

**West Carroll Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
July 20, 2011**

“BRIEFS”

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of West Carroll Community Unit School District No. 314 was held at the West Carroll Intermediate Library/Media Center, 801 South Street, Thomson, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by President Highland at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Tim Atherton; John Brigham; Mike Highland; Bev Kilpatrick; Mark Klein; Dawn Rath (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)

Members Absent: Jerry Anderson

Administration: Superintendent Craig Mathers; Principals Clint Cowman and Jeanette Ashby; Special Ed/Preschool Director Pam Delp

Others present: Media (Bill Gengenbach, Samantha Pidde, Michael Miller, Bob Watson)

Consent Agenda

- Minutes – June 16, 2011; Regular Meeting
- Minutes – June 16, 2011; Regular Meeting, Closed Session
- Minutes – June 21, 2011; Special Meeting
- Minutes – June 21, 2011; Special Meeting, Closed Session
- Minutes – July 7, 2011; Special Meeting
- Minutes – July 7, 2011; Special Meeting, Closed Session
- Minutes – July 13, 2011; Special Meeting
- Minutes – July 13, 2011; Special Meeting, Closed Session
- Financial Reports; Payment of Bills; Activity Accounts; FRIS Report
- Destruction of Closed Session Tape – Regular Meeting, July 7, 2009
(1 tape)

The FRIS report shows that the State of Illinois owes West Carroll \$746,129.84 for FY2011. Of that amount, \$147,665 is for the Early Childhood Block Grant. The treasurer’s report shows District fund balances of June 30, 2011 as being inflated due to the district receiving \$1.2 million in local tax revenue in late June. That revenue is actually for FY2012.

The Board of Education approved the consent agenda as presented.

Public Comments

Klein stated the wrestlers have returned from Wrestling Camp in Iowa. The team placed 3rd out of 30 teams in the camp competition. Congratulations to them.

Correspondence

Thank you cards were received from Cindy VanZuiden (retirement) and the Carroll County Relay for Life committee (use of Middle School building and grounds).

Administrative Reports

Superintendent Mathers stated that Brad Field, Robert Lamb, Julie Katzenberger, and two teachers are attending a 1:1 Technology Conference. Staff from Eastland is also attending the conference. Eastland will begin the 1:1 initiative this school year. The administration felt it was wise to attend the conference and then observe a neighboring district go through the beginning process to have a better

understanding of what West Carroll will need to go through when we begin the initiative. The 1:1
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technology can be used for student achievement, as well as, academics. Mr. Mathers then gave a brief synopsis of Mr. Field's written report.

Jeanette Ashby, principal West Carroll Primary School, reported the custodians have been busy preparing the building. Mrs. Ashby and Tammy Haag attended a Common Core Summer Institute. Forty-eight of the fifty states in the union have signed on for the common core. Common core is a focus of the Primary School for the 2011-2012 school year.

Pam Delp, Special Education/Preschool Director, reported there are currently 230 students with an IEP in West Carroll. This number could be lower after registration. She has completed and submitted the Early Childhood Prevention Initiative Grant. This grant supports the Birth-3 program parent educators. The amount of the grant is \$120,235. All of the end of the year reports are completed and submitted. Mrs. Delp thanked Lyn Francke and Bert Smith for their help with these reports. The district received notification the Preschool for All Grant was approved. Mrs. Delp is very excited. The grant was written for 160 students so the office is very busy sending out letters. The students most at risk are asked first to attend and then on down the list of students. This was a competitive grant. Eighty-three percent of the districts in the state received the grant. We are very pleased.

