

West Central School Corporation

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

WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Session

Thursday, March 6, 2025 7:30PM

The Board of Education of the West Central School Corporation met in a regular session on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 7:30PM. The following members were present: Jake Tanner, Jeff Lowry, Dennis Gutwein, Jonathan Gutwein, Todd Miller and Darin Gudeman.

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

CALL TO ORDER: President Jake Tanner called the meeting to order.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: Jake Tanner was pleased to recognize Emma Tanner as the West Central Elementary School student of the month. Todd Miller was pleased to recognize Conner Bunger as the West Central Middle/High School student of the month.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jeff Lowry made a motion to approve the agenda. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the agenda was approved 6-0.

MINUTES: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular session held on February 6, 2025. Jonathan Gutwein seconded the motion and the minutes were approved 6-0.

REQUISITIONS: Jeff Lowry made a motion to approve requisitions 24461 through 24493 for the corporation. Darin Gudeman seconded the motion and the requisitions were approved 6-0.

RESIGNATIONS: Darin Gudeman made a motion to approve the following resignation:

1. Terri Ray-Retirement end of 2024-2025 school year
2. Sherri LeBeau-Retirement end of 2024-2025 school year

Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the resignation was approved 6-0.

EMPLOYMENTS: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the following employments as presented:

1. Kali Rodriguez--Middle School Volleyball coach 7th or 8th TBD
2. Zach Dix--Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coach
3. Brandon Williams--Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coach

Jonathan Gutwein seconded the motion and the employments were approved 6-0.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve the leave of absence as presented:

1. Lauren Manuel-Maternity Leave May 3, 2025-June 14, 2025

Jeff Lowry seconded the motion and the leave of absence was approved 6-0.

SUMMER HOURS: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the summer hours recommendation as presented. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the summer hours recommendation was approved 6-0.

2025-2026 PAY SCHEDULE: Darin Gudeman made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 pay schedule as presented. Jonathan Gutwein seconded the motion and the 2025-2026 pay schedule was approved 6-0.

FRANCESVILLE-SALEM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTEE: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve the recommendation of Tammy Brick to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Francesville-Salem Township Public Library as presented. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the appointment was approved 6-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Mr. Carlson said that the feedback received from the first synchronous e learning day was overwhelmingly positive. Teachers said it went well and they had higher student engagement and participation than the traditional days. We enjoyed FFA week and it wrapped up with the ever-popular Petting Zoo. Sunshine sponsored the first Snowball dance for high school. It was a success with students enjoying their time. The Life Skills class hosted their own Valentine's Dance. They invited the classes from North Judson and Rensselaer to come and join them with some of our National Honor Society members. It was great to see and they were having fun. Freshman Orientation was held and families were given details about the new diploma requirements and the transition to high school. English and Biology have given the AP Mock Exams. It's a step towards preparing for the end-of-course exams to earn the college credit. We want to thank Braun Ability in Winamac for their donation of gloves, jackets, safety glasses, and more to the welding program. Early in the month several band students went to the Solo & Ensemble contest. At the district level, they earned 18 golds, 10 silver, and one bronze award. Those moving on to the state competition earned 2 gold and 3 silver awards. At state, Gabe Scott's gold was with distinction. He missed a perfect score by one point. The pep band has also sounded amazing at the basketball games. Juniors took the SAT this morning. We're looking forward to Spring and warmer weather.

Mrs. Blaszczyk shared that the West Central Elementary students in grades 2 and 3 started the IREAD-3 State Assessment. This assessment is an online untimed multiple choice test that consists of three segments. The first measures foundational reading skills, including phonics and vocabulary. The other two segments assess the students ability to read and comprehend nonfiction and literary text. It is mandatory for third grade students to pass this assessment. The passing score is 446. If they do not pass it, they will receive remediation and take it a second time when the summer testing window opens. Second grade students have to take the assessment this year, if they do pass it, they will not need to take it in third grade.

The ILEARN Checkpoints 3 will begin the week of March 17. The ILEARN Checkpoints are short assessments that test Indiana's grade 3-8 students in English/Language Arts and Math. It is Used to identify students' strengths and areas for improvement and help teachers prepare students for the ILEARN Assessment which will begin April 14.

CoGat the High Ability Assessment and Wida (for ELL Learners) finished up at the end of February. Kindergarten Round up is coming up next week on March 13.

Principal Blaszczyk will be looking at our new data over the next few weeks and discuss it with teachers during our PLC meetings to plan for student interventions for student improvement.

Dr. Rowe discussed recent legislative proposals which seek to examine local units of governments cash balances. Our cash balances have provided West Central with the means to complete facility improvements with more improvements needed, particularly with iron filters at the elementary school, the purchase of another school bus this year and items that did not fit into the recent bond project. West Central will be offering summer school again this year and more information will be in the upcoming spring newsletter. The breaker for the turbine repair is to be in any day now and PowerGrid Partners will be here to install. Dr. Rowe talked about the addition of an SRO (school resource officer) with board members expressing interest in moving in that direction. The Board felt that having an independent officer would be best and encouraged Dr. Rowe to bring back costs and other information to move forward.

PAYROLL AND CLAIMS: Todd Miller made a motion to approve payroll and claims for the corporation. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the payroll and claims were approved 6-0.

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

APPROVED:

_____, President

_____, Secretary