

## Regular Session

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Board Room

7:30 PM

The Board of Education of the West Central School Corporation met in a regular session on Thursday, November 4, 2021. The following members were present: Dennis Gutwein, Todd Miller, Kyle McTeigue, Jake Tanner, Mandy Sharpe, and Jonathan Gutwein.

Also present were: Dan Zylstra, Superintendent, Mike Carlson, Elementary Principal, Angie Radtke, MS/HS Principal, Chelsea Reed, Kara Trent, Devin Green, Megan Galbreath of the Pulaski County Journal, and Sherri Cameron, Corporation Secretary.

MINUTES: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting and executive session on October 7, 2021, and Public Hearing on November 1, 2021. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

REQUISITIONS: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve requisitions 21190 through 21218 for the corporation.

Mandy Sharpe seconded the motion and the requisitions were approved.

EMPLOYMENT: Kyle McTeigue made a motion to approve the following employment as presented:

1. Sherrin (Sherry) LeBeau - Cooperative School Services

Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the employment was approved.

RESIGNATIONS: Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve the following resignations as presented:

1. Tera Pych - Cafeteria
2. Ben Gudas - Teacher

Todd Miller seconded the motion and the resignations were approved.

FIELD TRIP REQUEST: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the following field trip as presented:

1. Shaw Haselby - FFA National Convention

Todd Miller seconded the motion and the field trip was approved.

CONFERENCE REQUEST: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve the following conference request as presented:

1. Alicia Cotner - Indiana Library Federation Annual Conference

Mandy Sharpe seconded the motion and the conference request was approved.

LEAVE REQUESTS: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the following leave requests as presented:

1. Kellis Gutwein - personal leave
2. Dianna Maxwell - personal leave

Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the leave requests were approved.

RESIDENCY POLICY: Superintendent Zylstra presented the second reading of the Procedure For Determining Resident Student Status for addition to the Board Policy Manual.

Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the Residency Policy.

Todd Miller seconded the motion and the policy was approved.

**CAPITAL ASSETS POLICY AND PROCEDURES:** Superintendent Zylstra presented the second reading of the updated Capital Assets and Policy Procedures for addition to the Board Policy Manual. Kyle McTeigue made a motion to approve the Capital Assets Policy and Procedures. Mandy Sharpe seconded the motion and the policy was approved.

**MASTER TEACHER CONTRACT:** Todd Miller made a motion to approve the Master Teacher Contract as presented.

Jake Tanner seconded the motion. Superintendent Zylstra noted the contract will increase starting teacher pay to \$40,000 and move to \$41,000 next year and provide significant increases to certified staff with more experience. It also created a salary grid going forward to create more transparency and consistency in the compensation plan. Mandy Sharpe noted the district employed a labor relations attorney to assist in the process, which added to the professionalism and took some of the burden off the negotiations team. She and Todd Miller thanked the Teachers' Association for the work they put into the process and the positive atmosphere. Teachers' Association Co-Presidents Devin Green and Kara Trent were present to sign the contract, and they thanked the Board for all their work and cooperation.

**NON-CERTIFIED CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS:** Work is underway for an increase in non-certified staff compensation increase. More information is being gathered, and a proposal is expected at the next school board meeting in December.

**NON-CERTIFIED COVID-19 LEAVE & STIPEND:** Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve the non-certified COVID-19 leave and stipend language as presented. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the language was approved. This will mirror language in the Master Teacher contract for certified staff.

#### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Elementary Principal Mike Carlson announced that parent-teacher conferences were held with an 88% attendance rate over two nights. They would like to thank the PTC for dinner on the first night. Clubs and activities are underway. Student council has started and will be holding a food drive the week of the 15th. Lego Club for the upper grades will begin next week, and the lower grades next semester. Spell Bowl competition will be held on November 15. PTC again hosted a pumpkin decorating contest, and there was great participation and creativity. The first distribution of the Backpack Program will be this week. Looking ahead, the mid-year benchmarking in reading and math will be the first week of December.

Middle/High School Principal Angie Radtke shared that the past month was a busy one, and they finished up the first nine weeks. High school students who didn't have any incident reports were treated to a movie complete with pop and popcorn at the ISIS theater in Winamac. The next incentive will be in January as a bowling trip. Mrs. Miller started some intramural competitions. The students, with the help of some staff, are competing in a 3 on 3 basketball tournament that is going on now with over twenty teams signed up. Next on the agenda is a cornhole tournament. The juniors took the ASVAB test last week. October finished up with Red Ribbon Week, and a guest speaker on Thursday shared her experiences overcoming drug addiction. Next week they are looking forward to celebrating Veterans Day with a program for the community and a luncheon for the veterans. The Lift-a-thon went very well and raised over \$1,000.00 for the weight room.

Superintendent Dan Zylstra reported that the HVAC project was finishing up. Smaller mechanical issues and fine-tuning are holding up the finalization of the project. The decommissioned air handler is scheduled to be demolished and removed over Christmas break. A meeting is set with some professionals to gather input on band/choir room renovations. And more input is being gathered on possible improvements to the pool. Turbine production was outstanding in the month of October thanks to high winds. The district continues to monitor COVID-19 cases in the school and quarantine as required. West Central has been blessed with low numbers of cases but will continue to watch closely. Wifi Hot Spots are available free of charge to students through the Wabash Heartland Initiative as part of a broader project to increase connectivity in rural areas. With some updated equipment in the weight room, the administration is exploring ways to make the facility available for first responders and other members of the community.

CLAIMS: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve claims 2542 through 2661 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:

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Jeff Lowry, President

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Kyle McTeigue, Secretary

