

Minutes of the Argos Community Schools
Regular School Board Meeting
Held on March 13, 2023

The Board of School Trustees held a regular school board meeting on March 13, 2023. The following individuals were present for all or a part of the meeting.

A. Pat Rensberger, Jennifer Hurford, Karra Duff and Monty Peden, Board Members

B. Ned L. Speicher, Superintendent

C. Amy Miller, Administrative Assistant

D. Greg Drennen, Architect

E. Aaron Jones, Jennifer Stults, Jay Biggs, Jack Jones, Cameron Duff, Reisler Biggs and Peyton Nichols, Patrons

Board member Chris O'Dell was absent.

Board President Pat Rensberger called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

There was no communication from patrons.

Monty Peden made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023 Executive Session and Regular Board meetings. Karra Duff seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

Greg Drennen of LWC updated the Board on the ongoing construction projects. The cafeteria addition is projected to be completed this summer, at which time, the existing cafeteria will begin to be renovated. Brown and Brown is ahead of schedule on the elementary classrooms and anticipating completion in December of 2023. Site and civil work has begun on project 4. Shop drawings should wrap up this week.

Mr. Speicher spoke to the Board about the General Obligation Bonds. Argos Community Schools will be using these bonds to purchase 3 much needed buses. The bonds will be tax neutral. Karra Duff motioned to approve the Preliminary Resolution for the bonds. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0.

Monty Peden made a motion to approve the adoption of a resolution to reimburse the school corporation in case we should need to purchase the buses before the bonds are sold. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer Stults, along with students Cameron Duff, Reisler Biggs, Peyton Nichols and Jack Jones presented information about the Purdue “Fluid” Science day which had the first round recently held at Purdue. Argos currently has two teams competing in this challenge to create a machine powered by fluid that will pick up a dowel. Each team demonstrated how their machine works and how their designs continue to evolve. The final challenge will happen in April, where the teams will once again travel to Purdue to show off their machines and portfolios in the hopes of winning the “Fluid” Challenge. Job well done, Dragons!

Karra Duff made a motion to approve all personnel changes per the attached listing. Monty Peden seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Speicher recommended approval of the NEOLA policies presented at the last Board meeting. Jennifer Hurford motioned to approve as presented with Karra Duff seconding and the motion was approved 4-0.

Jennifer Hurford motioned to approve the Resolution for the 2023 Application of Flexibility Waiver from the Indiana Department of Education. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. Once filed with and approved by the IDOE, Argos can discontinue publishing the Annual Performance Report (APR) for the school, in the local newspapers. The waiver allows us to publish the APR on our website and save the corporation a significant amount of money.

Monty Peden motioned to approve a field trip opportunity for the high school band/choir to perform at Disney World March 15-20, 2024. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The music department will begin fundraising for this opportunity immediately.

Mr. Speicher presented the Instructional Report to the Board. He highlighted IREAD 2023 scores. Overall, Argos did very well. We are waiting on the results of the 2nd grade to see if they topped the 19 students from last year's class that passed as second graders. Mr. Speicher handed out an ILEARN testing document that reviewed the upcoming testing schedule and touched on the approval by the state of our plans to reach the 45% education spending requirement established by the state. Karra Duff moved to approve the Summer School Dates and Summer Hours for 2023. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0

Jennifer Hurford moved to approve Yoder Construction Pay App No. 7 for \$35,055.00, Brown and Brown Pay App No. 2 for \$1467.98 and Ideal Pay App No. 1 for \$10,242.00 for February 2023. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Karra Duff motioned to approve the furniture quote from Lee Company for new cafeteria furniture. The quote for tables came in at \$146,140.34 and the chairs were \$47,767.96. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0. Purchase orders will be generated and sent to Lee Company to get these items on order.

Monty Peden moved to approve the new baseball dugout signage in the amount of \$5517.13. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The new signage will be budgeted from Project 4.

With Business Manager Kelli VanDerWeele unable to attend the meeting due to required training out of town, Amy Miller asked for approval of claims in the amount of \$578,464.30. Of that total, \$244,174.10 was for payroll and \$334,290.20 was for accounts payable. Jennifer Hurford moved to approve the claims as presented. Karra Duff seconded and the motion was passed 4-0.

Jennifer Hurford moved to approve the donation of wrestling mats from Laville Jr-Sr. High School to the newly formed wrestling club. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0. When the mats are not being used by wrestling, they will be used by our cheerleaders for stunting.

Karra Duff motioned to approve the increase in ala-carte prices for Food Services for the 2023-2024 school year. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Speicher presented the financial reports for February 2023 to the Board. Our education fund is very healthy due to encumbrances in late 2022. The operations budget has tightened up due to continued rising costs in fuel and bus maintenance. With the purchase of the new buses, that is expected to change.

In closing comments, Monty Peden mentioned how much he enjoyed the science students presenting their fluid powered demonstration at the meeting. Mr. Speicher also took the opportunity to inform the Board of an upcoming assembly program to be presented to all elementary and junior high students on April 6. Cody Clark Magic will be performing two programs for our students on how their differences make them magical. More information will be forthcoming on these performances as the date gets closer.

With there being no other business or items to discuss, Monty Peden moved to adjourn the meeting and Karra Duff seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

ARGOS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Pat Rensberger, President

Chris O'Dell, Vice President

Jennifer Hurford, Secretary

Karra Duff, Member

Monty Peden, Member

Board Approved Personnel, March 13, 2023

A. Resignation

1. Greg Phillips-Custodian

B. Retirement

1. Beth Schmeltz-Jr Sr. High Guidance Counselor
2. Brenda Baker-Middle School English

C. Coaches

1. Joe Kindig-Boys Varsity Baseball
2. Todd Montgomery-Boys Varsity Baseball Assistant
3. Zach Fisher-Varsity Assistant
4. Todd Montgomery-Boys Baseball 13-15
5. Ryan Humphrey-Lacrosse
6. Joe Stone-Lacrosse Assistant
7. Colton Markley-Lacrosse Volunteer Assistant
8. Alyssa Thayer-Girls Varsity Softball
9. Phil Dean-Girls JV Softball
10. Guy Cather-Softball Volunteer Assistant
11. Rachael Stackhouse-Girls JH Softball