Craig Mathers, superintendent, reported the maintenance/custodial crew has been very busy this summer. The paint crew has painted also the whole entire inside of the Middle School. It looks very nice. The transition and moving of the Intermediate School to the Primary School and bringing the preschools to Thomson went very well. The custodians feel they are all ahead of schedule this summer. The district has finally received the official approval (certificate) for the 2011 School District Financial Profile – Financial Recognition. This is the highest category a district may achieve financially. The district was aware but finally received notice the Energy Efficiency Grant was not approved. Cindy Weems and staff are congratulated on receiving a good review for their summer seamless option. Deana Aljets is working on a 6th grade volleyball program. The district has not had such a program in the past. She will coach and work with the girls and has worked with Julie Katzenberger on scheduling. Money raised to pay for referees and other expenses will go through the Middle School activity account. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students. Legislative reports were included for the Board members information. Governor Quinn has threatened to take back out of the budget money for transportation and the Regional Offices of Education. Transportation funds could come back into the state budget but unfortunately that will not be known until October and the District must have its budget finalized and submitted by September 30. Mr. Mathers outlined the timeframe for submitting the district FY2012 budget. A Budget Hearing will be conducted prior to the regular meeting on September 21. The budget will be posted in the district office on August 23 and a notice will be placed in the local newspapers August 17 and 18 stating this information.

Board Committee Reports

John Brigham said he was approached by Shawn Picolotti (Savanna Fire Department) about two projects they would like to initiate and raise funds for at the WC High School Football Field; an all-weather track and a new concession stand. After discussions with Superintendent Mathers it is most likely the cost of a new track would be out of reach but the building of a new concession stand may be possible. The group would raise some money and hopefully use volunteer labor to build. Some building suppliers in the community may donate some materials. Mr. Mathers asked the Board if they would like the facilities committee to check out the possibilities and then come back to the Board with a recommendation. It was agreed this is what they would like to have done. Brigham and Atherton

stated they will remain on the facilities committee. The new PRESS – Issue 76, June 2011 has arrived. Highland and Kilpatrick will remain on the PRESS committee. They asked Mr. Mathers to set a date for a meeting. Highland stated the negotiations committee has met and this will be discussed later in closed session.

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Old Business

2011-2012 Fuel Bids

The district received fuel bids from only two companies; Carroll Service Company and Pearl City Elevator, Inc. Bid information was mailed to all local vendors. West Carroll owns the fuel tanks at Mt. Carroll and Thomson. The fuel tanks in Savanna are property of Carroll Service. This is due to the fact the district does not own the property at the Savanna bus barn. Fuel prices are significantly higher than bids received for FY2011; gasoline (37%) and diesel (38%).

Board members accepted the bid from Carroll Service Company, as presented, for FY2012 transportation fuel.

City of Savanna – Water Tower

The district asked the City of Savanna for two things; a long term lease for the use of the water tower and to waive the \$53.00 per month lease charge. Mark Klein initiated this topic with the city. After several discussions the City of Savanna approved a yearly lease with a fee of \$1.00 per year.

The Board approved the annual lease with the City of Savanna to have the West Carroll transportation antenna on the Savanna water tower.

New Business

NIA Executive Board Election

West Carroll is a member of the Northern Illinois Association. As a member of NIA, West Carroll is entitled to one vote equivalent to all the other member schools. NIA provides supplemental special education services not available from Northwest Special Education.

The Board of Education approved voting support for Sarah Willey – Dist. #14, district administrator and Pamela Scanlan – Distr. #3, school board member for election to the NIA Executive Board.

Driver's Education Report

This is the second summer that West Carroll has offered driver's education to its' students. By offering the class parents do not have to take their child to Dixon or elsewhere for the class. One hundred fifteen students participated in the class this school year. Student reimbursement continues to come from the State of Illinois and the students pay fees if not receiving free or reduced lunches. It has been another successful summer.

Season Athletic Passes

A proposal has been made to create a district wide athletic pass allowing entrance to 6 – 12 grade sporting events at a reduced cost. It is hoped to increase the attendance at these events to support our students and help families financially if they attend frequently. The general consensus of the Board is that it is a great idea for the students and the families.

Board members approved an athletic pass to gain entrance to all 6-12 grade athletic events at a reduced cost as presented.

