

Minutes of the Argos Community Schools  
Regular School Board Meeting  
Held on February 14, 2023

The Board of School Trustees held a regular school board meeting on February 14, 2023. The following individuals were present for all or a part of the meeting.

- A. Pat Rensberger, Chris O'Dell, Jennifer Hurford, Karra Duff and Monty Peden, Board Members.
- B. Ned L. Speicher, Superintendent
- C. Kelli VanDerWeele, Business Manager
- D. Amy Miller, Administrative Assistant
- E. Nick Medich, Jr-Sr. High Principal
- F. Kerry Johnson-Elementary Principal

Pat Rensberger called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence. There was no communication from patrons. Chris O'Dell made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9 Regular Board Meeting and Board of Finance Meetings. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Monty Peden moved to accept the personnel changes as listed. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Nick Medich presented a report and slide show on the new E-Sports club that recently started. Mr. Medich and Mr. Binkley is currently heading up the club. There has been a great response from the student body and Argos has competed in and won several competitions against schools throughout the state of Indiana. Interest continues to grow in E-Sports. Kerry Johnson reported on the new Elementary writing club which is overseen by Ms. Barden. There has consistently been around 40 kids participating in the weekly activities. Goals for the club include participating in the writing contest sponsored by the Marshal County Reading Council and being involved in the Young Authors Conference, which is being hosted by Argos this year.

Karra Duff moved to approve the sale of the Fair Booth at the Marshall County Fairgrounds to the Argos Volunteer Fire Department. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

The next item on the agenda was the Approval of Administration, Directors and Leadership Team Contracts and/or Compensation Rates. Jennifer Hurford moved to approve the new contracts and compensation rates as presented. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. The new contracts and salary increases will take effect July 1, 2023.

The First Reading of NEOLA Policies and Guidelines from Volume 35, No. 1 was presented to the Board. The Board was given copies of the following policies and asked to review them prior to the next Board meeting.

131.1 Bylaws and Policies

142.2 Oath

2431 Interscholastic Athletics

2432 Grievance Procedure

2464 Programs for High Ability Students

3120.11 Public Hearing Before Collective Bargaining.

Mr. Speicher informed the Board that our NEOLA rep has advised that we reject the following policies: 167.3 and 2435.

Mr. Speicher then asked the Board for approval of the Yoder Construction Pay App No. 5 for January 2023 in the amount of \$255,844.44 and Pay App No. 6 for February 2023 in the amount of \$184,516.20. Both pay apps are for project 1. He also asked for approval of the Brown and Brown Activation Claim in the amount of \$15,460.61 to be applied to project 2. Jennifer Hurford moved to approve, Karra Duff seconded and the motion was approved 5-0.

Next, Mr. Speicher presented the monthly Construction Report. Walls are up in the cafeteria, windows are going in and we are starting to see some real above ground progress on the construction. Brown and Brown have begun mobilizing on the elementary addition and are expected to begin construction as soon as the weather breaks. HVAC units have all been ordered for project 3. We are anticipating a summer installation of these units. Slides showing possible furniture designs for the new cafeteria were also projected.

In the Instructional Report, Mr. Speicher reminded the Board that the Preschool and Kindergarten Round-up is scheduled for March 7th in the elementary gym.

Kelli VanDerWeele asked for approval of claims in the amount of \$621,998.18 for the month of December. \$396,230.77 was for accounts payables claims and the remaining

\$225,767.41 was for payroll. Karra Duff moved to approve the claims, Jennifer Hurford seconded and the motion was passed 5-0.

Monty Peden made a motion to approve a donation of a pallet of Clorox wipes from the Saint Joseph Health Center and a monetary donation of \$2,000 to the Cultivate program from the Plymouth Elks Lodge. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Speicher presented the Financial Report. He updated the Board on the Essers Grants that are paid out or are close to being paid out.. An option to purchase 3 new IC/Collins buses and an off lease bus using GO Bonds was presented to the Board. Our bus fleet has many aging units that need to be replaced and this purchase would be tax neutral through the use of the GO Bonds. After some discussion, the Board decided to move on the option. Jennifer Hurford motioned to approve the plan with Chris O'Dell seconding. The Board voted 5-0 in favor of pursuing this option.

In closing comments, Monty Peden commented on how well Argos is doing and wishes to thank Mr. Speicher and the entire Argos staff for their dedication to the school and students. Job well done!

With there being no other business, Chris O'Dell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Karra Duff seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned by Pat Rensberger.

ARGOS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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Pat Rensberger, President

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Chris O'Dell, Vice President

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Jennifer Hurford, Secretary

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Karra Duff

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Monty Peden

Board Approved Personnel, February 14, 2023

A. Employment

1. Holly Arnold-Color Guard Director
2. Todd VanDerWeele-Co-Weight Room Supervisor
3. Nichole Walter-Co-Weight Room Supervisor