

West Central School Corporation

1850 S. US 421, P.O. Box 578

Phone 219-567-9161

Francesville, IN 47946

Fax 219-567-9761

*"Encourage Every Student Every Day" *Engage *Empower *Educate*

Public Hearing

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Board Room 7:30PM

The West Central School Corporation Board of School Trustees met on August 3, 2023 in the board room of the district offices at 7:00pm for a public hearing regarding collective bargaining. Those present include Dennis Gutwein, Mandy Sharpe, Todd Miller, Jeff Lowry, and Cathy Rowe, Superintendent. The West Central Classroom Teachers Association, through Leanna Nielsen, and Dr. Rowe spoke on the importance of continued state funding and both sides celebrated the good working relationship that currently exists between both parties.

Regular Session

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Board Room 7:35PM

The Board of Education of the West Central School Corporation met in a regular session on Thursday, September 7, 2023. The following members were present: Todd Miller, Dennis Gutwein, Mandy Sharpe, and Jeff Lowry

Also present were: Superintendent Cathy Rowe, West Central Middle/Senior High School Principal Angie Radtke, West Central Elementary School Principal Mike Carlson and Erica Kerns Corporation Secretary.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH: Board member Jeff Lowry was pleased to present the MS/HS winner Livie Green as the WCMHS Student of the Month. Board member Mandy Sharpe was pleased to present the elementary school winner Rhaylea Holliday as the WCES Student of the Month.

FCCLA PRESENTATION: The West Central FCCLA presented to the board and public information concerning their trip to the FCCLA National Convention that took place this summer in Denver, CO.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve the September 7, 2023 agenda. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the agenda was approved 4-0.

MINUTES: Jeff Lowry made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular session on August 3, 2023. Todd Miller seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved 4-0.

REQUISITIONS: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve requisitions 23202 through 23244 for the corporation. Mandy Sharpe seconded the motion and the requisitions were approved 4-0.

RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, AND RETIREMENTS: Jeff Lowry approved the following resignations and retirements as presented:

1. Sandy Prater-Custodian, WCMHS

Todd Miller seconded the motion and the resignations were approved 4-0.

EMPLOYMENTS: Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve the following employments as presented:

1. Marc Hall-Teacher Mentor
2. Amber Leman-Teacher Mentor
3. Lindsay Hopkins-Teacher Mentor
4. Terri Ray-Teacher Mentor
5. Haley Tapper-Teacher Mentor
6. Mary Chesser-Middle School special education teacher
7. Samantha Garlach- Elementary teacher/assistant
8. Joan Kiersma-Elementary teacher
9. Michelle Biggs-Maternity leave coverage for Samantha Heims
10. Julie Reed-Transfer from Elementary and MS/HS Assistant from Cafeteria
11. Linda Hunter-Cafeteria
12. Corey Howat-6th grade boys basketball coach
13. Mike Holle-8th grade boys basketball coach
14. Phil Leman-5/6 girls basketball head coach
15. Lindsey Kletz-volunteer 5/6 girls basketball coach
16. Annie Scholz-Assistant Varsity girls basketball coach
17. Tyler DeMoss-Volunteer Varsity girls basketball assistant coach
18. Hilary Durie-Assistant co-ed track coach
19. Andrew Pigg-MS Football assistant coach
20. Amber L. Leman-Volunteer 5/6 grade volleyball coach
21. Amanda Bigbie-5/6 grade volleyball coach
22. Dakota Podell-Volunteer Assistant coach MS football
23. Stephen Sholey-Band Director
24. Lisa Mahaffey-Vocal Music Director
25. Becky Reed-Senior Sponsor-Head
26. Jennifer Johns-Senior Sponsor-Assistant
27. Tonya Wall-Junior Sponsor-Head
28. Shelby Powell-Junior Sponsor-Assistant
29. Casie Allen-Sophomore Sponsor
30. Greg Buschman-Department Chairperson Math
31. Hillary Durie-Department Chairperson ELA
32. Marc Hall-Department Chairperson History
33. Sara Strus-Department Chairperson Science
34. Brian Pilarski-Department Chairperson CTE
35. Stephen Sholey-Department Chairperson Fine Arts
36. Amber Leman-Department Chairperson Special Education
37. Stephanie Thilges-Yearbook, High School
38. Stephanie Thilges-Yearbook, Middle School
39. Hillary Durie-Middle School Play

40. Becky Reed-High School Play
41. Jennifer Johns-Student Council, High School
42. Sara Strus-Student Council, Middle School
43. Hillary Durie-National Honor Society
44. Hillary Durie-National Junior Honor Society
45. Stephanie Thilges-FCCLA
46. Shaw Haselby-FFA, MS/HS
47. Keenan Scutchfield-FBLA
48. Jennifer Mellon-FCA
49. Lisa Zeyen-Art Club
50. Marc Hall-Academic Super Bowl, HS coordinator
51. Hillary Durie-Academic Bowl, English
52. Jerlu Santillana-Academic Bowl, Math
53. Desiree Supremo-Academic Bowl, Science
54. Marc Hall-Academic Bowl, Social Studies
55. Kristi Laxton-CSS Coordinator
56. Diane Bahler-CSS Adjustment in Days
57. Johanna Sampson-CSS PT Paraprofessional

Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the employments were approved 4-0.

