

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 26, 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 26, 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 were Josh Petruniw, Steve Holley, Sheryl Holley, Casey Stouffer, Frankie Dawson, Janette Moore, and Joel Martin.

The pledge to the flag was recited.

Future Board meetings are scheduled for October 10, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, at the Administration Building, November 14, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, at the Administration Building, and November 28, 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.

School Recognition:

From Northfield Principal, Jay Snyder. Northfield Jr./Sr. High School wants to congratulate Jaden Baer, Shelby Macy, and Anna Kissel who all received the National Rural and Small-Town Award from the College Board award program. The criteria for eligible students includes: GPA of 3.5 or higher, PSAT/NMSQT, or PSAT 10 assessment scores that are within the

top 10% of assessment takers in the state, and earned a score of 3 or higher on 2 or more AP Exams in 9th and 10th grade. Attend school in a rural area or small town.

Mr. Keaffaber shared an article from the Ball State University Alumni magazine ((shared by Mr. Janette Moore). Northfield graduate, Emma Wynn, was recognized in the Ball State University Alumni magazine for her dedication and act of kindness after an architecture comrade collapsed in class and never regained consciousness. Emma and two other students honored the student by completing his final semester project. Ethan Whitehead's parents were invited to the presentation and the project was well received on its merits.

From Southwood Principal, Amber Lewis. SHS would like to congratulate junior music department member McKenzie Moorman for making the 2024 Indiana All-State Honor Choir! There were over 40 students from our region that auditioned this year and she was chosen to be one of the top soprano performers. She will perform at the Embassy Theater in Ft. Wayne on Saturday, January 13, 2024.

From Mr. Joel Martin, Sharp Creek Elementary Principal. Sharp Creek Elementary wishes to recognize the hard work and efforts of our paraprofessional staff members: Kayla Black, Tammy Slone, Carrie Pugh, Jen Pollard, Sarah Aderman, Cathy Lyons, and Jessika Florek. Thank you for being such a positive part of our Sharp Creek team!

From Mrs. Janette Moore, Metro North Elementary. Our Metro North Little Norse Preschool soared through their preschool licensing visit. This is an annual requirement that allows our program to qualify for state funding and CCDF vouchers. Our licensing visit evaluates the health and safety of our program.

Metro North has eleven NHS students from Mrs. Dyson's Early Childhood and Human Services class who visits Metro North on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 2 hours. These students assist in classrooms and work with students. We are excited to have these future educators in our school.

Public Comment: (Agenda Items Only)

No comments were made.

The Regular Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, September 12, 2023, were approved upon a motion made by Scott Hauptert, a second by Matt Driscoll, and unanimously carried.

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

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

Dr. Kuhn reviewed Cash Flow.

## 2024 Project Hearing and Second Preliminary Determination Hearing:

The President presided over the hearing, welcoming everyone and introducing speakers.

It was explained that under Indiana law whenever a school corporation proposes to construct or renovate a school building at a cost in excess of one million dollars it must first hold a public hearing. Additionally, another purpose of the meeting was 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 thresholds, the School Corporation is required to hold two public hearings on its preliminary determination to issue such bonds and enter into such lease agreement. The first hearing on the preliminary determination for the Project (as defined herein) was held on September 12, 2023. Notice of both public hearings was published in the *Wabash Plain Dealer* on September 2, 2023, and was mailed to the Wabash County Clerk and 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 hearing was presented to the meeting.

It was explained that at this hearing all interested people may give testimony and/or ask questions concerning the renovation of and improvements to school facilities, including the construction of an elementary school addition at Northfield Junior/Senior 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 public testimony or questions, the Board considered the Project Resolution to complete the Project at a cost of more than one million dollars. Thereafter, a motion to approve was made by Matt Driscoll, second by Scott Haupert, and unanimously carried, the resolution attached as Exhibit A passed.

Also, at the conclusion of the public testimony and question, the Board considered the Preliminary Determination Resolution to issue bonds and enter a lease agreement in order to complete the Project. Thereafter, a motion to approve was made by Scott Haupert, second by Christian Rosen, and unanimously carried, the resolution attached as Exhibit B passed.

