

# West Central School Corporation

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

## Regular Session

**Thursday, June 1, 2023  
Board Room 7:30 PM**

The Board of Education of the West Central School Corporation met in a regular session on Thursday, June 1, 2023. The following members were present: Kyle McTeigue, Mandy Sharpe, Jeff Lowry, Jake Tanner, Dennis Gutwein, Jonathan Gutwein, and Todd Miller.

Also present were: Superintendent Cathy Rowe, Elementary Principal Mike Carlson and MS/HS Principal Angie Radtke.

**SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION:** Dr. Rowe recognized the West Central School Board and individual members for receiving ISBA awards. Jake Tanner was recognized at the Commendable level by earning 75 EGA points or higher, Kyle McTeigue was awarded the Advanced level pin for achieving at least 125 EGA points and Todd Miller received the Exemplary level pin and award for achieving at least 225 EGA points. The entire West Central School Board additionally was awarded the Exemplary Governance Award (ISBA's top award). The Exemplary Governance Award is earned by validating exemplary board service by showing evidence of leadership and governance effectiveness, student achievement initiatives, continuous improvement, strategic planning and policy review.

**STUDENT OF THE MONTH:** Board Member Mandy Sharpe was pleased to recognize our MS/HS winner Evelyn Libey for Student of the Month. Dennis Gutwein was happy to present Grayson Gudeman as the recipient of the Elementary Student of the Month Award.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Todd Miller made a motion to approve the June 1, 2023 agenda. Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the agenda was approved.

**MINUTES:** Jeff Lowry made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular session on May 4, 2023. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

**REQUISITIONS:** Jake Tanner made a motion to approve requisitions 23127 through 23154 for the corporation. Kyle McTeigue seconded the motion and the requisitions were approved.

**RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS AND RETIREMENTS:** Mandy Sharpe approved the following resignations and retirements as presented:

1. Chelsea Reed, WCMSHS Life Skills teacher, resignation
2. Kristi Laxton, CSS Coordinator, resignation
3. McKenzie Neeley, WCES instructional assistant resignation
4. Edward Palmisano, CSS School Psychologist contract cancellation
5. Jessica Williams, WCES teacher resignation

Todd Miller seconded the motion and the resignations were approved.

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

1. Lindsay Hopkins, Social-Emotional Learning Specialist
2. Andrew Pigg, Middle/Senior High School Social Studies Teacher
3. Adam Huber, MS Cross Country Boys and Girls Coach
4. Nate Neeley, Football Assistant Coach
5. Tyler Napier, Football Assistant Coach
6. Greg Buschman, Football Assistant Coach
7. Melissa Madlung, Special Purpose Bus Driver
8. Shannon Fritz, JV Volleyball Coach
9. Jeremy Glasford, Girls Basketball JV coach
10. Stephanie Erb, CSS Data Secretary
11. JoEllen Scheffer, Instructional Assistant, WCMSHS Summer School
12. Ben Gudas, WCES teacher
13. Samantha Heims, Summer School teacher (co-teacher)
14. Joy Schlatter, Summer School teacher (co-teacher)
15. Brittany Spoonemore, WCMSHS English Teacher

Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the employments were approved.

**BUS RENTAL:** Todd Miller made a motion to approve the mini-bus rental for the Francesville First Baptist to use on April 26, 2023. Kyle McTeigue seconded the motion and the usage was approved.

**BUS RENTAL:** Kyle McTeigue made a motion to approve the mini-bus rental for the First Christian Church to use June 5, 2023-June 7, 2023. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the usage was approved.

**WEST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TRIP:** Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve the extended day trip for the West Central High School football team to travel to Manchester University June 12-15, 2023. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the trip was approved.

**SUMMER SCHOOL FIELD TRIP TO SHEDD AQUARIUM:** Jake Tanner made a motion to approve the out of state field trip to the Shedd Aquarium to be taken during summer school. Jeff Lowry seconded the motion and the trip was approved.

**SPRING BAND CONCERT AND ART SHOW:** Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the Sunday performance of the Middle/High School band concert and art show. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the performance was approved.

**IVY TECH MOU DUAL CREDIT:** Jeff Lowry made a motion to approve the Ivy Tech MOU for dual credit with West Central High School. Mandy Sharpe seconded the motion and the agreement was approved.

**STAFF SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS:** Todd Miller made a motion to approve the staff salary recommendations as presented. Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the recommendations were approved.

**APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS FOR BAND/CHOIR:** Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the acceptance of bids for the choir/band room renovations as presented. Jeff Lowry seconded the motion and the bids were approved.

