

Regular Meeting

**Thursday, May 20, 2021
Board Room (B-113)
7:30 PM**

The Board of Education of the West Central School Corporation met in a regular session on Thursday, May 20, 2021. The following members were present: Dennis Gutwein, Mandy Sharpe, Jake Tanner, Kyle McTeigue, Todd Miller, Jonathan Gutwein, and President Jeff Lowry.

Also present were: Dan Zylstra, Superintendent, Scott Ritchie, Middle/High School Principal, Angie Radtke, Middle/High School Vice Principal, Mike Carlson, Elementary School Principal, Sherri Cameron, Corporation Secretary, Haley Tapper, Marilyn Bernal, Megan Galbreath of the Pulaski County Journal, Sara Strus, Jennifer Byrne, Brad Odom, Leanna Nielsen, Brad Elston, Rachel Elston, Ryan Howat, Devin Green, and Dave Reif.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION: Jennifer Byrne read her letter of resignation and expressed concerns about a potential reduction in force and concerns about the administration's ability to communicate and have a constructive relationship with the teachers' association. Haley Tapper and Marilyn Bernal expressed similar sentiments.

Ryan Howat spoke about his concerns about recent developments with the boys basketball program and his desire to see the program grow under the best leadership possible.

MINUTES: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the executive sessions and regular meeting on April 13, 2021.

Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

REQUISITIONS: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve requisitions 21097 through 21111 for the corporation.

Jonathan Gutwein seconded the motion and the requisitions were approved.

RESIGNATIONS: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the following resignations as presented:

1. Heather Straus - Band/Choir Teacher
2. Ashley Bean - High School Mathematics Teacher
3. Kakila Miller - Cafeteria
4. Tiffani Bailey - Cafeteria
5. Jennifer Byrne - MS Special Needs Teacher

Mandy Sharpe seconded the motion and the resignations were approved.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-TRACK STIPEND: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding to increase the track stipends in the Master Contract.

Kyle McTeigue seconded the motion and the track stipends were updated.

EMPLOYMENTS: Jonathan Gutwein made a motion to approve the following employments as presented:

1. Audrey Putt - Virtual Teacher grades 4-6 Maternity leave
2. Michael Harter - Driver's Education
3. Richard Warren - Athletic Director
4. Tera Pych - Cafeteria
5. Becky Reed - Track & Field, HS Head Coach
6. Jonathan Pilarski - Track & Field, HS Assistant Coach
7. Hillary Durie - Track & Field, HS Assistant Coach

8. David Reif - Track & Field, MS Head Coach

9. Sara Strus - Track & Field, MS Assistant Coach

Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the employments were approved.

CONFERENCE REQUEST: Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve the following conference request:

1. Cathy Risner - Indiana School Nutrition Association Summit Conference

Jonathan Gutwein seconded the motion and the conference was approved.

SUNDAY PERFORMANCE REQUEST: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the Sunday Performance request for the Band/Choir Concert.

Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the performance request was approved.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE PLAN: Kyle McTeigue made a motion to approve the renewal of the student accident insurance plan with Student Assurance Services as presented for the 2021-2022 school year.

Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

NON-CERTIFIED STAFF WAGES: Jonathan Gutwein made a motion to approve the non-certified staff wage increases which will go into effect for the 2021-2022 school year as presented. This will increase existing non-certified wages by \$0.50 and others by more based on increased responsibilities.

Todd Miller seconded the motion and the non-certified staff wages increase was approved.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AUTHORITY FOR DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY:

Kyle McTeigue made a motion to approve the disposal of worthless surplus personal property that has no market value as per IC 5-22-22-8.

Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION APPROVING ENTERING INTO A GUARANTEED ENERGY SAVINGS CONTRACT:

Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve the guaranteed savings contract with Precision Control Systems as described in IC 36-1-12.5-5(d)(3).

Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the resolution was approved.

PRECISION CONTROL SYSTEMS HVAC CONTRACT: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the contract with Precision Control Systems for work this summer on the high school, middle school, and elementary HVAC project, pending the statutorily required engineering review and Precision signature on a clean contract.

