

**West Carroll Board of Education
Regular Meeting
February 17, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of West Carroll Community Unit School District No. 314 was held in the WC Intermediate School Library/Media Center, 801 South Street, Thomson, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order by President Boyd at 6:32 p.m.

Members present: David Boyd; Bill Sweeney; Mike Highland; Tim Atherton; John Brigham, and Bev Kilpatrick

Members Absent: District #5 due to vacancy, Boyd left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Administration: Superintendent Craig Mathers; Principals Robert Lamb; Julie Katzenberger; and Jeanette Ashby; Special Education/Preschool Director Pam Delp.

Administration Absent: Principal Monica Burkholder

Others present: Tricia Franklin, Mike Parrott, Brad Field, Mark Klein, Nikki Covello and parents, Kris Corrigeux and mother, Andrew Behnke and mother, Taylor Brunner, Kaiti Mathey, and Media (Bill Gengenbach, Bob Watson, Michael Miller)

3. Consent Agenda

- Minutes from the January 20, 2011; Regular Meeting.
- Minutes from the January 20, 2011; Regular Meeting, Closed Session.
- Minutes from the February 10, 2011; Special Meeting.
- Minutes from the February 10, 2011; Special Meeting, Closed Session.
- Financial Reports; Payment of Bills; Activity Accounts; FRIS Report.
- Destruction of the closed session tapes from the regular meeting, April 16, 2009 (2 tapes).

The FRIS report indicates that \$1,308,852.75 has been vouchered for payment from the State with over half of that amount being early childhood funds.

Boyd asked if all the activity bank accounts were interest bearing accounts. There is quite a bit of money within these accounts and he wants to make sure the district is getting all that they can. He was assured that all accounts are interest bearing.

Board members approved the items of the consent agenda as presented.

Public Comments

Highland stated he was contacted by Lawrence Bruckner of the Thomson Lions Club regarding trees they have purchased with grant funds from Trees Forever. The Club would like to plant trees in the village park and on school grounds if the Board will allow them to. There will be no cost to the district. The FFA will plant the trees. All they ask of the district is information on where to plant the trees. All members though it was a good idea and a great beautification project. General consensus of the Board was to move forward. Highland will instruct the Lions Club to contact Mr. Mathers on where to plant the trees.

Correspondence

A thank you card was received from the family of Susan Ritchie.

Administrative Reports

Pam Delp, special education/preschool director, reported that district staff have received CPI training (nonviolent crisis intervention) from Bryan Kamper, trainer. This training teaches techniques to de-escalate situations, proper legal restraint, and emphasizes that physical restraint is the last resort. The feedback from participating staff was very positive and worthwhile. The State Board of Education has determined that the district's special education disproportionality is not the result of inappropriate student identification. The district is to continue to implement and refine improvement activities. The annual personnel reimbursement forms have been completed. The district has dropped thirty-five students from special education services thus far this year. Twenty-one students have moved from the district and fourteen have returned to general education classes. Preschool screenings are scheduled and the appointments are over half full.

Robert Lamb, WC High School principal, reported registration for next year is almost completed. Freshman Orientation was held for pre-registration scheduling and to acquaint the eighth graders with the building. There will be another opportunity before school starts to help these students become familiar with the building. The last boys' basketball game is Friday night with regional action scheduled for next week. The FFA will celebrate FFA Week with several activities. A hypnotist has been scheduled for an assembly program. Mr. Lamb thinks the students will really enjoy this program. Mr. Lamb invited members of the Board to the FFA Breakfast on Friday, February 25. Progress reports have been mailed to parents, staff is beginning to work on purchase orders for next year, and February 18 has been scheduled as an early dismissal day for students so staff can work on curriculum articulation. Mr. Lamb has been investigating the possibility of purchasing an electronic message sign board for the high school. Funds for the purchase have been procured from the activity account and generous donations from local businesses. The total amount needed has almost been raised. Mr. Lamb asked the members of the Board for approval to replace the old sign with this new electronic sign. Board members feel it is a great idea and will be an upgrade to the facilities. Highland asked where the sign will sit and Mr. Lamb stated it will sit at an angle on the corner in front of the school building. General consensus was to move forward with the project.

Jeanette Ashby, WC Primary/Intermediate Schools principal, reported that seven Intermediate students received Division I ratings at the recent IGSM solo and ensemble contest. WC Primary School received two awards from the Illinois State Board of Education: Illinois Spotlight School and Academic Improvement Award. She is very proud of these awards and hopes the District will continue to receive these recognitions. Boyd stated this is a great accomplishment for the students, staff, and community.

