

West Central School Corporation

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

Regular Session

Thursday, February 1, 2024 7:30PM

The Board of Education of the West Central School Corporation met in a regular session on Thursday, February 1, 2024. The following members were present: Jonathan Gutwein, Dennis Gutwein, Jake Tanner, Mandy Sharpe and Jeff Lowry.

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

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

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: Jeff Lowry was pleased to present the MS/HS winner as Josiah Rodriguez as the WCMHS Student of the Month and Marilyn Bernal was pleased to represent the WCES winner Jeradiah Neeley, as the WCES Student of the Month, who was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of a Facilities Rental Request from Eastern Pulaski Schools. Mandy Sharpe seconded the motion and the agenda was approved 5-0.

The Board heard a presentation from Moake Park Group who gave an overview of the previous work that was completed in the band and choir rooms in the middle/high school. They presented the board with renderings of other work they have undertaken in other districts and talked about ways in which they will be able to help the district through the next project. They noted that while there were several building maintenance projects on the list of improvements, they are hoping to find room to include some other aesthetic improvements to several of the areas.

MINUTES: Jeff Lowry made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Finance and regular sessions held on January 4, 2024. Jonathan Gutwein seconded the motion and the minutes were approved 5-0.

REQUISITIONS: Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve requisitions 24014 through 24046 for the corporation. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the requisitions were approved 5-0.

RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, AND RETIREMENTS: Dennis Gutwein approved the following resignations and retirements as presented:

1. Bertha Todd-WC Cafeteria Retirement.

Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the resignation was approved 4-0 (Jonathan Gutwein absent for the vote).

EMPLOYMENTS: Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve the following employments as presented:

1. Amanda Davis-Cafeteria staff
2. Samantha Garlach-Pay adjustment for days worked
3. Joan Kiersma-5th Grade Unit Leader (second semester)
4. Joan Kiersma-Elementary Math Bowl
5. Amanda Shedrow-CSS Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA)
6. Quentin Harper-Volunteer track coach
7. Janet Krueger-Paid afterschool tutor
8. Shannon Fritz, MS Wrestling volunteer
9. Brandon Williams, Volunteer assistant MS Wrestling coach

Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the employments were approved 4-0.

LEAVE REQUESTS: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve the leave requests as follows.

1. Sheryl Fritz-February 22-March 1; March 22
2. Becky Reed-March 19-22, 2024

Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the leave was approved 5-0.

SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES-SECOND REVIEW AND ADOPTION: Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve the approval and adoption of the school policy reviewed, concerning 4022: Non-Public Student Participation in Public School. Jonathan Gutwein seconded the motion and the policy was approved 5-0.

AUTHORIZATION OF PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING: Jeff Lowry made a motion to approve the authorization of publication of notice of hearing in anticipation of the district's pursuit of an improvement project to West Central Elementary School and West Central Middle/Senior High School. Jonathan Gutwein seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

ARCHITECT/DESIGN FIRM SELECTION: Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve Moake Park Group as the architect/design firm to continue working with the school corporation on the next facilities improvement project. Jeff Lowry seconded the motion and the selection was approved 5-0.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT FIRM SELECTION: Jonathan Gutwein made a motion to approve Tecton Construction Management as the management firm to continue working with the school corporation on the next facilities improvement project. Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the firm selection was approved 5-0.

EARLY LITERACY ACHIEVEMENT GRANT: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the Early Literacy Achievement Grant allocations as presented. Mandy Sharpe seconded the motion and the allocations were approved 5-0.

OUTSTANDING CHECKS: Jonathan Gutwein made a motion to approve the outstanding checks as presented, with the middle/high school checks being reviewed to ensure individuals had been notified. Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the checks were approved to return to their fund of origin, after notification is made 5-0.

WEST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE AND NEW CHANGES: Jeff Lowry made a motion to approve the West Central High School Course Description Guide and New Changes to the Course Description Guide as presented. Mandy Sharpe seconded the motion and the new courses and course description guide was approved 5-0.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HEA1003 WAIVER APPLICATION: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the pursuit of a HEA1003 waiver so that the district may engage professional and classified staff in professional development during the 2024-2025 school year. Jeff Lowry seconded the motion and the resolution was approved 5-0.

WC VOLLEYBALL SUNDAY PARTICIPATION: Jonathan Gutwein made a motion to approve the WC volleyball middle school Sunday participation for students on February 4, 2024 and February 11, 2024 as presented. Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the participation was approved 5-0.

FACILITIES RENTAL FORM-EASTERN PULASKI: Mandy Sharpe made a motion to approve the facilities rental agreement with Eastern Pulaski, after discussion from the board, for the use of the West Central pool to be used for swimming lessons. Swimming lessons would be provided to Elementary students. Jonathan Gutwein seconded the motion and the facilities rental form usage was approved 5-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Radtke noted that the month of January began with the welcoming of students back from Christmas break and the beginning of a new semester. On January 8th, we hosted a FAFSA Completion Night. Seniors and families were encouraged to attend for free expert help in understanding college funding options. INvestEd was there to answer questions and to help avoid common errors that may cause delays in the process. On January 25th, 115 of our West Central HS students attended the Incentive Program field trip to Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl in Lafayette. The program was designed to encourage high academic achievement and positive behavior. A great time was had by all. On January 26th, the MS and HS students attended a dodgeball tournament sponsored by FCCLA. We had a couple of awesome students who took it upon themselves to collect money so that the whole school could attend! The members of the winning team each received a bagful of goodies and bragging rights. The varsity wrestling team competed at the Twin Lakes Sectional this past Saturday, January 27th. Nathan Peter, Hayden Fritz, Drake Fritz and Zach Gilger each finished on top of the podium. Cameron Nuest, Israel Williams and Jacob Pilarski finished in second and Brandon Davis finished in fourth place. The team wrestled well enough to secure a second place finish out of nine schools competing. The eight advancing wrestlers will travel to the Logansport Regional this Saturday, February 3rd. Tia Peter was named WKVI Athlete of the Week for the week of January 22nd. Congrats, Tia!

Last but certainly not least, West Central Freshman (and resident celebrity) Mackenzie Luepnitz spent January 9th photographing at the Indiana Statehouse as a special guest of Governor Eric Holcomb. She then got to sit in session and photograph the Governor during his State of the State address. She has represented West Central well!

Mr. Carlson shared that January was quite the month. It proved the flexibility of staff and families. E Learning went well for the first time this year. Participation was good and absences were just a bit higher than a normal day. The Readable English program is off to a great start. Their coaches have been back twice after the initial training. He was pleased today with the beginning implementation.

Ready Math came for our early release training. We were engaged in digging through mid-year data to identify needs and drive the instruction. Math data is now complete. Currently, there are 44.4% of students on grade level and 56.1% are on track to meet their growth target for the year.

Dr. Rowe reported that the new high school food service line has been installed and is a much needed improvement. She also gave an update on the band/choir area saying that a water leak had caused some water concerns in the area and that they are currently working on replacing those items that were damaged. She gave a brief overview of a discovery trip to Grand Canyon University and the opportunities that could be afforded to West Central high school students with regard to dual credit. February 9th is a snow make up day, and early release is set for February 23rd.

PAYROLL AND CLAIMS: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve payroll and claims for the corporation. Jeff Lowry seconded the motion and the payroll and claims were approved 5-0.

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

APPROVED:

_____, President

_____, Secretary