. He was featured in the August publication. Mr. Highley started as the bus mechanic in 2015. He maintains all of the buses for MSD. MSD is very lucky to have Mr. Highley and all of his skills.

School Recognition:

From Jay Snyder, Principal at Northfield Jr/Sr High School, we want to congratulate NHS Volleyball player Eden Hoover. At the North Miami Tomahawk Tourney on Saturday, August 19, 2023, Eden for her career, secured 1000 receptions and 1000 digs. She is adding to those totals game by game this year. Congratulations and good luck the rest of the season.

Mr. Keaffaber shared the City of Wabash is in the running for up to \$2 million in through OCRA's Community Development Block Grant program, thanks to being named a finalist in the state's PreservING Main Street program. MSDWC Senior Intern students assisted by waving signs during the in-person site visit by the selection committee. Those students participating were: Emma Adams, Macy Barney, Trinity Bever, Randy Boone, Talia Carrillo, Carrie Collins, Ava Copeland, Ryan Deeter, Allie Haecker, Madison Hall, Jordan Hart, Gabby Hauptert, Hannah Holmes, Atziry Lara-Menchaca, Ethan Lochard, Ryan McGouldrick, Kinsley Miller, Luke Pershing, Libee Price, Micah Smith, Gracie Snyder, Shyanne Stout, Noah Veals, Will Winer, Caleb Wyatt, Mara Zolman. The students had a great time helping out.

Public Comment: (Agenda Items Only)

No comments were made.

The Regular Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, August 22, 2023, were approved upon a motion made by Scott Hauptert, a second by Christian Rosen, and unanimously carried.

Claims were approved upon a motion made by Scott Hauptert, a second by Matt Driscoll, and unanimously carried.

Payroll was approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Jeff Porter, and unanimously carried.

Dr. Kuhn reviewed the End of Month for August.

2024 Budget Review:

Dr. Kuhn reviewed Form 4 (tax rates).

The recommendation to approve the advertising of Form 3 in Gateway was approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Christian Rosen, and unanimously carried.

President Kevin Bowman presided over the first Preliminary Determination Hearing. It was explained to the Board that under Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.5 whenever a school corporation proposes to enter into a lease agreement and/or issue bonds for the construction or renovation of a school building resulting in total costs in excess of certain threshold, the school corporation is required to hold two public hearings on its preliminary determination to issue such bonds and enter into such lease agreement. This meeting represents the first of such hearings. Notice of both hearings were published in the Wabash Plain Dealer on September 2, 2023, and was mailed

to the Wabash County Clerk and to any organizations previously requesting such notice as provided in Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.5. The proof of publication of the notice of the hearings was present to the meeting.

It was explained that at this hearing all interested people may give testimony and/or ask questions concerning the proposed renovation of and improvements to school facilities, including the construction of an elementary school addition to Northfield Jr/Sr High School, and a cafeteria addition at Metro North Elementary School (the “Project”). The purpose of the hearing is two-fold: (1) to inform the public as to the proposed Project; and (2) to allow all interested parties, taxpayers, and patrons of the School Corporation to voice their opinions as to the Project and ask questions.

After the purpose of the hearings was explained, the presentations regarding the need for the Project were given. An evaluation of the existing facilities was presented, including the building plan explaining the proposed Project. The estimated Project cost and schedule were then presented to the public. It was explained how this Project could be funded and the tax rate impact the Project would have on the community.

After the above presentations, the Board President announced that the Board would now hear testimony and questions from the public. After hearing no comments, the hearing was closed. He stated that the next hearing will be September 26, 2023.

Personnel Recommendations:

The recommendation to approve the resignation of Deb Elliott, Paraprofessional, Sharp Creek Elementary, effective September 1, 2023, was approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Christian Rosen, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the transfers of Cathy Lyons, transferring from Cook at Northfield Jr/Sr High School to a Paraprofessional at Sharp Creek Elementary, effective September 5, 2023; Mark Smith, transferring from Custodian to Head Custodian at Southwood Jr/Sr High School, effective August 28, 2023, were approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Christian Rosen, and unanimously carried.

Heartland Career Center Report:

No report.

Superintendent’s Report:

Mr. Keaffaber reported that there was a big celebration on August 24, 2023, at Southwood Jr/Sr High School. It was the first game on the new gym floor and Tom Finicle was inducted to the ISHVCA coach’s Hall of Fame which was a surprise to him. With over 800 wins, Coach Finicle ranks in the top 5 of all-time Indiana volleyball history!

Mr. Keaffaber reported on other things happening at MSD. Students have reached mid-terms with the end of the 1st 9-weeks coming up very quickly. On Friday, September 8, 2023, all staff were invited to hear Thomas Blackwell, motivational speaker, at Northfield auditorium. Then on Saturday, September 9, 2023, staff participated in the Roann festival parade. Retired teachers from the area were the Grand Marshals of that parade.

Mr. Keaffaber had the privilege of giving two tours of Southwood Jr/Sr High School for the classes of 1968 and 1978.

Curriculum Report:

No report.

New Business:

Principals Jay Snyder (Northfield Jr/Sr High School), Mike McDivitt (White's Jr/Sr High School), and Amber Lewis (Southwood Jr/Sr High School) presented their School Improvement Plans. After completion of the reviews a vote was called. The recommendation to approve the School Improvement Plans for Northfield Jr/Sr High School, White's Jr/Sr High School, and Southwood Jr/Sr High School were approved upon a motion made Christian Rosen, a second by Scott Haupert, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve Joel Martin, Principal at Sharp Creek Elementary, as the District School Safety Specialist was approved upon a motion made by Scott Haupert, a second by Christian Rosen, and unanimously carried as per Indiana Code 10-21-1-9.

The recommendation to approve the overnight camping trip for Sharp Creek Elementary 4th grade to Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, IN, October 5-6, 2023, was approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Scott Haupert, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the extended field trip for Northfield FFA to attend the National FFA Convention, November 3, 2023, in Indianapolis, IN was approved upon a motion made by Christian Rosen, a second by Matt Driscoll, and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business.

Board Policy:

The Board had the first reading of Board Policy #4230 Seclusion & Restraint. Second reading and vote will be September 26, 2023.

Public Comment (All Agenda Items):

No comments.

Items from Board Members:

No items from the Board Members.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

THE METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA

Kevin Bowman, PRESIDENT

Matt Driscoll, VICE-PRESIDENT

Scott Haupert, BOARD MEMBER

Jeff Porter, BOARD MEMBER

ATTEST:

Christian Rosen, SECRETARY