

## Regular Session

Thursday, July 8, 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 8, 2021. The following members were present: Dennis Gutwein, Kyle McTeigue, Jake Tanner, Todd Miller, and President Jeff Lowry.

Also present were: Dan Zylstra, Superintendent, Sherri Cameron, Secretary, Haley Tapper, Lisa Zeyen, Lacey Steele, Hillary Durie, Dave Reif, and Megan Galbreath of the Pulaski County Journal.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE MASTER CONTRACT AS PER IC 20-29-6-1:** President Jeff Lowry opened the Public Hearing on the Master Contract. Dave Reif spoke on behalf of the West Central Classroom Teachers' Association and encouraged the School Board and negotiating team to use the significant increase in state funding to increase teacher salaries both at the base and for teachers with more experience. A decade plus of anemic state funding has left Indiana's veteran teachers far behind other states. Evidence suggests fewer young people are pursuing careers in education due to expected low pay. Board President Jeff Lowry thanked Dave Reif for sharing this information and the teachers for their work with students.

**MINUTES:** Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the minutes of the executive session and special meeting on June 17, 2021.

Todd Miller seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

**REQUISITIONS:** Jake Tanner made a motion to approve requisitions 21123 through 21135 for the corporation.

Kyle McTeigue seconded the motion and the requisitions were approved.

**RESIGNATIONS:** Todd Miller made a motion to approve the following resignations as presented:

1. Tammy Conley - Instructional Assistant
2. Bobby Aldridge - Varsity Boys Basketball

Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the resignations were approved.

**CANCELATION OF TEACHING CONTRACT:** On June 10, 2021, Sarah Willis a.k.a. Kate DeMaat was given written notice of the preliminary decision of Superintendent Dan Zylstra, to cancel her teaching contract, effective at the end of the school year. This notice advised Sarah Willis a.k.a. Kate DeMaat of the right to a conference with the Superintendent should one be requested within five days of receiving the written notice of the Superintendent's preliminary decision. Sarah Willis a.k.a. Kate DeMaat failed to request a conference. 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 cancel the teaching contract of the following individual:

1. Sarah Willis a.k.a. Kate DeMaat

Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the cancelation was approved.

**TRANSFER OF EMPLOYMENT REQUESTS:** Dennis Gutwein made a motion to transfer the following individuals to the following positions:

1. Dianna Maxwell - K-2 Interventionist
2. Kasey Lowry - Title I K-6 Teacher
3. Natalie Wenzel - Special Education

Todd Miller seconded the motion and the transfer requests were approved with Jeff Lowry abstaining from the vote.

EMPLOYMENT: Kyle McTeigue made a motion to approve the following employments as presented:

1. Lisa Hughes - Special Education
2. Brittany Spoonemore - Classroom Teacher
3. Kayla Butterfield - Classroom Teacher
4. Michelle Miller - Assistant Principal

Todd Miller seconded the motion and the employments were approved.

CONFERENCE REQUEST: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve the following conference request as presented:

1. Cathy Risner - NEISC Cafeteria Staff Day Out- 7/28-7/30/2021

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

NIESC FOOD SERVICES DIRECTOR CONTRACT: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the NIESC Food Services Contract as presented.

Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the contract was approved.

BUS DRIVER CONTRACTS: Kyle McTeigue made a motion to approve the bus driver contracts as presented.

Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the contracts were approved.

ALTERNATIVE AND PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL PLACEMENTS: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the authorization of the superintendent to sign agreements for alternative and private residential school placements.

Todd Miller seconded the motion and the authorization was approved.

ADULT MEAL PRICING: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve the adult meal pricing for 2021-2022. It was noted that all K-12 students will be free for the 2021-2022 school year as a result of the federal pandemic benefits. Families should still fill out forms for assistance for textbook rental to see if they qualify, as textbook rental is not covered by federal aid.

Adult breakfast - \$2.50

Adult lunch - \$4.60

Todd Miller seconded the motion and the adult meal pricing was approved.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Superintendent Dan Zylstra reviewed the progress on the HVAC work being performed this summer as well as other smaller projects around campus. Change orders and additions to the project were discussed, and he will continue to negotiate in the district's interest. A mid-year cash balance review showed the Education Fund down by roughly \$20,000 since the 1st of the year. The June tax draw led to a surplus in the Operations Fund, which will be made up for by a smaller tax draw in December. The Rainy Day Fund is also down \$50,000 from one year ago. The district will continue to look for ways to right-size its staffing levels for the existing number of students while funding essential programs. A potential staff stipend for COVID-19 will be discussed with the Teachers' Association for later board discussion.

CLAIMS: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve claims 2043 through 2189 for the corporation. Kyle McTeigue seconded the motion and the claims were approved.

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

APPROVED:

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Jeff Lowry, President

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Kyle McTeigue, Secretary