WEST NOBLE SCHOOL CORPORATION

School Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 26, 2024
7:00 P.M. Central Office Boardroom
Regular Board Meeting

Board Members Present: Joe Hutsell, Joe Saggars, Travis Stohlman, Paul Fought, John Schwartz, Jeremy Brown and Parrish Kruger

Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order and Registration of Visitors- Joe Hutsell
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Hutsell
3. Additional Appropriation Hearing for the 2024 Operation Fund ($750,000) was opened 7/0 on a motion by Joe Saggars and seconded by Jeremy Brown.
    1. Opportunity for Public Comment- Amy Driebelbis asked if this appropriation was to move the amount requested? Dr. Lowe replied the dollars are already in the Operation Fund, but the additional appropriation is the permission to spend that money if needed.
    2. Additional Appropriation Hearing for the 2024 Operation Fund was adjourned 7/0 on a motion by Paul Fought and seconded by Joe Saggars.
4. Additional Appropriation Hearing for 2024 Rainy Day Fund ($825,000) was opened 7/0 on a motion by Parrish Kruger and seconded by Paul Fought.
    1. Opportunity for Public Comment- John Wechter asked what the remaining balance will be in the Rainy Day Fund if this appropriation is spent? Dr. Lowe replied that there will be approximately $1 million left in the fund, and once the funds have been spent, the interest from the school bank accounts will be paid back into the Rainy Day Fund to rebuild it. This can be done at whatever time the board would like throughout the year. The monthly interest will be approximately $35,000.
    2. Additional Appropriating Hearing for Rainy Day Fund was adjourned 7/0 on a motion by Parrish Kruger and seconded by Joe Saggars.
5. Spotlight on Success - WNP Principal Brian Shepherd shared that Dr. Cripe from the Kimmell/Cromwell Lions Club have offered to make a donation to West Noble Primary School. Mr. Shepherd will allot a portion of this donation to the purchase of decodable reading books, and the other half to indoor/outdoor recess supplies. Thank you to the Lions Club of Kimmell/Cromwell for their generous donation!
6. Invitation to Members of the Audience to speak on Items on the Agenda- While this is not exactly on the agenda, John Wechter asked to add on to the Spotlight of Success. He shared that on the day before the first staff day this year, his wife Leslie Wechter was working late into the evening to set up her classroom when Dr. Lowe stopped in. She had a cabinet that needed to be moved, but was not able to do it alone. Dr. Lowe helped detach it from the wall and move it. We have a superintendent who has heart, care, and drive- he is willing to do the work of

anyone in the corporation, and nothing is below him. In 34 years, this was probably the most memorable back to school night for her. Thank you, Dr. Lowe, for caring for our staff.

7. Minutes of the previous board meeting were approved 7/0 on a motion by Paul Fought and seconded by Jeremy Brown.
8. Reports –
    1. Superintendent Dr. Lowe gave an update on the start of school. We are almost at the 2 week mark of being back in school, and Dr. Lowe discovered that it takes about 2 1/2 hours to walk by every classroom in the district. He has seen students and teachers diving right in and getting to work, getting good feedback, learning, growing- all an excellent start. On the first staff day, we had many training sessions, several of which were provided by the Co-Op. We also had our first football game of the season at the new stadium, with our marching band's first school performance. It was great to see everyone filling the stands and supporting our athletes. There is still work to be done up on the hill, but the bathrooms, concession stand, and the track and field are all completed. The field looked amazing for the first game, thank you to all who worked so hard to get that accomplished! Dr. Lowe also shared an Enrollment Update. Last year we predicted that we would have around 2175 students enrolled on October 1st, and the budgeting was based on this projected number. As of this week, we have 2186 students enrolled. Our official Count Day is October 1, and there will be some fluctuation but we hope to keep this number going strong. Board member Paul Fought asked what the weight room completion date was? Dr. Lowe has a tentative date of December/January, but will have a more solid idea after the next meeting with the builder.
    2. Chief Finance and Operations Officer Andrew McDaniel shared with the board that the DLGF asked for our Appropriations for the Operation Fund be revised. Some of the future building improvements were trimmed from this plan, and this provided a padding of $22k to the appropriations. They anticipate transferring $1 million from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. Andrew also reviewed the Bus Replacement Plan for 2025. The plan is still to replace 4 buses as we have for the last few years. A discussion was brought up about trading buses versus auctioning or selling them, and Transportation Director Brandon Chordas said that currently trades are the best option for recouping cost on bus replacement. Andrew then reviewed the Capital Building Project Plan through 2027, and how some of the needed repairs for our buildings may have to be stretched out- either approaching them one piece at a time, or exploring other budgeting options to tackle them at the same time. Andrew also presented the board with a Capital Asset Plan for the potential land acquisition, and what those payments could look like over the next 4 years if we were to move ahead with purchasing land. Vice President Joe Saggars asked if it was possible to reduce the bus replacements from 4 to 3? Brandon does not think so- we currently are down one bus that we did not replace last year, and we have only 6 spares which are used on a weekly if not daily basis. Plus we would be trying to keep buses on the road that are 13+ years old and this is not as safe or as cost-effective as replacing them.
    3. Director of Technology- none
    4. Director of Buildings/Grounds - none
    5. Director of Curriculum - none

