

Regular Session

**Thursday, July 29, 2021
Board Room (B-113)
7:30 PM**

The Board of Education of the West Central School Corporation met in a regular session on Thursday, July 29, 2021. The following members were present: Dennis Gutwein, Jake Tanner, Todd Miller, Mandy Sharpe, Kyle McTeigue, and Jonathan Gutwein.

Also present were: Dan Zylstra, Superintendent, and Sherri Cameron, Secretary.

Vice President Jonathan Gutwein chaired the meeting, noting that due to the Jasper County Fair and other board member schedules, the meeting was moved up by one week to accommodate the need to have a quorum.

MINUTES: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 8, 2021. Mandy Sharpe seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

REQUISITIONS: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve requisitions 21136 through 21143 for the corporation.

Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the requisitions were approved.

RESIGNATIONS: Kyle McTeigue made a motion to approve the following resignations as presented:

1. Lacey Steele - Elementary classroom teacher
2. Tori Stockberger - Cooperative School Services
3. Kelly Grillo - Cooperative School Services
4. Brooke Meek - Elementary classroom teacher
5. Lisa Hughes - Elementary classroom teacher
6. BJ Aldridge-MS classroom teacher

Todd Miller seconded the motion and the resignations were approved.

EMPLOYMENT: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the following employments as presented:

1. Tina Chambers - Elementary Custodian
2. Desiree Supremo - High School Science
3. Michael Harter - Driver's Ed
4. Samantha Heims - Elementary Teacher
5. Kyra McGraw-Cooperative School Services
6. Edward Palmisano - Cooperative School Services
7. Jerry Norman - Instructional Assistant
8. Karson McHenry - Middle School Cheerleading Coach
9. Jeremy Glasford - Cross Country, Head Boys/Girls
10. Adam Huber - Cross Country, MS Boys/Girls
11. Marc Hall - Head Football Coach
12. Zephaniah Conley - Football, Assistant Coach
13. Corey Howat - Football, Assistant Coach
14. Greg Buschman - Football, Assistant Coach
15. Dylan Ingram - Middle School Football Coach
16. Tyler Napier - Middle School Football, Assistant Coach
17. Kelsey Erb - High School Cheerleading Coach

Kyle McTeigue seconded the motion and the employments were approved.

REDUCTION IN FORCE: (reason is declining enrollment, insufficient students in the teachers' license/content area, and projected revenues and expenditures): On June 24, 2021, Mrs. Robin Ashley and Mr. Brad Odom were given written notice of the preliminary decision of Mr. Dan Zylstra to cancel their teaching contracts effective at the end of the school year and reduce them to ½ time for the 2021-2022 school year. This notice advised Mrs. Robin Ashley and Mr. Brad Odom of the right to a conference with the Superintendent should one be requested within five days of receiving the written notice of the preliminary decision. They were also notified individually of the right to a conference with the School Board should one be requested within five days of the conference with the Superintendent. None of the individuals listed chose to exercise their right to a conference with the School Board. In accordance with IC 20-28-7.5-2(e), if a teacher does not request a conference, the Superintendent's preliminary decision is considered final. Kyle McTeigue made a motion to approve the Reduction in Force to ½ time for the following teachers.

1. Robin Ashley-MS Math
2. Brad Odom-Social Studies

Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the reductions were approved.

PRINCIPAL CONTRACT ADJUSTMENT: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the contract adjustments for the following administrators for the 2021-2022 school year:

1. Angie Radtke
2. Mike Carlson

Mandy Sharpe seconded the motion and the contract adjustments were approved.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Superintendent Dan Zylstra discussed the details of an employee stipend for the extra work required during the 2020-2021 school year to be paid out of economic stimulus money. The stipend will be up for approval at a later board meeting. Superintendent Zylstra presented language for a potential policy change which would allow certain individuals to carry firearms on school property. Board members discussed specific protocols for enacting such a policy and will research further before presenting a policy change. Board member Mandy Sharpe discussed the recent turbine outage and her work with Tech Director Kris Aschbrenner in securing credits from NIPSCO for turbine down-time. Superintendent Zylstra discussed the progress on the HVAC and construction project, which is mostly complete. The interior work will be complete by the first Teacher Day on August 9. Superintendent Zylstra shared details of the 2022 budget ahead of the September Budget Hearing. Enrollment has declined significantly in the last two years. Proactive staff reductions have helped balance the budget. But upward pressure on overall wages, including state-mandated salary minimums for teachers and percentage thresholds for overall spending, are creating a difficult budget climate with the current revenue projections.

CLAIMS: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve claims 2190 through 2295 for the corporation. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the claims were approved.

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

APPROVED:

Jeff Lowry, President

Kyle McTeigue, Secretary