LEAVE REQUESTS:

1. Mariesa Blake-Before/After Break
2. Samantha Heims-Maternity Leave
3. Brian Pilarski-Leave past available days
4. Tammy Toosley-Before/After Break
5. Lisa Marlatt-Before/After Break
6. Jeff Messer-Before/After Break
7. Maribeth Benesh-Before/After Break

Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the leave requests as presented. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the leave request was approved 4-0.

2024 BUDGET HEARING: Jeff Lowry made a motion to open the 2024 Budget Hearing to allow public input on the 2024 budget, Capital Projects Plan and Bus Replacement Plan. Mandy Sharpe seconded the motion. Hearing no public input, Todd Miller made a motion to close the budget hearing.

WC BAND PROGRAM-SUNDAY PERFORMANCE: Jeff Lowry made a motion to approve the band program performances for December 10, 2023 and May 19, 2024 as presented. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the performances were approved 4-0.

WEST CENTRAL NON-CERTIFIED STAFF HANDBOOK: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the non-certified staff handbook as presented. Mandy Sharpe seconded the motion and the handbook was approved 4-0.

2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 school calendar as presented. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the calendar was approved 4-0.

WEST CENTRAL RETURN TO LEARNING PLAN: Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve the Return to Learning Plan as presented. Jeff Lowry seconded the motion and the plan was approved 4-0.

WEST CENTRAL ECA SA-5: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the West Central ECA SA-5 as presented. Mandy Sharpe seconded the motion and the report was approved 4-0.

INSURANCE RENEWAL: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the McGriff Insurance renewal as presented. Jeff Lowry seconded the motion and the renewal was approved 4-0.

WEST CENTRAL YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve the facilities usage request for the WC Youth Football League waiving the building usage fee only with all other charges applicable when needed or necessary. Jeff Lowry approved the request and the motion was approved 4-0.

SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES SECOND READING AND ADOPTION: Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve the second reading and adoption of the policies presented. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the board policies were approved 4-0.

ITEMS TO BE DECLARED SURPLUS: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the disposal list items as presented. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the surplus list was approved 4-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Mr. Carlson shared, we're off and going strong at the elementary. Benchmarking is finished in both math and reading. The first early release day allowed staff to do required training and we discussed several data points. IREAD and ILEARN scores were compared to surrounding schools and the state averages. Trends from the last few years were highlighted in ILEARN, and the school-wide NWEA and iReady scores. The required dyslexia screening begins next week in grades 1-2, and kindergarten is at the end of the month. Field trips are being planned and begin this month. The Book Fair and Grandparent's Day will be the last week of September.

Mrs. Radtke said the school year is off to a great start. Mrs. Johns and Mr. Amsler took sixty high school students to the Pulaski County Highway Department to a resource and opportunity fair sponsored by WorkOne where they were able to meet with colleges and employers. The students learned valuable information, were provided lunch, and many won prizes. The day before the event, WorkOne presenters met with the sophomores, juniors, and seniors during English class to go over resume writing and interviewing skills. 4C Health, the counseling program we partner with, sponsored a convocation for the high school focusing on finding healthy ways of escaping and dealing with pain instead of through social media, vaping, and other negative choices. Mrs. Newbauer has been making her way into classrooms during Success time to cover positive character lessons with our middle schoolers. This year we are participating in a county-wide attendance program called, Project Attend. So far we have seen an 83% decrease in the amount of attendance letters sent home to middle schoolers and 44% decrease in the amount of letters sent home to high school students. They have started drywalling and painting the band and choir rooms. Things are moving along. The football team is off to another great season with a record of 3-0. We have outscored our opponents 124-30 in those three games. The middle school football team

just had a huge win of 34-0 over Tri-County. Both the high school and middle school cross country boys teams were the 421 Run Champions, and the jv and varsity volleyball teams just beat Winamac earlier this week.

Dr. Rowe commended the senior class on having the highest class attendance for August and the Middle/High School having the best school wide attendance. The district is in the process of renewing their CD from a .002% interest rate to a 5.44% interest rate. Construction continues in the band/choir areas where workers are mudding walls and have started the process of putting the rooms back together again. September 29th is our next early release. There are currently three school board members who will be attending the annual ISBA conference on September 25th. The district was the recent recipient of a school safety grant that will help add additional cameras for blind spots, first responder swipes, bullying curriculum, Securly and panic buttons at all office entrances. We are hoping to roll out our next purchase of interactive TV's for the classrooms this fall. The district is pleased to note that as of today, we have 59 students whose parents select West Central as their child's school of choice!

PAYROLL AND CLAIMS: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve payroll and claims for the corporation. Jeff Lowry seconded the motion and the payroll and claims were approved 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT: Todd Miller asked the board if there was any further business. Being none, the president adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED:

Kyle McTeigue, President

Todd Miller, Secretary