6. Director of Transportation - none
7. Director of Food Service - none

9. Consent Agenda was approved 7/0 on a motion by Joe Saggars and seconded by Paul Fought.
    1. Financial -
        i. Receipts
        ii. Disbursements
        iii. Cash Flow
    2. Overnight Field Trips - none
    3. Out of State Field Trips-
        i. Amigo Center, Sturgis MI- Turning Point, Sept 17, 2024
    4. Out of state Professional Leave - Solution Tree MTSS/RTI at Work Institute, Lexington, KY Oct 21-24, 2024 - Amanda Shoemaker
10. Personnel Agenda was approved 7/0 on a motion by Paul Fought and seconded by John Schwartz.
    1. Retirements – none
    2. Resignations – none
    3. Leaves – FMLA Medical Leave August 15, 2024 to September 9, 2024
    4. Hiring -
        i. Certified- none
        ii. Classified-
            1. Activity Bus Driver - Clyde Patrick effective Aug 20, 2024
        iii. Service Agreement-
            1. CKLA Reading Curriculum Training 6 hours (58 staff) - Jacquelyn Fair, Kaylen Warble, Joy Wert, Tammi Hicks, Alondra Campos, Yvette Rojas, Isaac Weimer, Carla Trinklein, Suzanne Bohde, Shaina Hiatt, Julie Hanna, Amanda Custer, Mary Kiser, Tyler Alles, Tami Golden, Katrina Pruitt, Christy Hofmeister, Grissel Campos, Kristina Teel, Yaquelin Guzman, Leia Noll, Kim Terry, Jenna Groff, Jill Grady, Cindy Curtis, Sonja Grotemat, Andrea Schermerhorn, Brittany Bair, Katie Salazar, Brittany Isaac, Paige Barnett, Ruthann Easterling, Jessica Lemler, Angela Beers, Melody Marsh, Jessica Foster, Stephanie Franks, Jane Kidulas, Chanelle Hawkey, Mike Flora, Stacy Blosser, Jenna Hutsell, Heather Ostrowski, Elizabeth Smith, Abby Richardson, Jennifer Schiffli, Robert Martin, Donna Risser, Brenda Yoder, Mark Yoder, Danielle Sitts, Brian Shepherd, Sarah Wilson, Micheal Weimer, Steph Hursey, Samantha Christner, Darin Kauffman, Michele Leitch
            2. Diabetic Training 3.5 hours (5 staff) - Denise Hershman, Mary Kiser, Angie Hunter, Tammie Hursey, Brian Shepherd
            3. New Teacher Orientation 21 hours (9 staff) - Shaina Hiatt, Cindy Curtis, Jenna Hutsell, Kandice Bottles, Brady Truex, Madelyn Hosford, Kelty Clouse, Joyce Doan, Rachel Fisher
            4. WNMS 5th Grade Team Leader - Adam Sprague
            5. WNMS 5th Grade Team Leader - Darin Kauffman
            6. WNMS 6th Grade Team Leader - Rusty Emmert