**ADVANCE PAY CORRECTION PLAN:** Dr. Rowe discussed a State Board of Accounts citation in our most recent audit concerning advance pay for staff and a plan to address the concern. Todd Miller made a motion to table the advance pay correction plan as presented to provide additional dialogue. Jeff Lowry seconded the motion and the plan was tabled.

STAFF BENEFITS SHEETS: Jonathan Gutwein made a motion to approve the staff employee benefit sheets as presented. Kyle McTeigue seconded the motion and the benefit sheets were approved.

#### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Mr. Carlson shared May had a flurry of activity at the elementary. PTC was an enormous help and supportive this month. They hosted Muffins in the Morning with 335 students and special friends coming in. They ran another successful Book Fair. Volunteers came to help with the carnival and Field Day, and they provided popsicles for all the students during the kickball championship. The game ended with a sixth grade team besting the staff. Students participated in a carnival again for earning AR points and mastering their math facts. The rain held off until about the final 15 minutes. A huge thank you to Alliance Bank for working the event and popping corn for all the students. For meeting their AR goal, about 200 students attended a movie at the ISIS Theatre. West Central Elementary was well represented at the County Spelling Bee with Eastern Pulaski. We swept all three places in the third grade, was third in fourth grade, and second in fifth grade. The Student Council hosted an early morning Grands Day. This was for grandparents or special friends with the students. Nearly 500 attended the event. Field Trips provided special opportunities. First grade went to the Ft Wayne Zoo, third grade to the Indianapolis Zoo, fourth grade went to the Dunes, and sixth grade went to the State House. And during all this, end of year benchmarking was done. We had an 8 percent increase over last year in students meeting their reading growth goal and 5 percent more met their math growth goal. Extra support was provided after school for students that didn't pass IREAD, and the retake was given yesterday morning.

Mrs. Radtke said that May is an exhausting whirlwind of activities with lots of awards and celebrations. We started the month with Teacher Appreciation Week. Prom was held on the Madam Carroll in Monticello. Grades 7-10 finished their last round of NWEA testing. We had senior awards night, the Top Ten Banquet, the FFA Banquet, and the Spring Band Concert. The middle schoolers went on an incentive trip to Jak's Warehouse on the last day of school, so we had our cookout on the second to last day, which also allowed our seniors to be there. The high schoolers took final exams. The student council put on a talent show; there were 8 acts.

Mrs. Johns has been talking with St. Joe College in Rensselaer about possibly partnering with them for our CCMA class, which will help decrease the cost of the CCMA certification for our students and school. They are still working on the details, but this is a huge opportunity for our kids. Also, several of Mrs. John's health occupation students attended a Healthcare Boot Camp offered by Pulaski Memorial Hospital today and the people in charge sent her a message saying that our kiddos are a step above!

Last Wednesday the Veterans motorcycle group came through. Everyone was invited to come out and thank them for their service. Graduation is over. Everything went well. We had 96% of our students graduate with a diploma, and we were able to get 100% of our students across the stage when you figure in the alternate diploma. It was a good ending to the school year. Hello, summer!

Dr. Rowe commended Mrs. Radtke and the West Central maintenance and custodial staff for their hard work in ensuring that the graduation ceremony was one to be proud of. Teachers and staff were recognized for their years of service to West Central on May 26th as follows: Retirements: Michelle Biggs, Mike Harter, Dianna Maxwell, Cathy Risner, Lori Skalon; 10 years of service to Jennifer Johns, Jeff Lowry, Vivian Mitchell and Elyse Williams; 15 years of service to Amy Anliker and Hillary Durie; 25 years of service to Pam DeMoss, Sherry Humphrey and Dee Messer; 30 years of service to Sally Smidler and 40 years of service to Terri Ray and Tammy Toosley. June 12th will be bus inspections. She talked briefly about the legislative change regarding textbook rental. There will still be some fees that will need to be assessed for swim caps, student agendas, etc. however the majority of the textbook

rental fees will not be assessed on parents. More information will be shared as the Department of Education shares this with schools. We will be purchasing a white mini bus with monies encumbered from 2022 but the bus we will be purchasing will not arrive until 2024. Due to supply chain issues and the lack of available chassis from the manufacturers, we are seeing continued issues with securing buses. A review of the work completed this week with community and staff members concerning the board's strategic plan were shared with all board members. This will be presented in the upcoming months for the board to adopt but work will need to continue to be done.

PAYROLL AND CLAIMS: Todd Miller made a motion to approve payroll and claims for the corporation. Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the payroll and claims were approved.

ADJOURNMENT: Kyle McTeigue asked the board if there was any further business. Being none, the president adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED:

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Kyle McTeigue, President

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Todd Miller, Secretary