Julie Katzenberger, WC Middle School principal, congratulated the winners of the West Carroll spelling bee; Josi Anderson (1st place), Quinn Rumler (2nd place), and Jeronimo Barragan (3rd place). Anderson and Rumler competed in the Regional Spelling Bee on February 15th but did not advance. Mrs. Katzenberger thanked Joe Titus and the many parent volunteers who helped to coordinate the Illinois Grade School Music Association solo and ensemble contest held at the Middle School on February 12th. The Middle School had fifty-six Division I winners, fifty-two Division II winners, and three Division III winners. Last month Highland asked Mrs. Katzenberger if she knew what the correlation of students with honor roll and perfect attendance was to ISAT test scores. Mrs. Katzenberger with the help of Kari Baisden, guidance counselor, and Tim Dowling (school psychologist) prepared the statistics. Mrs. Katzenberger explained and shared the results. Students on the honor roll performed better than those who were not. Perfect attendance did not seem to make a difference on test scores, but she would like to do some additional research on how many days students miss and their ISAT performance. Mr. Highland thanked her for putting together this information.

Brad Field, technology director, provided print outs of “open” work orders and “completed” work orders. The work orders that are long term are due to waiting for parts from vendors, needing to purchase additional parts or equipment, or needing additional time for an on-going project. Field is currently working on the Technology Implementation Plan that must be submitted by February 28. The plan must tie in with the School Improvement Plan, ISAT testing, and special education. Boyd asked if the plan requires Board approval. The Board must make sure that the plan is aligned with school goals. Future technology plans will be consolidated with the School Improvement Plan.

Superintendent Craig Mathers reported that student attendance continues to be higher than last year at this time. He presented several legislative updates. During his Budget Address the governor asked to have the student foundation level raised by \$148 but is also asking to have the reimbursement level for transportation decreased. He is pushing for state-wide consolidation of schools. He would like to have the number of school districts in the State drop from almost 900 districts to 300 and eliminate all Regional Offices of Education. The district received a FOIA request from Johannes Bus Service and information from Jo-Carroll Energy regarding the restructuring of their electrical rate schedules. Public School Works is coordinating through the Regional Office a program that will allow districts to utilize an on-line training system. The annual fee for this service is \$400.00. This is a good opportunity to allow staff to utilize on-line training for required information that is usually given during institute days. With this service the district will be able to concentrate on educational activities on institute days. The official notice of financial recognition has been received from ISBE. Superintendent Mathers wishes to publicly thank Scott Gallentine for his continued help and support of the district. Gallentine, an employee of Elkay Manufacturing, supplies his own time and service to work on all the water fountains and water coolers of the district. His generosity is a great cost savings to the district and it is truly appreciated. Beth Holland works in the cafeteria at the Intermediate School. Holland, 88 years old, is retiring at the end of the school year. She has worked for 53 years in the cafeterias of Thomson and West Carroll school districts. Mr. Mathers has figured that she has helped serve over 2,000,000 meals. She will be missed.

Board Committee Reports

The Facilities Committee met with Hillcrest Family Services. The Exit Notes were provided for the Board members.

Old Business

Board Member Resignation

The vacancy for District #5 was posted in the area newspaper. An application for the vacancy was received from Mark Klein. Klein has also registered as a write-in candidate for the April 5, 2011 election. Boyd stated the Board may interview Mr. Klein in open session, closed session, or just appoint him to the position. The general consensus was to forego a formal interview and appoint Mr. Klein.

The Board of Education appointed Mark Klein to the vacant Board of Education seat, due to a resignation, from District #5.

President Boyd issued the Oath of Office to Klein and welcomed him to the Board.

New Business

IMEA All-State Qualifiers

Four West Carroll High School students received the highest level of IHSA recognition by being named as IMEA All-State Musicians. They are: Kris Corrigeux – Bass II All-State Chorus; Niki Covello - Future Music Educators Seminar; Mark Miller – Tenor II Honors Chorus; and Emily Rogers – Bass Clarinet Honors Band. The Board wishes to acknowledge the accomplishments of these students and present them with a certificate. Kris Corrigeux and Niki Covello were in attendance to receive their certificates.

IHSA All-State Scholars

West Carroll has seven students who have been named as Illinois State Scholars. These students represent the brightest in the State by scoring in the 95th percentile on the PSAT and ACT and having a grade point average in the top 10% of their class. These students are: Andrew Behnke, Taylor Brunner, Kaiti Mathey, Mark Miller, Loren Thacher, Zackary Timm, and Sam Wilkinson. The Board wishes to acknowledge the accomplishments of these students and present them with a certificate. Andrew Behnke, Taylor Brunner, and Kaiti Mathey were in attendance to receive their certificates.

