



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

****Regular meeting taking place at the District Office on November 16, 2015**

MEMBERS

Position	Present	Absent
Presiding Officer	Jack Caldwell	
	Matt Seman	
	Teresa Benner	
		Pam Kovacevich
	Corey Conklin	
	Tom Ray	
Superintendent	David Root	
Building Principals	Doug Furlow, Adam Eucker, Adam Ibbotson, Janis Lindsey and Becky Miller	Clay Shoufler
Board of Education Secretary	Charlie Waugh	

Call to Order / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance / Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order by President, Jack Caldwell. Roll call was taken by the Recording Secretary. Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Matt Seman and seconded by Tom Ray that the agenda be approved as amended.

Discussion: Action Item 7c – Recommendation to hire Lori Finley, Cook at Sherman Elementary School

Motion carried

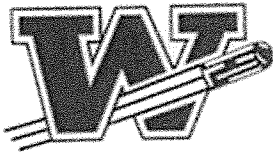
Recognition of Employees and Public

Byron Painter – South County Publications
Robin Yockey – Mose, Yockey, Brown and Kull
Lori Truter, Counselor - SES
Adam Walsh – member of the public

Information Items

A. Faculty Spotlight – Lori Truter, SES Counselor

Principal, Janis Lindsey, introduced Counselor, Lori Truter, who is currently in her 6th year at Sherman Elementary School.



Mrs. Truter updated the Board with what she does as counselor at Sherman Elementary. She noted that she is the first time students have any exposure to a school counselor, and she takes time to explain to them what a counselor does.

Mrs. Truter spoke of the following programs:

- Character education
 - 9 pillars, one each month, includes a character word and corresponding lesson
- Safety program
 - Bullying, bus, bicycles and water safety, etc
- Group Activity
 - Building positive relationships, learning how to make friends and resolve conflict
 - Study skills for 3rd and 4th graders
 - Divorce, death and loss – now incorporating those whose parents are deployed
 - Grief, loss, self-esteem and social skills

Mrs. Truter noted that in the past these group sessions have served 50-60 students. Her current sessions are serving over 100 students.

Mrs. Truter stated that she also offers individual services for students, community relations services – such as school supplies and Angel Tree services for those in need, serves as the testing coordinator for PARCC and other tests and is the Homeless Liaison for our school district.

B. FY2015 Audit Report – Robin Yockey

Robin Yockey from Mose, Yockey, Brown and Kull came to report on the school district audit for fiscal year 2015. She presented the Board with the District's Annual Financial Report (AFR) and two letters that detail the audit process and its findings.

Robin noted that “regulatory practices of accounting” are utilized during the audit. The audit produced three findings:

- Internal Control of payroll liabilities
 - Figured out the cause of this and have corrected
- Expenditures over budget
 - Due to accordance of regulatory basis of accounting and adjustments that had to be made
- No publication of the amended budget, but it was posted on the district website

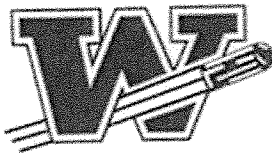
She noted that the District financial profile score is 3.55 which keeps the district in Recognition status, the highest available.

Copies of the audit are available at the District Office.

C. Superintendent's Report

1. Financial Update

Mr. Root presented a 2005-2015 cash flow analysis and reiterated where we are at the end of October with a balance in all funds of \$6,728,409 and a balance in the Operating Funds of



\$5,123,092. By comparison, at the end of October 2014, our balance in all funds was \$7,603,092 and in the Operating Funds was \$5,898,516.

2. Revisit 2015 Tentative Levy

Mr. Root spoke in detail about the levy at the October meeting and reviewed the information again with the Board.

