

Minutes of the Argos Community Schools
Regular School Board Meeting
Held on July 31, 2023

The Board of School Trustees held a regular school board meeting on July 31, 2023. The following individuals were present for all or a part of the meeting.

- A. Pat Rensberger, Chris O'Dell, Jennifer Hurford, and Monty Peden, Members
- B. Ned L. Speicher, Superintendent
- C. Kelli VanDerWeele, Business Manager
- D. Amy Miller, Administrative Assistant
- E. Greg Drennen-Architect with LWC Incorporated
- F. Dale Blanch-Patron

President Rensberger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence. Board Member Karra Duff was not in attendance.

In communication from patrons, Dale Blanch was concerned about the sale of the fair booth to the Argos Firemen. He informed the Board that he believes the stand was purchased with FFA funds and wished to see the money from the sale to be put back to the FFA. Mr. Speicher responded that the money was currently in the Student Activities account to benefit all students, but he would certainly look into it further.

Monty Peden moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2023 meeting. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

Greg Drennen presented an update on all 4 ongoing projects. Project #1 in the Cafeteria is nearly finished. Contractors are putting the final touches on it and are expected to complete work by mid week. Brown and Brown is on track with project 2, which is the Elementary addition. They have completed framing, roofing and some interior work and are expected to start working on drainage soon. The goal is to be able to use these classrooms after Fall Break. Materials for project 3, Rooftop Units, have all been ordered and are waiting to be manufactured/installed. Project 4 recently had re-bid notices go out. Re-bids will be done in August 2023. The bid winning contractor can begin work after the bid is awarded.

Chris O'Dell made a motion to approve all personnel changes per the attached listing. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Monty Peden moved to approve LWC Invoices #16913 and #16915 for June 2023 in the amounts of \$2,540 and \$2,355. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0.

Jennifer Hurford moved to approve the purchase of 2 lots (old tennis courts) from the Argos Community Development Corporation for \$15,500. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0.

Jennifer Hurford moved to approve paying R. Yoder Construction for Pay Application No. 11 in the amount of \$182,602.80. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Chris O'Dell motioned to approve Brown and Brown Construction Pay App No 6 in the amount of \$164,606.11. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0.

President Rensberger asked for a motion for the second reading and approval of NEOLA policies as they were presented at the June Board meeting. Chris O'Dell moved to approve, with Jennifer Hurford seconding and the motion was approved 4-0.

Mr. Speicher presented the Board with an overview of the Spring iLearn testing results for grades 3-8. Overall, Argos finished strong in math compared to local schools. We continue to look for improvement in our Language Arts scores.

The Superintendent report highlighted the 2024 Budget calendar, reviewed the opening of school, which includes Back to School Night scheduled for August 8th and the first day scheduled for August 9th. Board Members also had a chance to review the 2023-2024 staffing model. Mr. Speicher updated the Board on the Alternative Education Program. The program will be moving to Bourbon, due to the Argos American Legion deciding to open their facility for lunch and drinks during the school day. Students in this program will be bussed by our transportation department as part of a scheduled daily route already being done for our preschool students. 2024 is a teacher contract ratification year. Mr. Speicher presented an outline of the proposed negotiation schedule, which is scheduled to begin this fall, after count day October 2nd. The Online Surplus Equipment Auction went live on July 31 and is scheduled to end on August 9. Interested bidders can view available items and submit bids online. Mr. Speicher presented a revised maintenance structure to the Board. He would like to see the existing maintenance director position broken down into three separate positions. Those would include a custodial director, a maintenance/mechanic and an outdoor/site director. Each position would have its own responsibilities. We are currently interviewing for both the maintenance director

and custodial director positions. Mr. Speicher also updated the Board on the status of the DARE program. Mr. Bowman will continue to teach the class, but will be doing it in 6th grade now as part of his social studies curriculum. Current 6th graders will not have to redo the program, since they just completed it in 5th grade. Changes to the program will begin next school year.

Mr. Speicher presented the financial report for June to the Board. The operations budget continues to be tight due to the rising costs of fuel and repair of old school buses. Our three new school buses have arrived so maintenance costs will decline.

Amy Miller asked the Board to approve \$285,569.84 in Accounts Payable claims and \$229,565.40 in payroll claims for the month of July. Total claims for the month were \$515,135.24. Monty Peden moved to approve the claims as presented with Chris O'Dell seconding and the motion was approved 4-0.

Having no other items for discussion, Chris O'Dell made a motion to adjourn with a second by Monty Peden. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

ARGOS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Pat Rensberger, President

Chris O'Dell, Vice President

Jennifer Hurford, Secretary

Monty Peden, Member

Karra Duff, Member

Board Approved Personnel, July 31, 2023

A. Employment

1. Chanon Peacock-Cafeteria
2. Lindsay Shultz-PreK Paraprofessional
3. Alicen Harsh-Kindergarten
4. Ana Anderson-Cafeteria
5. Jason Dady-Cafeteria
6. Brittany Culp-2nd Grade
7. Diane Perschbacher-1st Grade

B. Resignations

1. Breanna Martin-Elementary Paraprofessional
2. Charlie Nettrouer-Director of Maintenance
3. Kim Riddle-3rd Grade
4. Kate Jarosinski-1st Grade

C. Coaches

1. Todd VanDerWeele-Boys Soccer Head Coach
2. Andy Petz-Boys JV Soccer
3. Damon Binkley-Boys Soccer Assistant
4. Joe Kindig-Boys Soccer Assistant
5. Alexis VanDerWeele-Boys Soccer 8th Grade
6. Joe Stone-Girls Varsity Soccer
7. Ty Adley-Girls JV Soccer
8. Robert Hines-Volunteer Girls Soccer
9. Parker Baughman-Girls 8th Grade Soccer
10. Chris Willis-Girls 7th Grade Soccer
11. Ondraya Perez-Varsity Volleyball
12. Lillian Petz-JV Volleyball
13. Beth Tinsman-7th and 8th Grade Volleyball
14. Bob Lyon-Middle and High School Cross Country-Pending 5 athletes on team
15. Fall Supervisors-\$525 Max