C. Health Insurance Update

Mike Parrott and Tricia Franklin of Miller, Buettner, & Parrott, the districts' health insurance broker, provided Board members updates to the field of health insurance, new legislation, and the impact of Health Care Reform. The Board has taken some measures to curtail cost increases of the districts' health insurance by changing to a \$1,500 deductible creating a \$43,000 premium savings. The program renewal is July 1st and they will have renewal rates no later than May 15th. Premium cost trends have been very favorable thus far. The Board must continue to take aggressive steps to help with costs. Parrott suggested the Board consider a health insurance cooperative to consolidate savings. He provided some information regarding the group and will continue to provide the district with information. Boyd stated that this is a contract year for the district and any information regarding the renewal will be greatly appreciated. Boyd asked if the cooperative is self-funded. Parrott explained that this cooperative is not like the cooperatives from several years ago. Parrott informed Mr. Lamb to contact his office and they would willingly donate funds towards the purchase of the electronic sign at the high school.

8th Grade Promotion

Mrs. Katzenberger is recommending 8th grade promotion be held on Tuesday, May 17. To date the district has used three snow days so the last full day of school is planned for Thursday, May 19th.

The Board approved May 17, 2011 as the date for 8th grade promotion at 6:30 p.m.

Statement of Economic Interest

All members of the Board of Education must file a "Statement of Economic Interest" annually with the Carroll County Clerk. Please fill out all pertinent information, sign, date, and return the forms to the District Office and the secretary will send them all to the county clerk's office.

Varsity Softball Tournament

The varsity softball team annually travels to Aledo (Mercer County) for a tournament. The tournament will be held on May 6-7. Past practice is that the team stays overnight. The coach will arrange for all the transportation and the district will pay the cost of the hotel rooms.

Board members approved the overnight stay of the girls' varsity softball team to participate in the May 6-7, 2011 Aledo Tournament.

ISBE Cafeteria Audit

Every five years, ISBE audits the financial records, production records, and menu processes in the districts' cafeteria program. Mr. Mathers stated this is the cleanest audit he has ever seen. Items that need to be addresses are: the district wellness policy, civil rights requirements, and a documentation error in one of the food distribution inventories. A response to these findings has been sent back to ISBE. Cindy Weems and her cafeteria workers have done a great job and Mr. Mathers wanted to highlight this fact to the Board. Boyd responded that it was a job well done.

Employee – Seniority Lists

The employee seniority lists have been sent out to staff for review. It is the responsibility of the Board to ensure the accuracy of these lists for negotiating purposes.

The Board of Education approved the employee seniority lists as presented.

Auditor Contract

The Benning Group, district auditors, has sent a new 1 – 3 year contract. The Board decided last year to only renew the contract for one year instead of the three year option because they had discussed bidding out these services to ensure a competitive price. After further discussion general consensus of the Board of Education is to let for bid for district auditing services. Bid specifications will be prepared for the March meeting.

Closed Session

The Board moved the regular meeting into closed session at 7:35 p.m. for the discussion of items A - appointment, employment, discipline, performance or dismissal or removal of specific employees; B - collective bargaining matters or consideration of salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; C - selection of a person to fill a public office or discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of an office; and E - student discipline cases.

The Board of Education returned the regular meeting to open session at 9:41 p.m.

Action on Closed Session Items of Discussion

The following motions were made by the Board of Education resulting from discussion during closed session.

To uphold the administrative decisions regarding out of school suspensions, transportation suspensions, and extra-curricular suspensions for students from West Carroll High School (0), Middle School (10), Intermediate School (4), and Primary School (5) as discussed in closed session.

Accepted, with regret, the resignation for retirement of LaMoine Aude, transportation director, effective June 30, 2011.

Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Joan Hartman per Article 16, Section 16.01B of the Collective Bargaining Agreement effective at the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Howard Jack Roemer effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

Employed Doug Livengood as a driver for the Bus #14 Shuttle Route.

Approved the continued employment of Robert Lamb, Monica Burkholder, Julie Katzenberger, Jeanette Ashby, and Pam Delp as West Carroll CUSD #314 administrators for the 2011-2012 school year with salaries to be determined at a later date.

Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Jodi Purlee as WC Middle School cheerleading sponsor.

Continued the employment of Andrew Brotzman as part time director of buildings and grounds.

Adjournment

The Board of Education adjourned the regular February meeting of the West Carroll Board of Education at 9:45 p.m.