Todd Miller seconded the motion and the contract was approved.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Elementary School Principal Mike Carlson reported that it's been busy at the elementary. ILEARN testing was completed and broken down over ten days. End-of-year benchmarking is finished and they still managed to bring back some fun activities. A magician performed on May 6 for the students that mastered their math facts and those that met their AR goals will be participating in a Water Bash. Awards will be given on May 24th, and Track and Field Day will be on the last day. They hosted the Spelling Bee between West Central and Eastern Pulaski for grades 3-5. West Central was well represented with winners in two grades. The Elementary Choir performed for their parents on May 19th with the students writing most of the script themselves, and it was a great show. Summer School will be June 7-24. Some professional development is planned for teachers to finish out the new reading curriculum. The STEM lab is finally scheduled to be installed on June 15, and teachers will be trained when we return to school. This will replace the current computer special class.

Middle/High School Principal Scott Ritchie announced that Mr. Scutchfield's class raised funds for a new mascot costume. It has been ordered and should arrive in a few weeks. Mr. Scutchfield's Office Management, Marketing, Accounting, and Intro to Business classes went on a field trip to learn the ins and outs of two major companies in North Judson- Kersting's Harley Davidson and Bailey's Discount Center. Water activities are planned for the middle school on Monday afternoon. There will be a cookout for the whole school next Tuesday. Awards ceremonies on Tuesday for Senior awards went well, and there was a great crowd. The girls softball team battled it out with North Newton for the conference championship. Teacher appreciation week went well complete with pizza, trail mix, cake, caramel corn, appreciation letters, and massages. Middle School track was 2nd and 3rd in the conference, boys and girls respectively.

Superintendent Dan Zylstra noted that the staff recognition breakfast would be at 8:30 on May 26. Graduation will be at 2:00 on Sunday, May 30 to finish up the year. He also noted the projects which will occur this summer on the grounds, and discussed results of the survey sent out to the public regarding priority areas for improvement. The top area identified was the pool area.

CARES FUNDS POSITIONS: Superintendent Zylstra spoke about possible uses for CARES II & III funds, including potentially hiring a Title I Director or an Interventionist for the upcoming school year at the elementary school.

COVID-19 STIPEND: Superintendent Zylstra presented several options for a stipend for employees using CARES funds to account for the extra work involved during the pandemic and noted that any stipend would need to be agreed upon by the teachers' association.

HB 1003 WAIVER: Superintendent Zylstra discussed a potential HB 1003 Waiver which might allow more professional development time with early releases for students.

REDUCTION IN FORCE: Superintendent Zylstra discussed the timeline and details regarding the potential reduction in force. He noted that in September 2021, West Central is projected to be down 95 students from the September 2019 count date. During October 2020 district negotiations, the Indiana Association of School Business Officials projected a 5%-10% reduction in education funding. During most of the spring budget session the proposed budget included a 1.25% increase coupled with a drop of 30 more students from current levels. CARES II & III allotments were not released until mid-April. The School Board met on April 13 and discussed the possibility of reducing positions to ensure our staff/student ratios were appropriate to historic levels and spending would not outpace revenue. In order to fully discuss the possibility of a reduction in force with the teachers' association, it was brought up at the April 19 discussion meeting. The administration was making the best decisions with the information they knew at the time and communicated that information appropriately to those whom it would affect. One day later the state budget was revised with a 5% increase in education funding, making the financial necessity of a reduction in force less urgent. However, the projected student to staff ratio remains unchanged. It would be financially imprudent to employ more teachers than are needed for the number of students enrolled. Thus, the administration will work to maintain appropriate staffing levels through attrition if possible, and a reduction in force if necessary within the statutory timeline.

CLAIMS: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve claims 1728 through 1902 for the corporation. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the claims were approved.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jeff Lowry asked the board if there was any further business. Being none, the president adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED:

Jeff Lowry, President

Kyle McTeigue, Secretary

Executive Session

**Thursday, May 20, 2021
Board Room (B-113)
8:30 pm**

The Board of Education of the West Central School Corporation met in an executive session on Thursday, May 20, 2021 following the regular board meeting. The following members were present: Kyle McTeigue, Mandy Sharpe, Dennis Gutwein, Jake Tanner, Jonathan Gutwein, Todd Miller, and President Jeff Lowry.

Also present were: Dan Zylstra, Superintendent, Scott Ritchie, Middle/High School Principal, Angie Radtke, Middle/High School Vice Principal, and Mike Carlson, Elementary School Principal.

The Executive Session will be held in accordance with IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b) (9) "To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employee(s), apart from the budget process."

President Jeff Lowry asked the board if there was any further business. Being none, the president adjourned the meeting.

Jeff Lowry, President

APPROVED:

Kyle McTeigue, Secretary