The President further stated that the Board needed to consider a Reimbursement Resolution. A motion to approve was made by Christian Rosen, second by Jeff Porter, and unanimously carried, the resolution attached as Exhibit C was adopted.

There being nothing further, President Kevin Bowman closed the hearing.

#### 2024 Budget Hearing:

President Kevin Bowman opened the 2024 Budget Hearing. Dr. Kuhn reviewed the budget. After the review of the budget and an opportunity for questions, Mr. Bowman closed the Budget Hearing. The vote for adoption of the 2024 Budget will be October 10, 2023.

The recommendation to approve the Resolution for Appropriation Modification was approved upon a motion made by Scott Haupert, a second by Matt Driscoll, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the transfer from Operation Fund to Rainy Day Fund was approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Scott Haupert, and unanimously carried.

#### Personnel Recommendations:

The recommendation to approve the resignation of Jurnee Willard, Paraprofessional, Sharp Creek Elementary, effective September 12, 2023; Alicia Clark, Paraprofessional, Southwood Elementary, effective October 10, 2023; Mary Merrell, Paraprofessional, Metro North Elementary, effective September 22, 2023, were approved upon a motion made by Scott Haupert, a second by Christian Rosen, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the employment of Stephanie Stangl, Custodian, Southwood Jr/Sr High School, effective September 27, 2023; Jennifer Pollard, Paraprofessional, Sharp Creek Elementary, effective September 25, 2023; Melody Yocum, Temporary Paraprofessional, WMAP, effective date to be determined; Hamilton Sadler, Robotics Coach, Southwood Elementary, effective immediately; Scott Campbell, Robotics Coach, Southwood Elementary, effective immediately were approved upon a motion made by Scott Haupert, a second by Christian Rosen, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the leave of #162, leave to begin August 10, 2023, with the last day being November 10, 2023, was approved upon a motion made by Scott Haupert, a second by Christian Rosen, and unanimously carried.

#### Heartland Career Center Report:

Matt Driscoll reported on the recent Heartland Career Center meeting. The Board Members were given a report on all of the college credits students have gotten through HCC. He thanked Mr. Keaffaber for his help with the teacher contract. They received donations from Ford

Meter box (\$15,000), Hipsher Tool and Die gave them welding supplies, and IMI gave a dump truck for the students to work on.

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Keaffaber

He shared that he was glad he worked in a place where we have great programming and staff.

Curriculum Report:

No report.

New Business:

Principals Janette Moore, Metro North Elementary, Joel Martin, Sharp Creek Elementary, and Casey Stouffer, Southwood Elementary presented their School Improvement Plans. After completion of the reviews a vote was called. The recommendation to approve the School Improvement Plans for Metro North Elementary, Sharp Creek Elementary, and Southwood Elementary were approved upon a motion made by Scott Haupert, a second by Matt Driscoll, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the Alternative Education Grant was approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Scott Haupert, and unanimously.

The recommendation to approve the 2023-2024 school fundraisers were approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Christian Rosen, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the salvage of 49 projectors was approved upon a motion made by Christian Rosen, a second by Matt Driscoll, and was unanimously carried.

The Tentative Agreement Meeting was a review of the Teacher Contract with changes that were proposed.

The recommendation to approve the overnight field trip for Southwood Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> grade to Camp Tecumseh, Brookston, IN, November 2-3, 2023, was approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Jeff Porter, and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business.

Board Policy:

The Board had the second reading and vote of Board Policy #4230 Seclusion & Restraint. The recommendation to approve Board Policy #4230 was approved upon a motion made by Christian Rosen, a second by Matt Driscoll, and unanimously carried.

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 6:58 p.m.

THE METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA

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Kevin Bowman, PRESIDENT

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Matt Driscoll, VICE-PRESIDENT

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Scott Haupert, BOARD MEMBER

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Jeff Porter, BOARD MEMBER

ATTEST:

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Christian Rosen, SECRETARY