He reminded the Board of the following:

- The levy is what we ask for, the extension is what we receive
- As the property values increase, the tax rate decreases
- 66% of the property tax bill goes to the school
- The school does not increase the tax rate
- Estimated 2015 levy at 18% was \$7,043,660 + Bond and Interest of \$1,600,000, totaled \$8,643,660. The actual 2015 extension was \$5,964,939 + Bond and Interest of \$1,502,743, totaled \$7,467,682
- The 2015 tax rate was 4.64
- The estimated rate for 2016 is 4.60
- For a \$100,000 home, the 2014 tax rate equaled \$1,547. For 2015, \$1,534
- Our tax rate was the highest in 2001 at 4.78 and has been lower than that every year since
- Our district benefits from continued growth

3. School Report Card

Mr. Root stated that the school report cards are available online at IIRC.niu.edu and showed the Board what information can be accessed.

Mr. Root noted a standout category for our district is the graduation rate. Ours is at 99%.

He also noted the PARCC results are not yet available and currently holds no value, but hopes they eventually will.

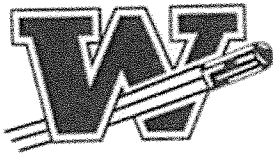
4. Math Textbooks

Mr. Root informed the Board the District is in the process of selecting a new math textbook series. It has been several years since we have had new math textbooks. He noted the State of Illinois used to have a program that helped schools cover some of the cost of a new textbook series, but that is no longer being funded.

He stated the series will be for grades K-12, will include online textbook access and will be used for 15 years. The cost is approximately \$130,000.

5. Ill Conference

Mr. Root provided the Board members with a copy of the agenda and noted he is available for any questions they may have.



6. Financial Solutions for State Budget Crisis

As the Board prepares to attend the Ill Conference, Mr. Root took some time to educate Board members on what really needs to be done to fund schools. He wanted to provide this information to the Board as school finance is always a topic at the conference.

Mr. Root presented information from the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability after their extensive review of the financial situation in the State of Illinois. The CTBA article will be placed on the District's website for anyone wishing to review it. Some findings by the office include:

- Resolving Illinois' longstanding fiscal shortcoming requires both revenue policy reform and pension debt re-amortization: Overspending on current services is not the problem
- The biggest issue is the poor tax structure and the borrowing of money against the pension system
- Illinois is a low spending state
 - IL has spent 26% less since 2004 on the four main services areas. It has been found the cuts have made no positive impact on the deficit and have instead cut services to those in need without any benefit to the financial solvency of the State
- A big contributor to the increased debt of the State was the income tax cut from 5% to 3.75 for individuals and from 7% to 5.25% for corporations
 - Of the \$3.7 billion plus in personal income tax relief under the phase down, over \$2 billion (54.4%) went to the top 11.8% of income earners in the State
 - The bottom 60% of Illinois taxpayers received just 13% of the tax relief
- Must modernize the IL tax policy and re-amortize the pension debt
- Solutions provided by the office included reinstating the personal and corporate tax rates back to 5% and 7%, eliminating ineffective tax expenditures, a sales tax expansion and re-amortization of the pension debt

D. Principal's Report

Janis Lindsey – full report submitted to the Board

Elementary Activities

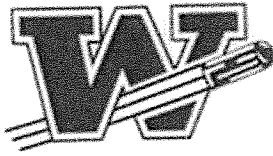
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|------------------|---|
| • November 20 | Last day for canned food drive |
| • November 20 | WHS Madrigals to perform for SES students |
| • November 23 | PTO pie sales pick up – over 3000 sold! |
| • November 25 | Mid-term for 2 nd quarter |
| • November 25 | 1:45 Dismissal |
| • November 26-27 | No School |
| • December 15 | 2 nd grade music program |
| • December 18 | 1:45 dismissal |

Doug Furlow – full report submitted to the Board

Congratulations to Brenna Cordum. She was selected as our October Student of the Month.

Upcoming Dates:

Saturday – 11/21	ILMEA Jazz Festival - Porta
Wednesday – 11/25	2:15pm dismissal – Thanksgiving break
November 26 & 27	No school – Thanksgiving break



Monday – 11/30	WHS Winter Concert @ WJHS
Saturday – 12/5	Y & G Pre Leg II – 8:00-3:00pm
12/7 – 12/11	Penny Drive Week
Friday – 12/11	Penny Drive Assembly
Saturday – 12/12	Madrigal tea & dinner -1:00pm & 6:00pm
Friday – 12/18	2:15pm dismissal – Christmas break
	End of semester