7. WNMS 6th Grade Team Leader - Stacy Steele
8. WNMS 7th Grade Team Leader - Heather Foster
9. WNMS 7th Grade Team Leader - Matt Donat
10. WNMS 8th Grade Team Leader - Kenna Cross
11. WNMS Related Arts Team Leader - Sarah Sponseller
12. WNMS Additional Team Leader - Danielle Long
13. WNMS Fishing Club - Tim Schermerhorn
14. WNMS Fishing Club - Sarah Stringfellow
15. WNMS NJHS - Susan Sprague
16. WNMS NJHS - Victoria Hayden
17. WNMS Junior Garden Club- Stephanie Hursey
18. WNMS Junior Garden Club - Bettina Anderson
19. WNMS Ag Club - Leslie Wechter
20. WNMS Tennis Club - Russell Emmert
21. WNMS Spelling Bee Club - Leslie Wechter
22. WNMS Student Council - Rebecca Younce
23. WNMS Student Council - Bailey Showalter

11. Individual Action Items-
    1. Po 3220.01 Teacher Appreciation Grant Board Policy was approved 6/1 on a motion by Joe Saggars and seconded by Jeremy Brown. Travis Stohlman voted against this policy.
    2. The West Noble Board of Education voted 7/0 on a motion by Joe Saggars and seconded by John Schwartz to terminate the contract of Greg Riegsecker.
    3. The Additional Appropriation for Rainy Day Fund was approved 4/3 on a motion by Jeremy Brown and seconded by Parrish Kruger. The vote was opposed by John Schwartz, Travis Stohlman, and Joe Saggars.
    4. The Additional Appropriation for Operation Fund was approved 7/0 on a motion by Parrish Kruger and seconded by Paul Fought.

12. Information Items – No Action Expected
    1. Property Purchase Update- Linda and Keenis Owens want to sell their property, which directly borders the main campus at West Noble. They have 29 acres of land, with both farmland and wooded acreage. They have offered it to the school corporation for $1.1 million, with a payment schedule of 4 years, no interest payments, and no financing needed. We have had an appraiser give an estimate for the property, and they have had a private estimate done as well. This purchase price is right in the middle of those appraisals. They would like to know if we are interested in the land before winter, and if we do not wish to entertain the proposal they will take the land to auction. Joe Saggars would like to look into the zoning around this property, to know what could be done with the land if we do not purchase it, and what the potential would be for the school to be neighboring with. There is also a house on the property now, and there are questions about what would be done with that while the property is being paid for. There is a lot of potential in this property for the school, as we continue to grow and our buildings age. The board would like to have a real estate attorney draft a formal property purchase agreement, and review them at the next meeting.

2. Teacher Contract Negotiations Public Hearing will be held just prior to the next school board meeting on Monday, September 9th.

13. Board and Administrative Comments- Member Travis Stohlman explained his vote against the TAG policy - he greatly appreciates teachers and actually feels that the grant should allot a much larger amount for teachers who receive the Highly Effective rating, and thus he votes against this policy. Vice President Joe Saggars thanked everyone for the hard work getting the football field ready, and for accomplishing a good first week of school. Secretary John Schwartz said the football stadium might not be all the way complete but it looks really good. It's a steep walk up there right now! But it's fantastic up there. Member Parrish Kruger said he had a blast at the first football game, and it was really neat to hear people talking about the future of West Noble, and talking in such a positive manner about WN's future. President Joe Hutsell thanked the maintenance staff, teachers, everyone who has been putting in such long hours to get everything ready for school and for the football game.The heating and cooling system at the middle school is working well, teachers were praising the new controls and how well it's working. It's great to see West Noble in action. Brandon is keeping all the bus routes running, and it's just great to see WN working as it should be. Middle School Principal Ashley Bradley commented that it's great to have kids back, it's a lot more fun and exciting with students in the building. so we're happy they are back. Andrew McDaniel and Tom Schermerhorn reiterated that the football game was great and it's great to see kids back. WNP Principal Brian Shepherd was able to attend the middle school cross country invitational, and said Brandon Chordas does an excellent job at teaching the kids how to be classy- how to represent WN well. WNE Assistant Principal Jennifer Duncan had meetings with two different families today, both new to the district, and both had nothing but good things to say about West Noble. Maintenance Director Tony Smoker thanked everyone for the amazing help they provided in getting the ground ready for Friday. People were coming out of the woodwork and they didn't even have to ask for help. This is truly a great place to be. Technology Director Mike Burke had the opportunity to spend the day in PrepCC classes with freshmen, teaching them how to stay safe on the internet, and how to maintain their chromebooks. It was a lot of fun, thank you!

14. Adjournment was approved 7/0 on a motion by Paul Fought and seconded by Parrish Kruger.

Signatures

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____