District Lunch Prices

The rules and regulations of the Health, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 state the district must charge an average of \$2.46 for paid meals. This information has just become public knowledge. The district set registration fees and lunch prices in March. If the district does not charge the \$2.46 per lunch it

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must demonstrate that local fund sources are being used to pay the difference in the meal prices. The average cost for a paid lunch in the district is currently \$2.15. Does the Board want to stay with the prices currently set or increase the prices to bring them level with the federal reimbursement level? Brigham asked can the district leave the prices the same and show the local revenue support and then raise the price next March. Mr. Mathers stated there would be no problem being able to do that. General consensus of the Board members is to keep the prices that have been approved and look at raising them next March.

Summer School Report

Eighty- three students in grades K-5 received extra instruction from eight teachers and one teacher aide in the areas of reading and math. Average student attendance was 86%. Rhonda Law's father donated some children's computers and these were used as incentives for perfect attendance and completing homework. Results from pre and post testing showed growth and progress in all areas. Math at the second grade level was done a little differently. A program was tested that the Primary School would like to implement during this school year. Everyone showed progress and growth. Mrs. Ashby thanked Joanie Brooks for helping to coordinate the program, LaMoine Aude for organizing bus pick-up points, and Shelley Falls for a great job in the cafeteria. Some scores were hard to compare because of the testing used. Kilpatrick asked if the children will be tested again when school starts. Students are tested with AIMSWeb three times per year.

Snow Removal Bids

Bid specifications have been prepared for snow removal for the 2011-2012 school year. The bid is for West Carroll High School, Primary School, Intermediate School, and the area of the Mt. Carroll bus garages. Due to eliminating one plow from the district truck fleet the Intermediate School has been added to the bid. Mr. Mathers approached the Village of Thomson about contracting with them for snow removal but they declined. They were concerned about the timeframe to have school open while having city streets as their top priority; a very legitimate concern.

The Board approved letting for bid the district snow removal for FY2012 as presented.

2010-2011 Closed Session Minutes

A requirement of the Board of Education is to review closed session minutes to determine if they can be opened for public review or should remain closed due to the sensitive nature of the information. This has not been done in the past but will now be addressed as an agenda item every six months. Closed session notes in past years have been very minimal. The 2010-2011 closed session minutes are more descriptive and provide more detail of the actual conversations.

The Board of Education approved keeping closed session minutes from 2010-2011 closed to public viewing.

Closed Session

The Board went into closed session at 7:05 p.m. for the discussion of items A. appointment, employment, discipline, performance or dismissal or removal of specific employees; and B. collective bargaining matters or consideration of salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

The Board of Education returned the regular meeting to open session at 8:40 p.m.

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Action on Closed Session Items

The Board of Education took the following actions on items of discussion in Closed Session.

Accepted, with regret, the resignations of Dustin Hayden as WC High School assistant football coach and Phil Worden as WC High School frosh/soph boys' basketball coach and frosh/soph baseball coach.

Approved the recommendation to employ Shelly Christensen as school nurse for WC High School and Middle School for the 2011-2012 school year.

Approved the recommendation to employ William Wiesner as kindergarten teacher at WC Primary School for the 2011-2012 school year.

Approved the recommendation to employ Andy Hughes as assistant varsity football coach and Jeff Holley as assistant frosh/soph coach.

Approved the recommendation to rehire Jayne Sedivy as a Mt. Carroll regular route/shuttle bus driver.

Approved the recommendation to rehire Jessica Kness as NW Special Education and EXCEL bus driver.

Approved the recommendation to rehire Lucy Stinson as NW Academy and RAP bus driver.

Approved the recommendation to transfer Deb Gallentine from a regular route/shuttle driver to Early Step Preschool Mt. Carroll bus route.

Approved the recommendation to transfer Ruby Johnson from the WC Primary School cafeteria to the WC Intermediate School as preschool cafeteria worker.

Approved the recommendation to transfer Jen Hebler from a 5 hour cafeteria position to a 7 hour cafeteria position at WC Primary School.

Approved the recommendation to transfer Kathleen Folsom-Johnson from the WC High School cafeteria 3 hour position to a 5 hour position at WC Primary School cafeteria.

Adjournment

The Board of Education adjourned the regular July meeting of the Board of Education at 8:42 p.m.