Clay Shoufler - Full Report Submitted to the Board

Adam Eucker – Full Report Submitted to the Board

- o Volleyball had its best finish since 1991, losing to eventual State Champions, Bloomington Central Catholic
- o Abby Galusha is one of the finalists for female athlete of the year and will be on 1450 on Wed @ 4:00pm
- o Football – two teams are still playing that we beat this year, despite our record, shows we had a good year
- o Swimming – sectionals were this past weekend – had 1 girl advance to State
- o Girls Basketball starts Thursday
- o Boys Basketball starts Dec 4
- o Promo material will be coming out for our school and 5 others who are broadcasting games in the area

Adam Ibbotson

- o Honor rolls posted for last quarter
- o Commitment to Excellence (CTE) assembly is next week to encourage kids around character traits
- o 8th Grade Girls Basketball recognition night is tonight, with regionals starting soon
- o Boys Basketball has started

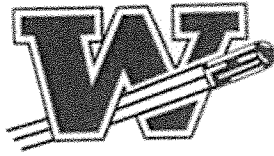
Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Corey Conklin and seconded by Teresa Benner to approve the consent agenda containing items a, b, c, d, e, and f: namely Approval of the following minutes as written and distributed: Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2015, Approval of the Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from October 19, 2015, Approval of the Bills in the amount of \$813,983.59, including reimbursement of the revolving fund in the amount of \$3,617.79, Approval of the Treasurer's Report, Approval of the Lunch Report and Receipt of Resignations:

Aindi Schneider, HS Cheerleading Coach

Discussion:

- On roll call the following members answered aye:
Charlie Waugh Teresa Benner
Corey Conklin Jack Caldwell
Tom Ray Matt Seman
Jack Caldwell
- On roll call the following members were absent:
Pam Kovacevich



Motion carried

Action Items

A motion was made by Charlie Waugh and seconded by Corey Conklin to adopt the Tentative Levy for local property tax assessed in 2015 to be paid in 2016:

Discussion: Will be posted for 30 days, adopted in December

Motion carried

A motion was made by Matt Seman and seconded by Tom Ray to accept Kristy Cole's leave of absence

Discussion: She won a trip and will be docked for those days. If board approved, the dock will be spread out over her contract

Motion carried

A motion was made by Corey Conklin and seconded by Tom Ray to hire certified and non-certified personnel

Discussion: Lori Finley – cafeteria in Sherman

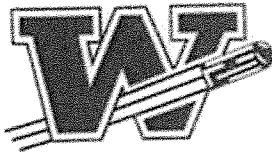
- On roll call the following members answered aye:
Charlie Waugh Teresa Benner
Corey Conklin Jack Caldwell
Tom Ray Matt Seman
Jack Caldwell
- On roll call the following members were absent:
Pam Kovacevich

Motion carried

A motion was made by Jack Caldwell and seconded by Charlie Waugh to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the performance of non-tenured staff, employment of personnel and student information.

Discussion:

- On roll call the following members answered aye:
Charlie Waugh Teresa Benner
Corey Conklin Jack Caldwell
Tom Ray Matt Seman
Jack Caldwell
- On roll call the following members were absent:
Pam Kovacevich



Motion carried

The Board entered executive session at 8:25pm and returned to open session at 8:48pm

A motion was made by Matt Seman and seconded by Jack Caldwell to return to open session.

Discussion: None

Motion carried.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Corey Conklin and seconded by Charlie Waugh to adjourn the meeting.

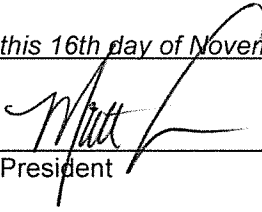
Discussion: None

Motion carried.

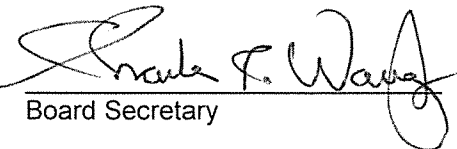
Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.

Board Approval

Dated this 16th day of November 2015



Board President



Board Secretary

**Submitted by Jenny Brennan, Recording Secretary