

The Board of Education of the West Central School Corporation met in regular session on Thursday, March 3, 2016. The following members were present Dennis Gutwein, Gary Gudeman, Todd Miller, Jeff Lowry, Jeff Tanner, and Jim Bergens. Also in attendance were Laurie Neeley, Ethan White, Sara Kroft, Zane Kroft, Kent Kroft, Audrey Kroft, Sally Bathke, Chuck Bathke, Bryan Bathke, Marilyn Bernal, Kimberly Kimberly, Randolph Kimberly Jr., Bryce Kimberly, Amber Tomlinson, Principals Dan Zylstra and Pat Culp, Shannon Fritz and Superintendent Don Street.

**STUDENT OF THE MONTH:** Todd Miller presented Audrey Kroft with a certificate honoring her for being selected as Student of the Month at the elementary. Jeff Tanner presented Bryce Kimberly with a certificate honoring him at the middle school level. Dennis Gutwein presented Ethan White with a certificate honoring him at the high school level. Jim Bergens presented Brian Bathke with a certificate honoring him at the high school level for being selected as the January Student of the Month. Congratulations are extended to these students!

**MINUTES:** Jim Bergens made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting and the work session for February 4, 2016. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

**REQUISITIONS:** Todd Miller made a motion to approve requisitions 16027 through 16049 for the corporation and 16088 through 16100 for Cooperative School Services. Jeff Lowry seconded the motion and the requisitions were approved.

**RETIREMENT:** Dennis Gutwein made a motion to accept the following retirement as presented effective at the end of the current school year:

1. Julie Hart

Todd Miller seconded the motion and the retirement was approved. Many thanks are extended to Julie for her years of service to the school corporation.

**RESIGNATION:** Gary Gudeman made a motion to approve the following resignation as presented:

1. Laura Stout – High School Student Council

Jim Bergens seconded the motion and the resignation was approved.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:** Jeff Tanner made a motion to approve the following leave of absence:

1. Jennifer Byrne – April 11-15, 2016 – Personal

Jeff Lowry seconded the motion and the leave of absence request was approved.

**CONFERENCE REQUEST:** Jim Bergens made a motion to approve the following conference request:

1. Jessica Murray – C & T Design Meeting – March 9-10, 2016  
Indianapolis

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

**POLICY MANUAL REVISIONS SECOND READING:** The second reading of the Substitute Teachers, Reduction in Force and Student Teachers policies was held. Todd Miller made a motion to approve the second reading of the policy manual revisions

as presented. Jeff Lowry seconded the motion and the policy manual revisions were approved.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** Mr. Street went over the Strategic Plan. The plan covers educational goals, financial goals and policy goals for the coming years. The Vision, Mission and Belief Statements will remain the same. Jim Bergens made a motion to approve and Jeff Tanner seconded the motion. The Strategic Plan was approved.

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:** Mr. Culp and Mr. Zylstra went over the school improvement plans for the elementary, middle and high schools. Jim Bergens made a motion to approve the school improvement plan as presented. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the school improvement plan was approved.

**CRISIS RESPONSE COVERAGE ENDORSEMENT:** Jeff Tanner made a motion to approve the Crisis Response Coverage endorsement from Selective. Gary Gudeman seconded the motion and the Crisis Response Coverage endorsement was approved.

**STATE PERFORMANCE GRANT:** Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the state performance grant distribution as presented. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the state performance grant distribution was approved.

**WEST CENTRAL SELF-FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM:** After discussion to consider a self-funded preschool program at West Central, Mr. Zylstra was asked to gather names of interested families that would pay for their child to attend a preschool program at West Central. Names and information will be gathered during the next month and at Kindergarten Roundup. The information will be shared in April.

**HEAD START PROGRAM:** Pulaski County Head Start will be gauging the interest level of a Head Start classroom at West Central for next school year. Names and information will be gathered during the next month and at Kindergarten Roundup. The information will be shared in April.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:** Mr. Zylstra reported to the board that West Central Elementary School is hosting a chapter of "All Pro Dad" an organization dedicated to strengthening fathers in their duties raising children. The first meeting will be March 8 at 7:00am in the elementary school. IREAD3, the state mandated 3rd grade reading will also take place on March 14 & 15. Last year West Central enjoyed a 95.5% passing rate, a score we hope to duplicate or improve upon. Spring pictures will be March 16. Family Literacy Night will be March 17. The theme this year is "We're Off to See the Librarian." After a week of spring break we will come back to Perfect Attendance Lunches on Tuesday and Wednesday for all students who never missed a day or were tardy during the 3rd quarter. Kindergarten Roundup is March 31. The spring book fair is the week of April 4-8. February professional development time was spent reviewing Simple 6 writing data, acuity data, and furthering our investigation into options for next year's math textbook.

Mr. Culp informed the board that currently students and staff are working diligently on completing the ISTEP+ practice test. Later this month, students will be taking the actual ISTEP+ test in grades 6-8 and grade 10. Renee Conner, Corri Shepherd, and Esaleigh Hauptli competed at the State FCCLA (Family Community Career Leaders of America) conference held February 25 -27 in Indianapolis. The young ladies competed in a Star Event, "Food Innovations". They won a silver medal and are the qualifying team to present at nationals in San Diego this July. Congratulations ladies. National Honors

Society and National Junior Honor Society Induction will be held on Tuesday, March 15 at 6pm. Congratulations to all students being inducted into the NHS/NJHS. The annual Sports Spectacular for Middle School and High School students is scheduled for Friday, March 11. On Monday, April 4, the HS/MS Band Concert will be conducted. The Middle School Play, *Hurry Up and Wait*, will be performed on Friday, April 8.

Mr. Street reviewed enrollment and state funding data for the last 10 years. Enrollment has declined 126 students over the last 10 years. State funding to operate the general fund is tied directly to enrollment and as a result West Central has lost nearly \$500,000 in state funding since last school year. Because of the declining enrollment and the reduction in state funding, West Central will be considering reduction of force as well as not replacing vacant positions and reducing expenses. The principals are reviewing on-line registration for the upcoming school year. School will be in session on March 28 and April 15 as snow make-up days. Third term is scheduled to end March 11. Because of the change to the state testing requirements and graduation requirements, West Central is considering returning to a seven (7) period day for the secondary level (6-12) students. The high school students will now take an ISTEP test at the end of the school year in mathematics, language arts, and biology. The previous test was an end of course assessment that was taken at the end of the course. With a block schedule students might not be enrolled or have completed a semester in mathematics, language arts, or biology course by the end of the year when testing occurs in accordance with the new state testing requirements. West Central will be pursuing collection of unpaid textbook rental through small claims court.

CLAIMS: Gary Gudeman made a motion to approve claims 133 through 234 for the corporation and 732 through 822 for Cooperative School Services. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the claims were approved.

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

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David Allen, President

APPROVED

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Todd Miller, Secretary